



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention (CoE)

### Pilot Project Program

**Description:** The CoE is soliciting applications for pilot project grants. Proposed projects should address research topics consistent with the Center's Mission, Goal, and Priorities and that have the Capacity to Lead to External Funding.

**CoE Mission:** *To integrate surveillance with intervention development through research to inform the implementation of effective Veteran suicide prevention strategies.*

#### CoE Goals:

1. Continually enhance a leading edge suicide surveillance system.
2. Identify target populations and settings for future intervention.
3. Shape the development of effective interventions.
4. Develop novel suicide prevention training programs and disseminate new knowledge related to prevention.
5. Facilitate information exchange and collaboration to align our efforts with others.

#### CoE Prioritizes Research and Interventions that:

1. Reach large populations of veterans (e.g., primary care, media campaigns).
2. Address targets that cut across disorders and populations (e.g. sleep difficulties).
3. Address targets that occur upstream from suicidal behavior and are conceptualized as preventative.
4. Focus on women veterans, veterans outside VHA care, and/or OEF/OIF veterans.
5. Address firearm safety.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants include CoE investigators and CoE-affiliated trainees. CoE-affiliated trainees must identify a CoE research investigator mentor. PIs from outside of the CoE are welcome provided that they collaborate with a CoE investigator on the proposed project. Investigators outside the VA must have approved WOC status.

**Funding Amount and duration.** Requests for up to two years of funding will be considered. Project costs must be in the range of \$5,000-\$50,000 per year for up to two years. A second year of funding will be based on an annual project review and the availability of funds. Requests requiring less than \$5,000 funding may be

made on an ad hoc basis to the CoE Research Director who will bring appropriate requests to the CoE Executive Committee for consideration.

**Submission deadlines:** Applications will be accepted October 1 and April 1 (May 1 for 2014). Applications should be e-mailed to Dr. Wilfred Pigeon ([wilfred.pigeon2@va.gov](mailto:wilfred.pigeon2@va.gov)).

**Submission Requirements:** Interested applicants are required to use the Pilot Project Cover Page & Application template that includes the following:

1. Cover Page with PI and Project overview.
2. Abstract of 300 words or less
3. Research Plan, not to exceed 5 single-spaced pages (1/2 inch margins, 11-point Arial font), excluding references:
  - Specific Aims
  - Background
  - Significance of the proposed project in the context of the Center's mission, goals & priorities
  - Methods
  - Analysis Plan
  - Project time line
  - Description of research team qualifications
4. References
5. Budget page
  - Applicants should review budget guidelines and suggestions noted in the application template. Additionally, applicants are expected to have their budget prepared or reviewed by CoE Administrative Officer, Ms. Lisa Lochner ([lisa.lochner@va.gov](mailto:lisa.lochner@va.gov)) to ensure all budget information is accurate and to discuss unique items/services that the CoE has not purchased previously or any item/service that may cost over \$2,500.
6. One appendix can be included, if necessary.

**Review Process:** Applications will be peer-reviewed by staff from the CoE or by selected external reviewers. Projects will be assigned to two reviewers, who will provide independent reviews within approximately 30 days. Following review, the CoE Research Director, CoE Director, or named alternate present the Pilot Project proposal with a summary of the reviews to the CoE Executive Committee for consideration of funding. The Executive Committee meets twice a month. Funding decisions will be communicated in a timely way following the meeting at which it was discussed.

**Reporting Requirements:** The PI of funded proposals exceeding one year in duration will be required to submit a 12-month progress; all funded investigators are required to submit a final report at the conclusion of the study. Additional details regarding reporting requirements will be provided with the notice of award.

**Contact Information:** Questions regarding this Request for Proposals may be directed to the CoE Research Director: Dr. Wilfred Pigeon (585-393-7918).

