

Implementation Research Institute (IRI) CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Implementation Research Institute (IRI) is accepting applications for the 2024-2026 two-year fellowship. Applicants with interests in implementation research for mental health and/or co-occurring substance use, or improving substance use treatment systems are encouraged to apply.

What is the IRI? The IRI is an intensive fellowship funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH 3R25MH08091606), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This unique interdisciplinary training program aims to help researchers launch a research career in implementation science in mental health. The IRI provides experiential learning, didactic training, faculty mentoring, and support for grant writing—all focused on helping participants shape an R01-level research project for competitive external funding and demonstrate local, national, and international leadership in implementation science.

The IRI was established to advance the field of implementation science in mental health by enhancing the career development of investigators. Implementation research is the study of processes for integrating effective practices into usual care and holds promise for reducing the gap from treatment discovery to community practice. IRI participants will join a community of implementation researchers for two years, spending one week each summer at an institute at the **Center for Mental Health Services Research (CMHSR)** at Washington University in St. Louis, and receiving individualized mentoring to help them shape a research agenda in implementation science and prepare a competitive research grant proposal.

Who should apply? We invite applications from ambitious early-stage investigators with a doctoral degree (or MD) and demonstrated experience and enthusiasm in the study of mental health and/or co-occurring drug use services, who wish to conduct ground-breaking research in implementation science. The IRI will support a cohort of participants who seek expert mentoring and collaboration to advance their research capacity in areas referenced by NIH PARs on “Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (PAR-22-105). People from communities that are underrepresented in research are highly encouraged to apply, including people from racial and ethnic minoritized communities, first-generation scholars, LGBTQ+ and non-binary people, and people with disabilities.

Implementation Research Institute (IRI) Leadership

Enola Proctor, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

John Landsverk, Senior Research Scientist, Oregon Social Learning Center

Stacey McCrary, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

Byron Powell, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JANUARY 22, 2024

IRI benefits. IRI Fellows will be appointed for two-year terms, joining a scholarly network of fellows and faculty with expertise in implementation science. Each IRI Fellow will receive:

- A one-week training in 2024 (June 10th-14th) and 2025 (June 9th-13th) at Washington University in St. Louis with travel funds to and from their home institution and St. Louis provided.
- Monthly, long-distance, mentoring with an IRI core faculty member to help craft a competitive implementation grant proposal in mental health and/or co-occurring substance use, or improving substance use treatment systems research and to demonstrate local, national, and international leadership in implementation science.
- Travel funds to support a 2-day site visit to a funded implementation research project.
- Training to mentor others in implementation science and develop implementation research capacity.

Candidates should have or be:

- Early career researchers with doctoral degrees in medicine, social work, psychology, health services, nursing, anthropology, public health, education, management, or relevant fields.
- Demonstrated interest in implementation research in mental health and/or co-occurring substance use; interest in improving substance use treatment systems
- Prior or concurrent experience relevant to implementation research such as evidence-based intervention development, testing, and/or mental health or substance use services research.
- Prior experience writing a grant for external federal funding (e.g., an NIH F31, R03, R21, R34, K award, or comparable mechanisms); however, such applications need not have been successful. *Accepted fellows cannot have yet been awarded an implementation science-focused R01 or equivalent.*
- A home institution with an on-site mentor who can support the Fellow's progress in grant writing and scholarly publication.
- The ability and commitment to attend and actively participate in two consecutive summer institutes and the mentorship process.

A complete application must include the following, in order:

- A completed application form via Qualtrics [IRI Application 2024](#)
- A current curriculum vitae and NIH biosketch
- A biosketch for up to two mentors at the applicant's home institution who will support the applicant in future applications for external federal grant funding, including the mentor who provides a letter of recommendation (see below)
- Two samples of published or accepted articles (preferably first-authored) in the area of, or closest to, dissemination and implementation research.
- A research concept paper not to exceed 3 single-spaced pages excluding references, size 12 font. IRI Faculty recognize that concept papers will vary according to the applicant's discipline or professional background; however, the basic elements below must be incorporated into the text.
 - An analysis of the "problem in care" to be addressed through dissemination or implementation research, its background, and its significance to the field
 - The research aims and how they relate to NIH PARs on "Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health" ([PAR-22-105](#), [PAR-22-106](#), [PAR-22-109](#)) and the [NIMH](#), [NIDA](#), or [VA](#) strategic plans
 - The methods or approaches to be used
 - The institutional and mentorship support to be provided

All materials must be submitted via Qualtrics by January 22, 2024 in a single document (PDF format) for upload in Qualtrics. A complete application must also include the following:

- One recommendation letter from your supervisor, dean, or department chair which is to be emailed [here](#).
- One recommendation letter and Qualtrics survey from a senior-level mentor who will commit to supporting the applicant's goal of submitting at least one competitive dissemination and implementation research grant proposal to NIH or VA during the fellowship period. The survey, which includes a spot to upload the recommendation letter is found [here](#).