Responding to the Addictions Crisis
Request for Project Proposals
Revised April 2018

Overview: Indiana University announces the application process for projects to be funded in 2018 through IU's Grand Challenge Initiative, "Responding to the Addictions Crisis."

Deadlines:
- *Optional* concept papers are due April 5, 2018. Feedback will focus on responsiveness to the stated goals of the Grand Challenge, utilization of IU strengths, potential for strong partnerships within IU and with community organizations, and likely impact on the addictions crisis.
- **To assist with preparing for the review process, a Letter of Intent is required, and is due no later than 11:59 PM on June 5th, 2018.** LoIs must be submitted online at IU's internal grant application portal, https://iu.infoready4.com/, and must include
  - A brief Executive Summary (<150 words) of the project
  - A list of all key personnel and external partners, whether confirmed or expected.
  - Identification of the priority focal areas being utilized, and goals being addressed, in the project.
- **Full proposals are due June 25, 2018**, with implementation of selected projects slated to begin in September 2018.

Optional **proposal development events**:
- **Jumpstart conversations** (75-90 minutes each) will be held on the Bloomington and Indianapolis campuses and by video conference with faculty from regional campuses. These brown-bag lunches and coffee talks will provide opportunities to learn about the framework and goals of IU's strategy to address the addictions crisis and to begin exploring ways that different kinds of expertise can contribute to the work the university will undertake.
- **Scoping Sessions** (4-6 hours each), to be held in Indianapolis on March 1 and Bloomington on March 2, are facilitated workshop opportunities to begin framing the problems that teams might address, find necessary expertise, and begin envisioning innovative strategies to solve challenges necessary to end the addictions crisis. Registration required; register here.
- **Ideas Lab** (May 14 – 16 at New Harmony Inn Conference Center) is an intensive three-day workshop at which 35-40 participants will work together to create novel, multidisciplinary projects that will tackle specific elements of the addictions crisis. Applications to participate are due March 7; applicants will be selected by early April.

Background: Indiana and the nation face a crisis in the unprecedented incidence of addictions due to substance use disorders (SUD). The harmful and significant negative impact to the health of Hoosiers is seen in lives lost to overdose deaths, shattered communities, new clusters of infectious disease, more children needing foster care, and threats to Indiana's economic

vitality. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that in 2014, almost 2 million Americans abused or were dependent on opioids.[1] Fatal drug overdoses in Indiana increased by 150% between 2005 and 2016; fatal opioid overdoses increased by 400% in that same period.[2] The costs in healthcare, lost workplace productivity, and criminal justice outpace 1000-fold the investments directed to solving the opioid addiction crisis.[3] The scale and complexity of the problem requires solutions that go beyond immediate clinical or criminal justice responses to address all facets of the problem, such as the social and environmental factors that increase the incidence of addiction as well as intervention responses (harm reduction, treatment, criminal justice) for those with substance use disorders. As recognized by Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb,[4] the complexity and scope of the problem require that all sectors come together to address all aspects of addiction. Preventing, treating, and ending addictions in Indiana necessitates that local communities, state agencies, lawmakers, private industry, healthcare, community and nongovernmental organizations, and research universities each have a crucial role. For these reasons, IU President Michael McRobbie announced in October IU's partnership with the state, IU Health, Eskenazi Health, and other partners to undertake a Grand Challenge, "Responding to the Addiction Crisis." With our partners, we will:

- Reduce the incidence of Substance Use Disorder,
- Decrease the number of opioid overdose fatalities, and
- Reduce the number of babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.

IU will maximize its contribution to substance use prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement by leveraging and expanding upon our strengths in five key and overlapping areas:

1. Data sciences and analytics
2. Education, training, and certification
3. Policy analysis, economics, and law
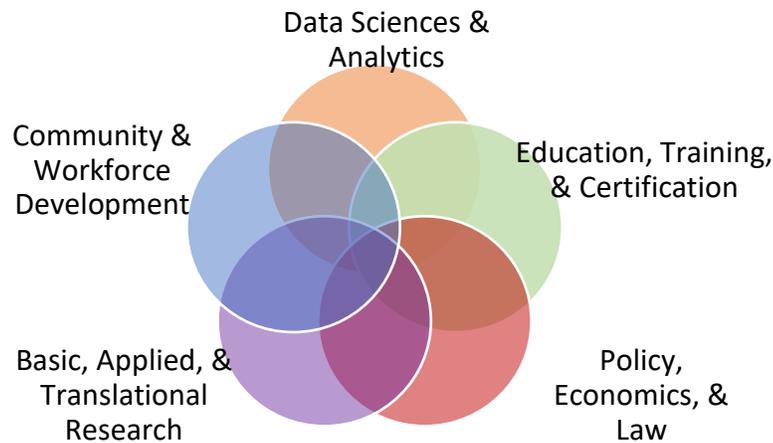4. Basic, applied, and translational research

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[1] https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/opioids/

[2] Indiana State Department of Health, http://www.in.gov/isdh/27393.htm

[3] *Report on the toll of opioid use in Indiana and Marion County*, Fairbanks School of Public Health, Indiana University, September 2016.

