

**Call for Supplement Proposals (updated 3/27/18):
QUERI Implementation Strategy Training Hub Site Startup Projects
Due: May 11, 2018, Maximum \$25,000 to be spent by Fiscal Year 2018**

Send supplement funding applications to QUERI at vacoqueri@va.gov

VA's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative ([QUERI](#)) is soliciting applications for supplemental funds for QUERI-funded Programs or Partnered Evaluation Centers to establish Implementation Training Hub sites, with up to \$25,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 funds available for qualifying applicants. **Only Multiple Principal Investigators (MPIs) and implementation core leads of QUERI Programs or Partnered Evaluation Centers are eligible to apply. Each QUERI Program or Partnered Evaluation may submit up to one application for supplemental funding.**

The goal of this funding mechanism is to support start-up activities to deploy training programs in specific implementation strategies that help VA providers and investigators more rapidly and effectively implement effective practices into routine VA care. For the purposes of this call for supplemental proposals, [implementation strategies](#) are highly-specified, theory-based methods designed to help providers improve care when faced with organizational constraints (e.g., limited personnel, competing demands). Examples of implementation strategies include but are not limited to: Facilitation, Audit and Feedback, Replicating Effective Programs, De-implementation (Unlearning/Substitution), and Evidence-based Quality Improvement. Implementation strategies should contain elements that support frontline provider and manager leadership growth through transformational and transactional leadership skills development intended to sustain quality improvement efforts over time, i.e., behaviors that motivate and inspire other employees to achieve a high-performing health care network: shared mission, collaboration, accountability, and results-driven practices.

Start-up funds are intended to support activities that will lead to the establishment of "Hub Sites" to provide training and support in the use of implementation strategies, addressing VHA priority and [performance plan](#) goals of focusing resources more efficiently and improving consistency and spread of best practices. Training programs in implementation strategies that have been applied to improve the uptake of effective practices in lower-resourced, "later-adopter" sites are strongly encouraged.

Applications are due May 11, 2018, and must include the following two items. Additional items beyond the 2-page Training Hub narrative, budget table, and budget justification will NOT be accepted.

1. **Training Hub narrative** (2 pages max, 11-point Arial font, ½ inch margins) that provides the following:
 - a. Brief description of the implementation strategy, including evidence of its effectiveness in promoting uptake of effective practices
 - b. Describe goals of training and outline of the curriculum of learning activities that build toward an applied competency in use of a specific implementation strategy or strategies.
 - c. Brief description of the training faculty, including background and expertise in use of the implementation strategy
 - d. Description of the training program format and timeline. *Note: Hub Site training programs can be virtual or in-person, but plans for a virtual training modality are strongly encouraged to allow for greater access to the training by interested trainees who may face travel limitations*
 - e. Describe the process for competitively selecting trainees to help them scale up and spread effective practices in VA or elsewhere
 - f. Describe plans to provide guided mentorship throughout the post-training consultation period, as reflected by planned regular contact between trainees and training faculty.
 - g. Demonstrated evidence of a demand for available training in the implementation strategy, e.g., based on current widespread application of the strategy or requests from the field for trainings in the implementation strategy
 - h. Plans to evaluate the impact of the training and consultation process

2. **Proposed budget** to support planning and deployment activities for the Hub Site using the HSRD/QUERI summary budget table and justification format.
 - a. Startup funds for Hub Sites will be **available as early as June 1, 2018**.
 - b. **Startup funds must be spent within fiscal year 2018 and will not roll over into FY19.** (A separate call for proposals to fund training Hub Sites beyond FY19 will be announced)
 - c. List anticipated personnel and all other expenses for the project in a summary budget table and provide details in a budget justification. Please also indicate the proposed startup date. See [Summary Budget Table](#) and [Example Budget Justification](#).
 - d. Funding can be used to cover training faculty time related to the development of materials and/or delivery of the training program, to purchase materials relevant to the training program (e.g., training manuals, GoToMeeting license), and to cover the material cost of conducting the training (e.g., reserving space to meet, creating copies of training materials). **Travel funding should not be included in the cost estimates related to this application and will be handled separately once awarded.**

Startup fund applications will be reviewed administratively based on the following criteria:

1. Evidence of effectiveness of the implementation strategy, application to VA sites, and evidence of the demand for use of the strategy in VA care
2. Inclusion of training faculty and mentors with expertise in implementation science, especially deployment of implementation strategies, as demonstrated through relevant scholarship, implementation experience, and/or professional reputation.
3. Clear curriculum of learning activities that build toward an applied competency with specific implementation strategies and techniques, including follow-up consultation
4. Planned evaluation methods and measures to assess implementation strategy fidelity
5. Plans to evaluate the impact of the training and use of implementation strategies on VA healthcare, assessing outcomes including number of persons who have received the training, number of providers who have used the implementation strategy to scale up and spread effective practices, number of Veterans who receive an effective practice delivered by the implementation strategy included in the training, whether VA operations leaders have adopted the implementation strategy, etc.