

Telebriefing on the CDC Draft Health Protection Research Guide 2006-2015
<http://www.cdc.gov/od/ophr/cdcra.htm>

Co-sponsored by the CDC (www.cdc.gov) and Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (www.ccpb.info)

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Summary of Question and Answer Period

Q: Can you elaborate on the relationship between the Research Guide and future funding announcements? Can we assume that future CDC research funding will be connected to top priorities identified in the Research Guide?

A: Yes. The Research Guide is a vehicle for highlighting public health research needs and we expect future funding announcements to address those needs.

Q: How are the criteria of “need” and “importance” defined in the guide?

A: The work groups that considered what research areas to include were comprised of CDC staff and external partners with relevant expertise. We used a modified Delphi method (structured process for collecting and distilling knowledge from a group of experts) to determine which research areas to include. We did not do a formal literature review of each possible topic. We feel confident in the approach we have taken, but would reiterate the importance of seeking public comments and feedback on the Research Guide. The work groups will reconvene after the public comment period to review the public comments and revise the draft accordingly.

Q. In the research themes, there is a focus on family health and young children. How broadly are you defining adolescents?

A: The research themes are intentionally defined broadly. The focus for adolescents is on multifactorial risk factors in a variety of settings. If you are interested in a particular research topic or theme, please submit your comments. We want to know what you think we should do: are we too broad or not broad enough?

Q. Will the draft and final versions of the Research Guide be available in hard copy? We would like to use it as a teaching tool with our public health students. Specifically, our health policy students to learn about the federal policy process.

A: Yes. If you need hard copies of the draft guide, please email me at Rwagner@cdc.gov. The draft guide is also available on our website as a 150-page PDF document that may be used to print and make copies. We will be making many copies of the final version for distribution.

Q: Will there be changes in the CDC grant submission and review process?

A. These are separate functions from development of the Research Guide, although they are managed by other parts of our office. The Research Guide is not going to change the grant submission and review process at CDC. However, our office has been working to standardize these processes to be similar to those used by NIH. This year, all grants will go through external peer review, but this is not tied to the Research Guide. That said, we expect to see CDC funding announcements that reference the Research Guide and reflect priorities within it.

Q: Will CDC accept unsolicited grant proposals on Research Guide priorities?

A. We have not determined that yet. We are considering issuing a program announcement that addresses all of the CDC Health Protection Goals in the Research Guide.

Q: In terms of workforce preparation and funding for public health education, how do these relate to the health protection goals?

A. Workforce development cuts across all of the health protection goals. It is a cross-cutting issue.

Q: Did the CDC attempt not to duplicate or overlap with the NIH roadmap?

A. We did talk with officials at NIH as we prepared the Research Guide and had their input at partner meetings. We are looking for opportunities for synergy in our approaches. We are trying to complement each other's approaches to addressing similar public health problems.

Q: What does high risk research mean?

A. High-risk research means research that you don't necessarily expect will be applied right away or in the near-term. It also includes research for which there is no certainty about the outcome. It may have great long-term payoffs, but it's not necessarily goal driven and is more innovative. Marketing and management of health information, data science and informatics are also cross-cutting research areas that can be high risk and where there is lots of innovation. We want to retain the spark of creativity in science. We know that we need to solve practical problems, but also must allow non-goal driven research.

9. Will the Research Guide increase focus on Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)? Will there be more funds allocated for that type of research?

A. That's our intent. The Research Guide for the first time raises to prominence at CDC the cross-cutting research issues, including CBPR.

Q: Are there any plans to implement the global component of the Research Guide? Are you planning to invite input and collaboration from Mexico and Canada? For example, NIH has signed an agreement with the Canadian Institute of Health Research to jointly plan and fund research.

A. We know that Health Canada is aware of the *CDC Health Protection Research Guide*. Someone from Health Canada spoke with me at the APHA meeting and was made aware of the Guide through several different channels. We've done a lot of dissemination of the Guide, mostly electronically. We've received comments from all over the world, so we're fairly confident that the dissemination is widespread. As for a formal initiative in which we reach out to our neighboring countries for input and collaboration - that's a great idea, and we will certainly consider it.

Q: Will you evaluate the impact of the Research Guide development process? If so, how?

A. Yes. From the start, we've been mindful of the need to evaluate the process and the impact. We have extensive documentation of all the outreach and public meetings that led to the development of the Research Guide. The Office of Public Health Research website has posted the output of all of the public participation meetings and breakout sessions, organized around the chapters of the Research Guide. The participants provided their suggestions regarding what to add and delete. All the changes and revised versions were recorded along the way. When you visit the public comment website, you'll be asked to identify yourself by different partner sector categories. We plan to also develop a customer satisfaction survey to compare individuals who registered but didn't make any comments on the Guide, to those who registered and commented.

Q: Does the Research Guide have an interest in dissemination research – in other words, research on how interventions are disseminated and adopted?

A. Yes. Dissemination research is identified as a cross-cutting theme, in the section on intervention and translation. Throughout the Research Guide, dissemination is included in many themes.

Q: Will community colleges be eligible to apply for CDC research grants, either directly or as partners?

A: Any applicant that meets the minimum eligibility requirements can apply for grants under a request for applications, including community colleges. I will verify that. [Note: we have verified that community colleges will be eligible].

Q: Is two or three years really enough time to have an impact on multiple interventions identified in the Research Guide's themes?

A. We're expecting that the "low hanging fruit" research is where we will start in having an impact, but we drafted the Research Guide with the longer range of research in mind as well.

Q: Are there any plans for evaluating whether the Guide has an impact on actual health rather than on the process?

A. Yes. A more formal method for that is being worked out. It's a high priority at CDC. Another group in my office is developing performance evaluation methods. This is still at the beginning stages, and one approach will be to try to map our activities to the Program Assessment Rating Tool questions required by the Office of Management and Budget to determine if federal agencies have been reaching their objectives in meeting true health impact.

Q: Where will notes and slides from the telebriefing be posted on the CCPH website?

A: <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/pastpresentations.html>