Call for Veterans Health Administration Proposals
Accelerating Adoption of CER Federal Competition

Due Date: December 21, 2009 @ noon.
Submit to: margaret.cary@va.gov and gina.clemons@va.gov

The Task Force on Accelerating Adoption of CER is pursuing two funding strategies: one focused as an interagency Federal competition (i.e. the subject of this call for proposals) and a grant competition for external organizations (separate FOA and process). Both funding mechanisms are focused on accelerating the adoption of CER findings into practice. This template for the call for proposals serves as guidance for the Federal competition for funds to accelerate the adoption of CER findings.

CER is defined per the Federal definition of CER established by the Federal Coordinating Council on Comparative Effectiveness Research:

> *Comparative effectiveness research is the conduct and synthesis of research comparing the benefits and harms of different interventions and strategies to prevent, diagnose, treat and monitor health conditions in "real world" settings. The purpose of this research is to improve health outcomes by developing and disseminating evidence-based information to patients, clinicians, and other decision-makers, responding to their expressed needs, about which interventions are most effective for which patients under specific circumstances.*
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> - *To provide this information, comparative effectiveness research must assess a comprehensive array of health-related outcomes for diverse patient populations and subgroups.*
> - *Defined interventions compared may include medications, procedures, medical and assistive devices and technologies, diagnostic testing, behavioral change, and delivery system strategies.*
> - *This research necessitates the development, expansion, and use of a variety of data sources and methods to assess comparative effectiveness and actively disseminate the results.*

The task force seeks proposals from Federal divisions and agencies to develop and test strategies to improve the dissemination and adoption of CER information and incorporate these findings into practice. Doing so effectively would demonstrate a return on the CER investment, and, more importantly, improve the health of Americans. Funds will be used to support agencies and divisions that 1) develop evidence-informed and innovative dissemination and adoption interventions; 2) develop proposals that study the implementation of adoption strategies within and across organizations and delivery systems. Divisions and agencies applying for these funds will need to utilize existing or create new measurement systems to track adoption or adherence rates (thus measuring behavior changes) associated with the adoption of CER and measurement of health outcomes if possible.

Activities proposed for this funding opportunity may include the following:

- Development and implementation of evidence-informed, innovative interventions to increase adoption of CER by providers and translate this evidence into practice (e.g. within a health care network).
- Development and implementation of evidence-informed, innovative interventions to increase adoption of CER evidence by patients and consumers within a healthcare network and measure behavior change.
- Development and testing of incentives and mechanisms for translation and adoption of CER evidence into practice. Examples could include use of economic or other incentives or

disincentives, addition of electronic health record (EHR) functions for this purpose, or other novel approaches.

- Application or comparison of strategies or tools (e.g. QI program, electronic tool) to implement translation and adoption activities targeting providers within a health care network or organization.
- Application or comparison of strategies or tools (e.g. social network, PHRs or online delivery of information) to implement translation and adoption activities targeting patients within a health care network or organization.
- Evidence gathering about successful strategies (i.e. that changed behavior for the better) for dissemination and adoption of evidence-based research in practice settings targeting providers and/or patients.

Applicants must develop a plan to evaluate the program/intervention aimed at increasing adoption. This plan should include evaluation metrics and a new or existing mechanism to track and measure adoption or adherence rates to CER evidence (i.e. behavior change). This evaluation activity is necessary for an applicant to be considered for funding.

Submit reports to ASPE for dissemination to the Interagency Task Force for Accelerating Adoption of CER quarterly on the progress of the program. These reports should include a summary of the program's activities, tracking and measurement system, and any results from the evaluation component of the program. This is consistent with ARRA reporting requirements.

All proposals should include the following. This information should <u>not exceed 5 pages</u>. Proposals are due on December 23rd but we encourage proposals to be submitted by December 16th if completed so we can discuss at December 18th meeting. Projects selected to move forward will later need to submit complete solicitations (e.g. SOW, FOA) to CER-CIT for approval. CER-CIT has final approval for all ARRA CER funding and can require or suggest revisions to solicitations.

<u>1. Description of Proposal and Purpose of Funding</u>:
This is the bulk of the proposal. It should include at least the following:

A. Specify the Federal Coordinating Council (FCC) priority, IOM priority, and/or MMA list of 14 priority conditions that the proposal will address.
B. Background
C. Purpose of Funding
D. Description of plan for intervention to increase adoption of CER and translation of evidence into practice. This should include population of focus, mechanism for dissemination of information and intervention to increase adoption, measurement plan for tracking adoption rates and behavioral change, and how the proposed work fits within the agency/division objectives and could be scaled or spread in the future if successful.
E. Deliverables expected (e.g. outcomes and outputs from the proposal)

<u>2. Means of execution</u>: Specify which funding mechanism(s) will be used, e.g. grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

<u>3. Method of selection</u>: Indicate whether new competition, supplements to former competition (if former competition, the date and brief description of the original competition used), formula/block grant or other method of selection.

4. Intended award recipients: Specify whether states, local governments, academic institutions, community based organizations, national organizations, federal agencies, and/or other organizations would be intended recipients.

5. Estimated Budget: Give budget estimate. Note all funds must be obligated in FY10 and this should be explicitly stated in proposal. Note: max budget for proposals is $3 million total (i.e. not per year).

6. Timing of Milestones: Provide a timeline delineating when major actions will occur (i.e., issuance of RFPs and announcements, selection of awardees, estimated dates of obligation, timing for total project etc.). Performance milestones should also be provided in the timeline showing how and when you will achieve the objectives of the funded activities. Please also indicate the total time necessary for the project (e.g. with expected waiver, projects can extend 2-3 years).

7. Designation of funding by organizational structure: If applicable, describe which organizational sub-unit, if any, will be responsible for carrying out the activities and providing funds control (e.g., Offices, Centers, Institutes).

Evaluation Criteria:

Note that an application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major impact and thus deserve funding. In addition, the task force will consider the overall portfolio of projects to attempt to fund a diverse set of projects.

Significance: The degree to which the application addresses the goals outlined in the Federal call for proposals. The potential impact, feasibility, and potential to address priority populations as outlined in Federal Coordinating Council (FCC) report will also be considered.

Approach: The methodology and outcome metrics of the proposal

Innovation: Degree to which the proposed methodology is novel in its design and makes use of available resources

Environment: Ability and capacity of the federal organization to implement the proposed project within the proposed timeframe, including resources available to the organization.

Budget: Specific allocation of funds and the feasibility of the use of funds in the timeline proposed, including feasibility of obligating the funds by September 30, 2010.

Collaboration: Degree to which collaboration and partnerships across Federal agencies and/or partnerships between government and non-governmental organizations are utilized in the proposal

Justification of Evidence to be implemented: Adequacy of justification for choice of comparative evidence to be implemented and likelihood such implementation will be beneficial (e.g. the level/type of evidence supporting the CER findings that are the focus of the increasing adoption proposal). Please note the evidence must meet the FCC definition of CER.

Evaluation Plan: The description and methods to measure the effects of the intervention (e.g. increase in the adoption of CER evidence, provider or patient behavior change)