Quality Improvement Project Program

Request for Applications: Quality Improvement Project Proposals based on Best Evidence to Improve Rehabilitation Care

Grant applications are required to be submitted electronically in one PDF document.

Due date: June 1, 2021

Please visit ARN Website: ARN Grant Opportunities

Quality Improvement Project: Improve Rehabilitation Outcomes for Patients with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses

The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) Research Committee requests applications for grant support for quality improvement (QI) projects that are based on the best available evidence and seek to improve rehabilitation outcomes for patients with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Proposed projects should have the potential to change systems of care within an organizational structure. This request for applications is not seeking research proposals.

- Maximum funding available is $1,000 per recipient.
- Number of awards to be funded will depend on the quality of proposals submitted and the amount of funding requested.
- Funding will be distributed on September 1, 2021, and funded projects must be completed before September 1, 2023.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are members of ARN.
- Proposals will be reviewed by select members of the Research Committee and a peer review panel.
- Grant awardees will be expected to present the Quality Improvement (QI) project at the annual ARN Educational Conference and submit a Clinical Feature manuscript to *Rehabilitation Nursing Journal (RNJ).*
- Proposal must adhere to the Guidelines for QI Proposals section below.

Questions

Nurses who have specific questions or concerns not addressed in this packet should contact the ARN office.

Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation
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Chicago, IL 60631
800.229.7530 or 847.375.6356
E-mail: info@rehabnurse.org

Introduction

ARN Research Committee

The ARN Research Committee was established in 2017 to promote and support (a) the conduct of research and program evaluation studies that exhibit methodological rigor and are important to rehabilitation nursing; (b) the dissemination and translation of research and program evaluation findings into practice, education, and policy; (c) continuous quality improvement (QI) projects that impact the specialty and practice of rehabilitation nursing; and (d) educational venues that focus on the development and translation of science, program evaluation, and quality improvement in varied populations and settings important to the rehabilitation nursing community.

ARN Mission and Vision Statement

ARN's mission is to promote and advance professional rehabilitation nursing practice through professional development, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness. The ARN vision statement is to improve healthcare delivery through the integration of rehabilitation nursing concepts across the care continuum.

Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Nursing

Rehabilitation is a philosophy of practice that addresses the care of people with disability and chronic health conditions. Rehabilitation can occur across the life span and is not limited to a specific setting. **Rehabilitation nursing** is a specialty practice area within the scope of professional nursing practice. This specialty includes the diagnosis and treatment of human responses of individuals and groups to actual or potential health problems that stem from altered functional ability and altered lifestyle.

QI proposals must reflect the ARN mission and vision statement.

Guidelines for QI Proposals

Focus

This Request for Application (RFA) is open to applicants whose QI project is based on the best available evidence, seeks to improve the rehabilitation outcomes of patients with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and reflects the ARN mission.

Eligible Applicants

The QI project coordinator must

1. be enrolled in a Master of Nursing program or have earned a Master of Nursing degree or higher, and
2. be a registered nurse who is active in rehabilitation nursing.

Preference will be given to members of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN).

Responsibilities of the QI Project Coordinator

1. Completion of the project within 2 years of initial funding.
2. Submission of a progress report to the ARN Research Committee every 6 months until the QI project is completed.
3. Submission of a publishable manuscript presenting the findings to the ARN journal, *Rehabilitation Nursing,* within 2 years of completed QI project.
4. Presentation of a paper or poster pertaining to the QI project at an ARN educational conference within 1 year of completed project.
5. Acknowledgment in all project-related publications, papers, and posters that the QI project was supported by the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Research Committee.

Required Information

Prepare the proposal according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). The proposal narrative is limited to 12 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point Times New Roman font and 8 ½" x 11" paper with 1-in. margins.

Sections not counted against the 12-page narrative limit are references, project budget, and appendices.

The following Research Committee forms and materials are required to complete the submission process:

1. Project Checklist—this form verifies inclusion of all required materials
2. Summary Data Form—this form includes the title of the project and contact information for the project coordinator
3. Administrative Approval Form—this form indicates that the project coordinator has received their employer's approval to conduct the proposed project
4. Abstract Form—using this form, the abstract must be typed, double-spaced, and limited to 350 words and should address a problem, significance, aim(s), QI model, intervention, and plan for analysis
5. If the application is a Master of Nursing student, a letter of support from the applicant's advisor is required.

Project Proposal Criteria

Problem
Describe the problem based on **sufficient evidence** and the significance of the problem within health care.

Aim(s)
Specify aim or aims of the project that are measurable and time specific. Refer to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) website for constructing measurable/time specific aims.

Science of Improvement: Setting Aims | IHI - Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Model and Intervention
Describe in detail proposed interventions to address the problem. Include the QI model and principles to support the employment of the intervention.

Implementation
Describe and identify the processes for implementation (including measurements that will be used to determine outcome/aim). Provide available best evidence to support the measurements proposed in the QI project.

Data Analysis
Describe the proposed data analysis (formative evaluation) and the outcome (summative evaluation). Which statistical tests and/or other forms of assessment will support the analysis process?

System Change
Discuss the standardization of the QI project.

Describe a plan to disseminate expected project findings to key stakeholders such as unit and/or hospital leadership.

Timeline
Prepare a timeline with project objectives and tasks to be completed in less than 2-years.

Additional Sections (separate from proposal)

1. References
References address the bibliographic information of sources cited in the proposal.

2. Project Budget
The Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation supports the funding for this project. A budget for the entire project must be submitted using the ARN Budget Form. If ARN Research Committee funds are to be used for only a portion of the budget, identify the specific items for which you seek support. Identify remaining items to be funded from other sources and in-kind contributions (e.g., your organization). Clearly describe those sources of funding or support in

addition to the amount you are seeking from each entity.

Travel expenses will not be funded. The budget must represent sufficient funds to complete the project. The funding year shall begin September 1, 2021.

3. Appendices: Include the following appendices
   a) Appendix A: Measurement methods
   b) Appendix B: Resume or curriculum vitae

Submission Requirements

Submit the entire packet electronically as **a single PDF file**.

1. Complete all proposal materials. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.
2. Address proposals to the ARN Research Committee and email to info@rehabnurse.org.
3. **Deadline: Proposals must be received by June 1, 2021.** Proposals received after this time will not be considered. An email confirmation will be sent within 48 hours of receiving your proposal. There are no exceptions to the deadline based on failure to receive application materials.

Evaluation Procedures

Proposals will be reviewed by select members of the Research Committee and a peer review panel. Proposals will be rated according to the NIH criteria for proposal review.

Notification of Award

Grant recipient(s) will be notified in writing by August 1, 2021. Pending IRB approval, the recipient will receive 75% of funding. The remaining 25% will be distributed pending approval of the 12-month progress report.