

Q: IS A PHD MANDATORY? WHAT IF AN APPLICANT HAS MULTIPLE MASTER'S DEGREES OR A LOT OF EXPERIENCE?

A: The evaluation of an application is largely based on the ability of the applicant and their team to successfully compete for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding in the future. While there are well-funded NIH researchers who don't have PhDs, it is rare. NCARE is focused on funding projects and investigators who we believe have the potential to compete for subsequent larger funding from institutions like NIH. If you do not have a PhD, we suggest partnering with someone who does have a PhD and submitting your application as co-principal investigators. Your rich experience combined with a PhD investigator's research expertise potentially makes for a much stronger team.

Q: NCARE FOCUSES ON RESEARCH INTERVENTIONS. WOULD EXPLORATORY RESEARCH WITH QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH BE CONSIDERED?

A: Definitely. If you are interested in partnering with a community – for instance, to develop a new intervention – conducting focus group work or adaptation work would make for a strong application. Consistent with the rising bar for qualitative research at NIH, you would need to propose a rigorous qualitative or mixed methods research plan. An application for a mixed methods research study would require an integrative plan as well. NCARE funds more than just intervention research, as shown by Dr. Luciana Hebert's [funded project](#) on alcohol use and pregnancy among American Indian and Alaska Native women. An idea that isn't an intervention itself but that could be tied to an intervention would also be acceptable. For instance, if you and a community partner want to better understand liver disease patterns in order to better treat alcohol-related liver disease, and the community partner has an accessible secondary data set that may lead to a better intervention strategy, that would be an allowable project.

Q: IS US CITIZENSHIP OR RESIDENCY AN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT? CAN AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR DOING RESEARCH WITH NATIVE POPULATIONS IN THE US APPLY FOR THIS GRANT FUNDING?

A: Based on our communication with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, international scholars can apply for grant funding - with the caveat that the intent of this work is to fund projects that have potential to secure future funding from NIH. One of the elements that will be considered when reviewing applications is the applicant's ability to go on and obtain future funding, which could be a challenge for an international scholar. Aside from that, we are willing to review your application and look at the potential for longer-term research; there are no specific restrictions based on our pilot grant funding itself.

Q: TO WHAT DEGREE IS AN EXISTING RELATIONSHIP WITH AN AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE POPULATION NECESSARY? CAN ESTABLISHING AND/OR STRENGTHENING A RELATIONSHIP WITH A GROUP BE PART OF THE PROJECT GOALS?

A: If you don't have a current partner, we can assist in connecting you with communities or partners that might be interested in your topic, but we cannot guarantee interest on their part. Those of us who have worked with Native communities know that building trust and partnership with a Native community is important in order to be able to do research, especially on a topic like alcohol use disorders and especially with intervention work. If you or a member of your team has a long-standing relationship with a Native group or organization, that would strengthen your application. If you are new to this work but can obtain a letter of support from that group, that is going to be better than having no indication that a partner is identified or willing to participate.

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This research is supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse And Alcoholism under Award Number P60AA026112



Q: WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED START AND END DATES FOR PROJECTS?

A: The start and end dates may vary by project. We aim to fund the selected projects by January at the earliest. We would like investigators to have institutional review board and tribal approvals in place if they are doing human subjects research. That means that your funding start date could be later, depending on when you are able to secure those approvals. You will then have up to 18 months from that funding start date to complete your project. You may choose to complete your projects in less than 18 months.

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