[4] *A Strategic Approach to Addressing Substance Abuse in Indiana*, http://www.in.gov/gov/files/A%20Strategic%20Approach%20to%20Addressing%20Substance%20Abuse%20in%20Indiana.pdf

5. Community and workforce development

Most projects will involve partnerships and activity across some subset of these areas; the full suite and implementation of projects pursued through "Responding to the Addictions Crisis" will ensure that all of these focal areas are integral components of IU's contribution to the state and national strategy to end the addictions crisis.

Proposal Development Assistance
All full project proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on June 25, 2018. Proposals must be submitted online at IU's internal grant application portal, Infoready.

Proposals may be developed and submitted without formal assistance from the office of the Vice President for Research (VPRO), the Steering Committee (SC), or the Scientific Leadership Team (SLT), but such guidance is available to all interested faculty members. In all cases, interested faculty are advised to confer with the Scientific Leadership Team members associated with the primary focus area(s) of the planned project. It is also important to familiarize oneself with projects that have already been funded through the Grand Challenge to avoid redundancy and to explore possible synergies with these projects as you develop proposals.

The complex factors shaping the addictions crisis suggest the value of innovative, cross-disciplinary collaborative projects. To encourage the development of such projects, the office of the Vice President for Research has arranged for a series of events designed to help faculty members create interdisciplinary teams working on novel, transformational responses to the addictions crisis.

Proposal Process and Guidelines

Eligibility: Indiana University core-campus faculty and academic appointees who are eligible to submit proposals for external funding as per IU policy SPA-11-006 are eligible to serve as

primary investigators project proposals. Regional campus faculty members, other staff, and community partners are eligible to serve as co-PIs or key personnel.

There is no limit on the number of proposals on which faculty and research scientists may collaborate, though the combined effort of a single individual across multiple funded projects may not exceed .20 FTE without the approval of the individual's dean and relevant campus chief academic officer (the Provost at IU Bloomington or the Chancellor at IUPUI).

Project Duration: Proposed projects will begin implementation in the fall of 2018, and may last no more than four years (through August 2022).

Funding Limits: Total funding available for awards in Phase 2 of *Responding to Addictions* will be $16,000,000 in direct project costs. Total expenditures for any project should not exceed $2,000,000 and should in all cases be commensurate with the scope of work to be performed. In some cases, where methodology or impact justifies additional expenditures, they may be considered. Please review budget guidelines (forthcoming) carefully for restrictions on salaries, subcontracts, capital equipment and other expenditures.

Optional Concept Papers:
To allow interested faculty members maximum feedback and guidance as possible, **optional concept papers** are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 5, and should be submitted through [Infoready](#).

Concept papers must not exceed 1,000 words (approximately 2-3 pages, not including cover sheet and endnotes) and must include:
1. A summary of the primary short- and long-term goals of the project, and how the project aligns with the primary goals of Responding to the Addictions Crisis: reducing substance use disorders; reducing the number of deaths from opioid overdose; reducing the incidence of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.
2. A summary of the activity proposed, including approach, methods, timeline, and expected outcomes.
3. A summary of team member expertise as it relates to project activity and indication of expertise required but not yet secured. External partners should be included as appropriate.

In addition, concept papers must include *a cover sheet* (template available at [IU Infoready](#)) listing the primary focal areas of the project (in order of priority), personnel (PIs, co-PIs, other key personnel), and budget (divided into personnel and non-personnel expenditures, with a brief summary of each).

Concept papers will be reviewed by members of the Steering Committee and Scientific Leadership team for responsiveness to goals, utilization of IU strengths, potential for strong partnerships with community organizations, and likely impact on the addictions crisis. Feedback to teams will be designed to help them determine how best to move forward and what partnerships may strengthen their projects.

Full Proposals
Full proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m (EDT) on June 25, 2018, via submission at
InfoReady. Proposals should be written so that a reader from any discipline can understand and
assess them. Full proposal packets must include:
    A. Cover sheet (template available at IU InfoReady)
    B. Narrative as described below
    C. Budget (using template available at IU InfoReady) and budget narrative
    D. Brief biosketches for IU personnel
    E. Letters of commitment describing relevant expertise and contributing resources from
        external partners
    F. Letters of support from all deans/Responsibility Center leaders whose personnel or
        facilities will be used in the work of the project. Guidelines for letters will be made
        available to deans and RC leaders.

