



Researcher-Practitioner Collaboration Grant Frequently Asked Questions from Introductory Webinar

The Research-Practitioner Collaboration Grant is designed to encourage researchers and practitioners to work together in addressing a clinical problem that is critical to providing optimum services to individuals with communication disorders. This grant mechanism is unique in that it emphasizes the importance of collaboration throughout the research process, from inception through funding and implementation.

The ASHFoundation hosted a [webinar on March 6, 2018](#), that addressed the content of the proposal, and we offer the following answers to frequently asked questions as way of encouraging strong proposals submitted to this grant mechanism.

Uniqueness of Grant Mechanism

Q: Many research mechanisms involve collaborations between a lead clinician and a researcher. What are you looking for that is BEYOND that?

A: This grant mechanism is unique in that it emphasizes the collaborative partnership. Both the researcher and practitioner should be involved in identifying the research focus, developing the proposal and implementing the research. In addition, the collaboration plan and explicit roles are key to this grant. This plan should not only indicate how the team plans to work together to develop the research focus, but how collaboration will be accomplished as the study evolves and is completed, with insights on the potential future research collaboration.

Collaborators/Personnel

Q: I know that in this webinar it was mentioned that these collaborations can be new, but in the review criteria, it mentions evidence of the previous collaboration. Thus, is not a factor in the review process?

A: You may be a new collaborative team. Provide information regarding your connection and interest in the research focus. In addition, clearly describe your collaboration plan. The review process will take into consideration the type and level of collaboration based on the study's design.

Q: Is it preferred that the practitioner have experience with conducting research?

A: Practitioners may or may not have experience with conducting research. Prior experience is not a prerequisite.

Q: Can a university clinic count as an applied setting for practitioners?

A: University clinics may serve as practice settings. Clinicians or clinical supervisors with the university clinic setting may serve in the practitioner role.

Q: How many members can be part of the team?

A: Teams may be as large as is appropriate for conducting the study. However, only one researcher and one practitioner can serve as primary personnel, with one of those individuals serving as the principal investigator (PI).

Q: If the practitioner runs/owns a private practice, would that investigator write his/her own Letter of Institutional Commitment?

A: Yes. In order to avoid compromising the research, the Letter of Institutional Commitment must thoroughly describe the practitioner's time allotted to the research and salary. It will be important for the letter to clearly address these items because in this situation the practitioner will be providing the letter as the institutional representative and as the participating practitioner.

Q: Are there any problems with having a researcher and practitioner who are related?

A: No, this seems perfectly fine. As required for the proposal, the roles and qualifications of both individuals would need to be described, and information should be provided about the decision making process. Of course, the PI would need to be only one designated person.

Q: For other key personnel, do you need CVs or biosketches, or just the letters of support?

A: The researcher, practitioner, and any participating key personnel must include biosketches in the research grant proposal. As stated in the guidelines, letters from key personnel can be included in the Letters of Support section of the proposal.

Q: I think you mentioned that a medical physician was eligible to be the practitioner. Could you confirm this?

A: Practitioners can include a variety of individuals who are involved in a practice setting, including medical personnel (e.g., physicians, nurses, aids, audiologists), educational personnel (e.g., speech-language pathologists, teachers, aids, school administrators) or clinical personnel (e.g., supervisors, occupational therapists, physical therapists,) Researchers can include a variety of individuals with research expertise in academic, medical, clinical settings. Practitioners and researchers may be from private practices.

Q: If we already have a collaboration between researcher-collaborator, are we discouraged from applying? Is preference given to new collaborations?

A: Collaborative partnerships that are new or established are encouraged to apply to this grant mechanism.

Q: Is there a preference to having multiple practitioners on a project?

A: The study must have one primary researcher and one primary practitioner. Larger teams are certainly allowed. The personnel will be evaluated on appropriateness to grant aims and needs to accomplish the research objectives

Q: Does the practice/research setting have to be limited to the United States only?

A: Funding will be disbursed in U.S. currency to investigators/institutions in the United States or Canada. The study may be completed with collaborators who are in sites outside of the United States.

Q: I work as a new researcher in an institution with a strong history of translational research. I have clinical and research degrees and work in both capacities. Would you recommend bringing a research-only person on as the research partner? Do you have recommendations for those with dual degrees?

A: Those individuals who consider themselves both researchers and practitioners need to specify their primary role on the grant, and have an appropriate collaborative partner. Essentially, partnerships need to have one person who serves in the practitioner role, and one person in the researcher role. Of course that doesn't mean that a researcher won't bring clinical knowledge to the study, or that a practitioners won't bring research knowledge, but it's important that the primary roles be specified and emphasized.

