

NOT-CA-19-059

Notice of Special Interest: NCI's Research Interests to Improve Interprofessional Teamwork and Coordination During Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment

Q & A

General

What is the due date for applications submitted in response to this NOSI?

Check the “Key Dates” listed in Part 1 of the funding opportunity announcement (FOA) that you choose to submit to. Some of the FOAs that you can use to respond to this NOSI use standard NIH due dates, but some do not. Be sure to check the due dates carefully.

How many years can applications be funded for?

Check the “Award Project Period” listed in Section II. Award Information in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA) that you choose to submit to. Generally, the scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. In general, the maximum project period for R01s is 5 years. Be sure to check your targeted FOA however.

Will NCI accept applications with multiple Principal Investigators (MPI applications)?

Yes, we encourage MPI applications when such a leadership arrangement aligns with the research aims and goals. MPI applications should include clear, detailed plans for project leadership and management. Before deciding to pursue an MPI application, please carefully review the [MPI policy on Multiple Principal Investigators Web site](#). Also, it is important to note that if only one of the PIs is an Early Stage Investigator (ESI), the application will NOT be designed as an ESI application. For an MPI application to be designated as an ESI application, all PIs must meet the [NIH ESI definition](#).

If my application was not funded may I resubmit it?

In general, yes, resubmission applications are allowed. But, check the funding opportunity announcement (FOA) that you are actually applying for to be sure.

Does Early Stage Investigator (ESI) or New Investigator (NI) status apply to applications submitted in response to the NOSI?

Yes, ESI/NI statuses apply. For grant applications that involve more than one PI (e.g. multi-PI), all PD/PIs must meet the definition of NI or ESI for the application to be designated as such. NCI is committed to supporting [Early Stage Investigators \(ESIs\)](#) and will place special emphasis on supporting ESI-designated applications.

Research sites: NCI Research Networks

I would like to use the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) network to conduct my study. Is there anything special I need to do if I am going to use the NCORP network?

Yes, there are additional steps that need to occur if you are proposing to use the NCORP network to conduct your study and this process takes additional time. You must speak with NCI NCORP staff before submitting an application proposing a study in NCORP. Please send an email to Sallie Weaver at sallie.weaver@nih.gov and Veronica Chollette (cholletv@mail.nih.gov) as soon as possible to let them know you are planning to conduct your proposed study in NCORP. They will work with NCI NCORP staff to set up a call and outline the process.

Research Design & Population

Are there particular research designs that will or will not be funded by this announcement?

No. However mixed-method study designs and multilevel interventions are encouraged.

Are there specific cancer sites, cancer types, and diseases that NCI is interested in seeing in applications responding to the NOSI?

No. However, you will increase your probability of a favorable review if you choose a cancer site, type or disease that represents a significant public health problem and burden; you strongly justify your choice; and, your team has the expertise with accessing the specific population of interest and designing strategies responsive to areas of research interest in the NOSI.

Scope & Outcomes

Would a study looking at coordination of care for patients with metastatic cancer be responsive to this NOSI?

Yes, if the study was focused on coordination of care for patients with metastatic cancer then it could be responsive to this NOSI. Studies focused on patients pursuing treatment with curative intent would be responsive. However, studies of patients pursuing palliative care or hospice care only would not be responsive to this NOSI. There are other funding mechanisms available for studies focused in these areas.

Would a study looking at palliative care or hospice for patients at end of life be responsive?

Possibly. A study looking at coordination of palliative care or symptom management for people undergoing active treatment and how the palliative care providers were interacting with oncology providers or others, for example, would be responsive. However, studies looking only at the palliative care team—without considering how they coordinate with the treatment team--or hospice care only would not be responsive to this NOSI. There are other funding mechanisms available for studies focused in these areas.

Are staff/clinician outcomes a potential area of interest, understanding that improved care is the primary motivation for this NOSI?

The primary focus of this NOSI is on studies examining quality of care outcomes and patient outcomes. However, a multi-level study that examines staff/clinician outcomes in addition to quality or patient outcomes could be of interest. Applications could also examine staff/clinician outcomes as secondary outcomes of interest.

Would studies that look at how social workers, financial counselors, legal advocates and oncologists work together to address quality and patient outcomes qualify as interprofessional? Since this is not looking at coordination between care teams?

Yes, studies focused on coordination among non-clinical members of the care team and clinical members of the care team could be responsive to this NOSI. If you have specific questions about your project please be sure to reach out to the program contacts for this NOSI: Sallie Weaver (sallie.weaver@nih.gov) and Veronica Chollette (cholletv@mail.nih.gov).

As Sickle Cell disease is often treated in cancer treatment facilities and is representative of a minority and disadvantaged population disease, would team coordination related to Sickle Cell treatment be considered eligible for this funding opportunity?

To be responsive to this NOSI applications should focus on cancer related outcomes. If you have specific questions about your project please be sure to reach out to the program contacts for this NOSI: Sallie Weaver (sallie.weaver@nih.gov) and Veronica Chollette (cholletv@mail.nih.gov).

In reading through the Notice, when talking about team based care, is there interest in interventions that involve engaging with primary care? Or is the emphasis on multidisciplinary oncology-team care?

Yes, studies focused on coordination and teaming among primary care and specialists involved in comprehensive care during diagnosis and active treatment may be responsive to this Notice. Applications addressing care coordination challenges between care settings (e.g., between primary and specialty care) following the cancer diagnosis and during active treatment are encouraged.