Full proposal **narrative** will be no more than 10 pages and must include:

1. **Executive Summary (maximum 150 words)**
    Lay summary of the project intelligible to a reader who is not a specialist in this field;
    summarize the aims, significance, and expected outcomes of the project. Identify focal
    area(s) informing this project, and contribution of the project to primary goals of
    Responding to the Addictions Crisis.

2. **Introduction (two-page maximum)**
    2.1 Background and Rationale
    Describe the background that makes the project necessary, reasonable, and feasible.
    Include a brief summary of the needs the project is addressing, and an explanation of
    how this project will address those needs. Include a summary of work already
    completed leading up to this project, including any technical evidence (e.g. proof-of-
    concept, supportive data, references) that support the feasibility of the proposed
    research plan.

    2.2 Project Aims and Objectives
    What are the goals of this project? What impact will achieving these goals have on the
    addictions crisis – in what ways will achieving these goals contribute to reducing the
    incidence of Substance Use Disorder, decreasing the number of opioid overdose
    fatalities, or decreasing the number of babies born with Neonatal Abstinence
    Syndrome? What are the component objectives that will enable you to reach your
    goals? Be sure that your objectives are SMART – specific, measurable, achievable,
    relevant, and time-bound.

3. **Project Design (four-page maximum)**
    3.1 Project Team
    Identify key members. Provide a summary of their roles and responsibilities and their
    specific expertise and experience for the work involved. Identify the key additional

collaborators, partners or other linkages that are relevant. Describe their roles and responsibilities and include a rationale as to why they are important. Indicate whether partnerships are established, or need to be established.

3.2 Project Method

Describe the approaches you will use to complete your objectives. Identify hypotheses being tested, models used, research being conducted or interventions planned. Explain how this methodology will enable you to complete your objectives. What are new or original methods vs existing methods? It is important to show that using these methods can achieve the theme's objectives in the time period available. Identify members of the research team that will lead specific aspects of the project efforts. How will this project engage with (inform, be informed by) other aspects of Responding to the Addictions Crisis?

As relevant, please also address:

> 3.2A What data will you use, collect, or analyze? How will you obtain access to, or collect new, data? What are your plans for analysis and interpretation of the data? How will data be disseminated or made accessible to others?

> 3.2B With which patients, participants, sites, or subcontractors (including community health workers, patient advocates, etc) will you be working? Why is this participant pool/site appropriate? If relevant, describe how participants (including team members such as community health workers) or sites for project activities will be identified and selected.

> 3.2C How will you train participants (such as community health workers, patient advocates, etc)? If a training protocol or proof of concept exists, describe it and its success. If you will develop a training protocol, describe how, and how you will validate its utility once implemented.

> 3.2D How will you incorporate patient and/or community engagement in the design, implementation, or assessment of the project?

4. **Timeline and Major Milestones (three-page maximum)**

    4.1 Activities to be performed

    Provide an overview of the high-level activities to be performed. These should be connected to project aims/objectives and broken into phases. (Example: Phase 1: Planning and Design, Phase 2: Data Collection, Phase 3: Analysis, Phase 4: Dissemination). Phases should be linked to project outcomes.

    > **Example:**
    > Phase 1: Planning and Design
    > Activity 1: Data Analysis and Selection
    > The Data Team (DT) will evaluate and compare existing data available to the theme through reports, publication reviews, and analysis. The DT will establish an advisory board within 45 days of receiving funding. The DT will provide recommendations on data purchases to the advisory board for approval.

4.2 Major Milestones

A milestone is an action or event marking a significant change or stage in development and should be related to phases identified above. Identify when one or multiple groups of activities will be completed. Verification method could be a report, deliverable, product, event, etc.

5. **Future Visioning (one page)**

Describe what it would mean if this project were successful – and what next steps might build on, scale up, or translate the lessons of this project to new contexts. What would it take to make the gains realized in this project sustainable (financially and in other ways)? What strategies for sustainability might be important to consider?

6. **References**

Budget Narrative (two pages) (see forthcoming budget guidelines for additional information)

Complete budget template and include a budget justification. Provide detailed information to support each budget category; ensure that specific budgeted categories are linked to specific project phases or objectives, breaking down those categories into sub-categories as required.

IU Personnel

Academic Personnel (current IU faculty, new TT faculty; postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, research staff)

Other IU Personnel (professional staff, support staff)

Start-up Funds (New TT faculty hires only)

Capital Equipment (more than $5,000)

Research Supplies and other equipment

Computing requirements

Travel

Other costs

Publication Costs / Documentation / Dissemination

Consultant Services

Subawards

Other

For questions or assistance, please contact grandchallenges@iu.edu
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