Principal Investigator

Q: Does the PI need to have prior PI experience? Are new investigators (without prior PI experience) encouraged to apply?

A: The PI does not need to have prior PI experience on a research grant, but the PI must provide other information that demonstrates qualifications for the responsibilities of PI. Yes, new investigators are eligible to apply for this funding.

Q: Can the researcher and practitioner be Co-PIs or does one person have to be specified?

A: Only one person may serve as the PI. The PI will have responsibility for the administration of the grant and will be the primary contact person for the ASHFoundation.

Q: I would like to be a PI on this grant; however, I am early in my research career (just completed PhD in Dec 2016). I work in an outpatient rehabilitation center and in my current job role, only 20% of my time is dedicated to research. The rest of my time is dedicated to mentoring clinicians in our 6 outpatient clinics and doing clinical work. We have developed a collaborative relationship that would allow us to carry-out the study and create a larger research program. Do I need to reach out to a more experienced researcher at a University clinic to be the PI? If I can gain support from my organization for additional time dedicated to research, how much time should be dedicated to be considered the PI?

A: PIs must demonstrate qualifications that support the ability to manage the grant, including personnel supervision, human subjects oversight, and budget management. Time varies in

regard to the specific study. The PI would need to specify time allotment in regard to all grant activities, including role in grant implementation and PI responsibilities.

Q: Can a PI submit more than one proposal (if unrelated)?

A: The PI may submit only one proposal to this grant mechanism. The PI may submit to other ASHFoundation grant mechanisms if proposing a different study.

Budget

Q: Can the funds from the grant be used for practitioner salary?

A: Budget funds can be disbursed as the PI and team see fit. All budget items must be justified. Salaries or teaching "buy out" may be included, as well as funding student support.

Q: Are there guidelines on the budget subdivision between the researcher and practitioner?

A: There is no required proportional distribution, but the researcher and practitioner must determine the specific budget allocations for carrying out the study and the rationale.

Q: Are indirect costs included in the \$35,000?

A: Funding will not cover institutional overhead, indirect costs, or travel costs for conventions or meetings.

Q: Can students be paid to help with administration of research (working with participants), or transcribing experiment sessions?

A: Students may be included as personnel and part of the budget for purposes of data collection, data reduction, data analysis, and administrative work. Appropriate rationale in the budget must be provided.

Q: Could the grant be disbursed across two institutions, particularly two universities?

A: The budget will be awarded to one PI/institution. The PI will be responsible for funds, which may be distributed in any way that is appropriate for completing the research objectives.

Q: Is this grant available for only the U.S. citizens?

A: Investigators are not required to be U.S. citizens to be eligible for this grant mechanism, but they must be employed in a U.S. or Canadian institution. Funding will be disbursed in U.S. currency to investigators/institutions in the United States or Canada.

Letters of Institutional Commitment and Letters of Support

Q: Please repeat the information about letters of support for secondary data.

A: If you are using secondary data, you must have a letter of support indicating permission to use these data and describing access. Human subject information may also be relevant.

Q: What should researchers at smaller universities include in the institutional letter of support- in order to compete with researchers from research intensive institutions?

A: Letters of Institutional Commitment are the same for all institutions. Typically such letters indicate the institution's commitment to the research study, including the time that is necessary for institutional personnel to be involved. If additional funds are being provided for the study, this would be included.

Grant Timeline

Q: When will investigators be notified about successful applications, and when will funds be disbursed? Is it possible for the researcher and the practitioner to be co-PIs?

A: Notifications will be sent to all PIs by postal mail around early September. Only one person may serve as PI.

Q: How many grants do you anticipate funding?

A: We anticipate funding four research grants for the 2018 funding year.

Q: Would you consider a proposal that already has pilot data funded with an institutional seed grant but now we need to expand the study before going to the NIH for funding?

A: Proposals that contain pilot data from previously conducted research are eligible. This will serve to support the current proposal and demonstrate how it is part of a larger research program.

Q: May I ask you to confirm the start date for funded projects?

A: Funds are disbursed in mid-November, so the start date may be as early as late-November or early-December 2018.

Q: Will this grant be available again in the future?

A: The ASHFoundation plans to offer this grant in 2020, thus in alternating years. This grant mechanism is part of the ASHFoundation's annual funding opportunities, which are dependent upon available resources. Investigators should check <https://www.ashfoundation.org/apply/> to view funding announcements in the first quarter of each year.

Q: What is the study's time span? 1 year or 2?

A: Research studies may be completed in one or two years; plans are to be specified in the proposal.