

FOA DHA-19-HSR Questions and Responses as of 2 July 10:39:

1. I am writing to request information on the DHA-19-HSR Health Services Research grant. Is this funding opportunity open to US applicants only or are international applicants eligible to apply?
 - a. **RESPONSE:** International applicants are not eligible to apply.
2. The FOA states that one of the topics of interest, Variation, has to involve studies that examine the variation in quality, utilization, cost or outcomes within the MHS and the implications to healthcare. Could you remind me whether Veterans Administration hospitals (which I understand are TRICARE network providers) would be considered to be "within the MHS" as far as this FOA is concerned? If not, could you refer me to a list of facilities that would be considered "within the MHS" for the purpose of this FOA?
 - a. **RESPONSE:** The Military Health System (MHS) does not include the network of VA hospitals. To find out more about the MHS please go to:
<https://www.health.mil/About-MHS>
3. Our health services research group is considering submitting a letter of intent in response to the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the DoD and Defense Health Agency Research and Development Directorate (J-9), Health Services Research. As we prepare our LOI, we have questions as to if and how we would be able to access data in the Military Data Repository (MDR), which is referenced in the proposal. Would these data be made available to the researchers? Would there be any costs associated with accessing the data? How would we access the data, e.g., would we request a data export to allow us to work with the data in our secure environment OR would we have to work with the data through a firewall of some sort allowing it to reside where it is? Having this information would allow us to prepare a more accurate budget.
 - a. **RESPONSE:** There is no Government fee associated with access to the data. Any costs associated with the security and maintenance of the data in accordance with DoD/ DHA specifications are a function of associated individual institution's direct and indirect costs. Access to MHS data **requires** a data sharing agreement for access to the data enclave or to have limited data sets. For more information and details for accessing DHA data please visit the following sites:

Data Sharing Agreement Application:
<https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Privacy-and-Civil-Liberties/Submit-a-Data-Sharing-Application>
Data Functional References and Specifications:
<https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Technology/Support-Areas/MDR-M2-ICD-Functional-References-and-Specification-Documents>
4. We are in the process of putting together a LOI for the DHA HSR call for proposals. The funding call states that the period of performance is a maximum of two years. Does that exclude the possibility of option years that the DHA can exercise to fund in case the cooperative agreement meets its goals for the first two years?
 - a. **RESPONSE** At this time DHA is not able to commit to option year extensions.

5. In the recently released Funding Opportunity Announcement for Health Services Research (DHA-19-HSR), Section 3C, Other, indicates:
Two LOIs will be accepted for consideration, but only one proposal application from the submitting extramural PI and organization will be allowed under this announcement. Is this eligibility criterion limiting an institution to two LOIs and one subsequent proposal or is this limitation at the PI level (limiting a PI to two LOIs/one proposal but allowing multiple submissions from the institution)?
 - a. **RESPONSE:** The limitation is two LOIs per PI with only one proposal being funded. There are no institutional limitations.
6. For the LOI, the funding announcement refers to a LOI content template. It then goes on to describe what should be included in this "Template." However, I have not been able to find any digital template linked to the announcement. The digital, "mandatory" forms that are listed on grants.gov are much more elaborate and appear to be for the formal proposal (if the LOI proposal is selected). My question is this:
Is the LOI template simply an outline of what the LOI should include, or, is there a digital template the LOI must be put into? If the latter, could you please point me to the link?
 - a. **RESPONSE:** The LOI template is an outline of what should be included.
7. Our company is very excited to learn of Funding Opportunity #:DHA-19-HSR. In looking at eligibility to apply do private companies such as ours, who are SDVOSB certified, qualify?
 - a. **RESPONSE:** For profit organizations are not eligible for this opportunity. There may be a future opportunity available.
8. Can companies apply or only non-profits/academic institutions?
 - a. **RESPONSE:** DHA is requesting applications from non-profit and academic institutions at this time.
9. I would like to propose 2 specific aims... Although I and my colleagues thought they match with 2 priority topic areas.
 - a. **RESPONSE:** DHA is interested in receiving proposals that address topics within the following areas: Health System Merger and Consolidation; Cost and Economics; Variation; Health Readiness; and Outcomes.
10. Would you allow multiple PIs? [A]s long as we can justify the roles of more than 1 PI.
 - a. **RESPONSE:** Co-PI will be accepted with full justification, and should be included in the Senior/Key Person Profile form.
11. I understand the funded amount depends on the nature of the project. However, I would like to kindly check with you whether we should keep the proposed amount ceiling at the NIH's general direct costs (\$500,000 per year)?
 - a. **RESPONSE:** DHA will rank each proposal on scientific and programmatic merit. The DHA reserves the right to fund all, some, or none of the proposals submitted; DHA may

incrementally or fully fund any or all awards under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). All awards are subject to the availability of funds.

12. Does my research area apply?

- a. **RESPONSE:** The focus of HSR is on studies about “how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately our health and well-being [outcomes].”

13. At what dollar amount level do you anticipate executing grants?

- a. **RESPONSE:** Please see the response to question 11.

14. What has been the historical yield rate for this grant series?

- a. **RESPONSE:** This is the first HSR grant issued by the Defense Health Agency, J-9 Research & Development Directorate, historical yield rates for this grant series are not available.