The Center for START Services is a program of the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability/UCED

COVID-19 Request for Research Applications

The National Research Consortium (NRC) on Mental Health in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (MH-IDD) is seeking research applications focused on improving the health and well-being of individuals with MH-IDD, their families, and communities during the era of COVID-19.

Day-to-day life for those with MH-IDD is profoundly disrupted due to the pandemic. Loss of educational, clinical, and occupational services, social distancing, economic downturns, and the fear of infection will likely increase disparities for a group who has been historically underserved. The NRC is seeking research applications that shed light on the impact of COVID-19 among this group. Most importantly, we are looking for real-world solutions.

The NRC is comprised of people with lived experiences (including self-advocates and family members), caregivers, trainees, researchers, policy experts, and clinicians from over 30 organizations across the US including several UCEDDs, medical schools, state health departments, and service providers. Innovation grants are offered by the consortium to accelerate partnership with researchers in the development and implementation of evidence-based mental health diagnostic, treatment and support practices for those with IDD.

The application must clearly articulate how the project meets the NRCs mission. The NRC prioritizes four areas of funding in MH-IDD: 1) expanding the use of positive psychological methods; 2) developing and scaling evidenced-based interventions; 3) expanding capacity and reducing service disparities; and, 4) revising and/or developing accessible measures. More information about the NRC can found here.

The NRC will provide up to $10,000 of support for a maximum of two projects. Applications that request less funds are welcome. All applications must identify a match in requested funds. This often includes coverage of effort/salary. The grant funds direct costs only, indirect costs should not be included in the budget. Applications are due 7/15/2020. Project award will be made by 8/15/2020, with projects expected to begin 9/15/2020. Projects should have actionable results within 1 year. Thus secondary data analyses are of great interest. Applicants must have a terminal doctoral degree (PhD, Ed, MD, etc.) and appointment at a medical or university-based setting. Doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows are welcome to apply, as long as a faculty advisor is identified. Funds will be released following IRB approval.

Notwithstanding Reference and Appendices, the application should be 4 pages maximum. Font should not be smaller than 11-point and the margins must be at least ½”. Additional information may be requested for consideration by the NRC operations team and board. The application can be found on the next page. If funded, an initial, interim (6 month) meeting and final report are expected. Investigators are expected to present their study and findings at the NRC’s annual conference. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Luther Kalb (kalb@kennedykrieger.org), Chair of the NRC, and Ms. Andrea Caoili (andrea.caoili@unh.edu), Director of Consortium Operations.