



## AHRQ R13 Conference Grants Program (PA-16-453)

### Purpose

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) invites institutions and individuals interested in health services research to apply for either single-year or multiple-year conference grant support. The topics must support AHRQ's mission to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.

The types of conferences AHRQ supports and their objectives, along with examples, are as follows:

- **Research Development:** conferences where issues or problems in the practice and delivery of health care are defined and a research agenda or strategy for studying them is developed.  
*Example:* A conference aimed at developing a research agenda for studying the emotional impact of medical harm on patients and families (Kenny, Linda, 2016).
- **Research Design and Methodology:** conference where methodological and technical issues of major importance in the field of health services research are addressed or new study designs and methodologies are developed.  
*Example:* A conference to advance methodology, topics, and collaboration in improvement research (Stevens, Kathleen, 2011).
- **Dissemination and Implementation:** conferences where research findings and evidence-based information and tools are summarized, communicated, and used by organizations and individuals that have the capability to use the information to improve the outcomes, quality, access to, and cost and utilization of health care services.  
*Example:* A 3-day meeting in which research findings and evidence-based information and tools are summarized, communicated, and used by organizations and individuals that have the capacity to use the information to improve quality, access, and utilization of health care services (Dickersin, Kay, 2016).
- **Research Training, Infrastructure, and Career Development:** conferences where faculty, trainees, and students are brought together with stakeholders to develop, share, or disseminate research products, experiences, curricula, syllabi, and training competencies. **These types of conferences are not for the training of individuals in health services research careers.**

### Eligibility

Public or non-profit private institutions, such as colleges and universities, including racial and ethnic minority-serving institutions of higher education, or any individual with the skills, knowledge, and resources to carry out the proposed research as Program Director/Principal Investigator are eligible to apply for single-year or multiple-year support. Specifics for applying are outlined on the next page.



*Example:* An evaluation of a Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Certificate Program to enhance knowledge and skills of junior health services researchers in conducting PBRN studies—(Werner, James, 2016).

Sample Apps on AHRQ’s website at: [www.ahrq.gov/funding/fund-ops/sample-applications.html](http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/fund-ops/sample-applications.html)

Purpose	Objectives	Application Review	Other Provisions	Grant Amount
<b>SINGLE YEAR</b>				
Develop health services research (HSR) agendas & identify strategies and mechanisms for studying them.  Discuss and develop consensus around HSR methodological and technical issues.  Disseminate HSR research information for formulating or evaluating health policy, managing health care programs, and using or purchasing health services.  Develop partnerships with stakeholder organizations and build their capacity to participate in research activities and use the results of HSR.	AHRQ develops the knowledge, tools, and data needed to improve the health care system and help Americans, health care professionals, and policymakers make informed health decisions.  AHRQ works within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used in an effort to achieve the goals of better care, smarter spending of health care dollars, and healthier people.	Applications undergo internal review.  Must allow 8-9 months for a decision from the time of application submission (3-4 months) through Peer Review—Funding decision—(4-5 months).	After 3 consecutive single-year conference grants under the same title, applicants must then apply for the multiple-year conference grant.	\$50,000 annually.
<b>MULTIPLE YEAR</b>				
Same as Single Year	Same as Single Year	Applications are reviewed externally by 1 of 5 Peer Review Study Sections, including the SEP.	Recurring annual meetings or series of meetings.  Recurring conferences may be awarded for up to a total of 5 years.	\$50,000 annually, up to \$150,000 over 3 years.

\*Note: The AHRQ study sections are: Healthcare Systems & Value Research (HSVR), Healthcare Safety & Quality Improvement Research (HSQR), Healthcare Information Technology Research (HITR), Health Care Effectiveness and Outcomes Research (HEOR), and Health Care Research Training (HCRT), and Special Emphasis Panel (SEP).

## How to Apply

Applicants should review the instructions in the AHRQ Program Announcement for conference grants (PA-16-453), available at [www.ahrq.gov/fundingandgrants/fundingopportunityannouncements](http://www.ahrq.gov/fundingandgrants/fundingopportunityannouncements). Applications must be submitted electronically through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) using the SF424 Research and Related (R&R) Application Guide. Applicants must follow the instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide along with those in PA-16-453, except where instructed to do otherwise. Where instructions deviate, those in PA-16-453 supersede those found in the SF424 Research and Related (R&R) Application Guide.

## Technical Assistance

Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak with an AHRQ Program Official about their proposed conference topic prior to submission. A list of AHRQ contacts is available at [www.ahrq.gov/funding/priorities-contacts/contacts/index.html](http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/priorities-contacts/contacts/index.html). In addition, to help you prepare your application, sample funded applications can be accessed at [www.ahrq.gov/funding/fund-ops/sample-applications.html](http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/fund-ops/sample-applications.html).

## PROD

Project Research Online Database (PROD) is a searchable database of AHRQ Grants at: <https://gold.ahrq.gov/projectsearch/>

## Contact

Please forward any questions or comments regarding this Program Announcement (PA-16-453) to AHRQ’s (R13) Conference Grants Program at: [R13CONF@AHRQ.HHS.GOV](mailto:R13CONF@AHRQ.HHS.GOV).



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