HRSA Maternal & Child Health

Frequently Asked Questions for Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for HRSA 19-052: Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN)

VERSION 2- REVISED JANUARY 22,2019

Budget

1. Is an indirect cost rate agreement required to be included as an attachment and can you confirm that the "Other Sponsored" rate is the correct one correct rate to use?
   Answer: Per the SF-424 Application Guide referenced in the NOFO, please note that if indirect costs are requested, the applicant must submit a copy of the latest negotiated rate agreement. This project supports an infrastructure from which to conduct research, but is not a research project in and of itself, therefore, it is not eligible for research indirect rates. The indirect costs rate in this NOFO refers to the "Other Sponsored Program/Activities" rate and to neither the research rate, nor the education/training program rate. Those applicants without an established indirect cost rate for "other sponsored programs" may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely.

2. Can the budget be used to support the ED registry work described in Activity 2 (page 3)?
   Answer: Yes as it is an activity listed in the NOFO.

3. If you want to be considered for the PECARN chair site, do you need to include a statement and put in the budget narrative for those years?
   Answer: Yes, if you are interested in being the Chair, you would add it to the budget narrative for those years.

4. For the personnel levels on page 19 of the NOFO, Would it be okay to 'split' the Research Coordinator efforts as long as they combine to the required/recommended levels given in the NOFO?
   Answer: Yes, you will just need to explain and justify this in your application.

Research Concepts

5. For the research concept proposals, can applicants submit concepts that have already been submitted to the PECARN Steering Committee?
   Answer: No.

6. For the research concept proposals, can current PECARN grantees use proposed projects they used in previous grant applications that they have never submitted to PECARN?
   Answer: Yes, at your discretion.

7. Can we use a research concept proposal that is a dual PI concept proposal with another existing node in PECARN?
   Answer: Take into consideration to be responsive to the NOFO. The application reviewers will be evaluating you based on your node, so take that into consideration when developing these concept proposals.

8. For the concept proposals described on page 15, it says "at least one of these proposals must describe knowledge translation project that tests effective mechanisms to spread uptake of new clinical evidence into widespread practice." Does this have to be the sole focus of the concept proposal or can this be one of the aims in the proposal?
   Answer: It can be either the sole focus or one of the aims.

Overarching Activities

9. Activity 2 (page 3) has two options listed for Category 1 applicants. Does a node have to implement both options?
   Answer: No. As it says on page 3, each Category 1 applicants can choose either or both options and that option needs to be implemented for at least one site in the node.

10. Activity 3 (page 3) is to develop and implement two network-wide plans. Does each applicant have to develop a plan for their node?
    Answer: No, these are network-wide plans that the successful applicants will work together to develop for the whole network.

11. What is the Emergency Department Data Registry listed under Activity 2 on page 3 and is there a cost to participate? *REVISED JANUARY 22,2019*
    Answer: The ED registry, which is maintained by the Data Coordinating Center (DCC), is an emergency care visit registry from electronic health record data for pediatric patients at select participating sites. The Registry-contains data elements from all ED visits from for calendar years 2012 through the present. Each participating site transmits data to the DCC 4 weeks after completion of the calendar month. Comprehensive data quality assurance rules have been automated to assess data quality and validation of the transmitted data. The cost to participate varies by site. There are two costs to participate:
    - *Site costs to prepare and transfer the data.* The first year site cost is the highest and includes time for IT, the Research Coordinator, and potentially the PI. Estimated costs range from $20,000 - $30,000. Subsequent year costs are estimated to at a minimum include 4% FTE a month primarily for IT time.
    - *Funding for the Data Coordinating Center.* These registry operational expenses are ongoing and include training, contracts, IT interactions, testing the data, production of provider report cards for specific conditions, and addressing data transmission problems and errors. Costs have ranged from $16,000- $22,000 each year.

Targets

12. In the narrative guidance on page 14, it says applicants should include "Targets for each of the indicators listed in the table in the Purpose section of this NOFO." (Table is on pages 5-6). Are these supposed to be targets for the future or accomplishments in the past?
    Answer: These are future targets. As described on page 5, "Each applicant to this NOFO will propose quantifiable targets to achieve by the end of the period of performance (August 31, 2023) for each of the below listed indicators."

13. Do the targets for the Table on the top of page 6 apply to Category 2?
    Answer: These two indicators on the top of page 6 apply to Category 1 only as they are ED-based:
    - # of Research Nodes submitting data to the PECARN data registry
    - # of studies initiated using data from the PECARN data registry

14. Do the Targets on Page 6 for the expanded evidence bas in Pediatric Emergency Medicine mean the number of publications by nodal faculty or only those funded through PECARN dollars,
    Answer: This would refer to publications funded using HRSA PECARN funds, not all publications.

15. For the Strengthened pipeline on the Table on page 6, what do you mean by non-Principal investigators?
    Answer: Principal investigators in this connection refers to the RNC and HEDA PIs.

Miscellaneous

16. Is there a required format for the biographical sketch?
    Answer: No, only the two page limit noted on page noted on page 20

17. Can a single institution apply for both categories of awards?
    Answer: No, as it says on the footnote on page 2: "Multiple applications from an organization with the same Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number are not allowable."

18. It says in the NOFO on page 14 under *Section II- Goals and Objectives* third bullet, "to include a description of activities and steps to achieve each of the project goals." Isn't that what we would put in *Section III- Project Design: Methods and Evaluation*?
    Answer: You can list the activities in either section but do not need to repeat them in both places.

19. Does the third bullet on page 5 under Category 2 apply to research activities only ("Providing the three EMS affiliates with administration and operations support, communications, and quality assurance…")?
    Answer: Yes this refers to communication and quality assurance focusing on the research work within your node.

20. Can the Research Node Center (applicant) have two co-PIs?
    Answer: For HRSA grant reporting purposes, you need to identify one lead PI for the applicant agency. You can choose to submit an application that has a co-PI or Co-Investigator as long as you identify who is the lead PI and explain how the work will be shared.

21. Attachment 3 (page 20) asks for Letters of Commitment from each HEDA and EMS affiliate site. Do we need to include the formal institutional letters of intent to subcontract?

Answer: No. The NOFO indicates you should include the letters indicating commitment, the official letters of intent to subcontract from institutional officials are not required to be submitted but may be asked for by HRSA if you are awarded.

22. For the Goals and Objective Section of the narrative (page 14), it lists three review criteria, but the cross walk table on page 18 only lists two. Should the #3 reviewer criterion (Evaluative measures) be listed on the crosswalk table for the Goals and Objectives Section of the narrative?
    Answer: Yes. The crosswalk table on page 18 for the Goals and Objectives Section should also include the #3 Evaluative measures reviewer criterion.

23. Can an applicant include additional ancillary sites to connect with on research in addition to the required HEDAs or EMSAs?
    Answer: Yes. You are required to include the HEDAs and EMSAs as indicated in the NOFO and those would constitute the official representatives to the Steering Committee as described in the NOFO. But you can choose to have relationships with other research sites as long as you describe / justify this in your narrative.