

Partnered Approach to Research

Collaborative, Partnered Approach

In collaboration with VA's Central Office, Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) and facilities, QUERI-funded projects and Centers serve two strategic goals within VHA:

- Implementation of evidence-based treatments or programs designed to improve quality of care for Veterans, and
- Identification of the best strategies or approaches for implementing treatments or programs in VHA and beyond.

As VA's Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D) seeks to promote innovative 21st century partnered research, QUERI has set the stage by actively seeking and implementing partnerships and new initiatives between the 10 QUERI Centers, an implementation resource center (CIPRS), and VHA program offices, regional networks, as well as other stakeholder groups.

Each of the QUERI Centers conducts a diverse portfolio of implementation projects in their respective areas of expertise, which currently include: Chronic Heart Failure, Diabetes, eHealth, HIV/Hepatitis, Ischemic Heart Disease, Mental Health, Polytrauma and Blast-Related Injuries, Spinal Cord Injury, Stroke, and Substance Use Disorders.

QUERI has three funding opportunities related to partnered-research:

- Rapid Response Projects (RRPs) have a QUERI Center, VA Central Office, or VISN-level health system partner, and are designed to promote the implementation of evidence-based treatments or models of care in VA priority areas.
- Service-Directed Projects (SDPs) test novel implementation strategies to facilitate the uptake of evidence-based practices. These large-scale projects involve partnerships with VHA leaders, managers, and policymakers at the local, network, and national levels.
- Partnered Evaluation Centers (PECs) are created in conjunction with a VHA operational partner and are designed to address specific implementation and/or evaluation questions. To date, three PECs have been funded through the Office of Specialty Care, Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation, and the Office of Nursing Services.

VA/HSR&D's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

The mission of the Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) is to improve healthcare for Veterans by studying and facilitating the adoption of new treatments, tests, and models of care into routine clinical practice.

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Other HSR&D Partnership Initiatives

HSR&D also developed an innovative funding initiative titled "Collaborative Research to Enhance and Advance Transformation and Excellence," or CREATE, which incorporates a group of coordinated research projects conducted in a focused research area by HSR&D investigators in collaboration with their VA partner(s). Recently, HSR&D also transformed its Centers of Excellence into Centers of Innovation, or COINs, to specifically reward research innovations and partnerships. There are currently 19 COINs across the country, and each Center includes one or more focused areas of research that address questions of significance to VHA clinical and operational partners that will be engaged in the research activities.