

**NIH
HEAL
INITIATIVE**

**Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness
(N CREW) Program: Addressing Overdose, Substance
Use, Mental Health, and Pain**

NIH Tribal Advisory Council Meeting, August 16, 2023

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the NIH exists on the traditional lands of the Piscataway and Anacostan people, past, present and future. We honor the land itself and the Native people who belong to this land. We commit to our responsibility to take action, through listening, learning, and responding, to center Native American voices and communities in our work.

**Overview of the Native Collective Research
Effort to Enhance Wellness: Addressing
Overdose, Substance Use, Mental Health
and Pain Program
or *N CREW***

N CREW is part of the NIH HEAL Initiative

- The Helping to End Addiction Long-term[®] (HEAL) Initiative bolsters research across NIH to improve:
 - Prevention and treatment for opioid misuse and addiction
 - Pain management, including understanding and treating pain
- All funding for N CREW provided by HEAL.
- More information about the HEAL Initiative is available at:
<https://heal.nih.gov/>.

Background: Tribal Consultations in 2018 and 2022 - Research Needed to Address the Opioid Crisis

Themes

- High priority to address overdose crisis including opioid/amphetamine use and pain
- Need to support Native organizations to lead research, requiring significant capacity building and infrastructure investment – “For us, by us”
- Need for more accurate and real-time data
- Need to specifically design and test interventions for/with Native populations
- Need for research and intervention to rely on Indigenous Knowledge, including incorporation of traditional healing practices, spirituality, holistic conceptions of health, and strength based solutions
- Definition of pain discussed throughout
 - Drugs as self-medication for pain (physical and psychological) and impact of SDOH

2022 Consultation report commits to new Program

Driving Principle of N CREW: Community-Prioritized

Research prioritized by Native communities is essential for enhancing culturally grounded, strengths-based, effective, and sustainable intervention strategies, ultimately promoting healthy equity.

- Created in direct response to themes identified in Tribal Consultations
- Recognizes Tribes and Native American Serving Organizations (T/NASOs) are best positioned to identify and respond to community needs through culturally grounded knowledge that serves as the foundation for research and data strategies
- Will build and sustain highly collaborative partnerships between NIH, T/NASOs, and Ally Organizations established to respond to the opioid/drug public health emergency
- Is structured to offer culturally appropriate technical assistance, training, and resources to T/NASOs that are tailored to community strengths and support research capacity and data improvements

N CREW Program Goals

The N CREW Program supports T/NASOs to conduct locally prioritized research to address overdose, substance use, and pain, including related factors such as mental health and wellness.

- 1 Support T/NASOs to lead community prioritized research projects, including research elevating and integrating Indigenous Knowledge and culture.
- 2 Enhance capacity within T/NASOs to conduct locally prioritized research, by developing and providing novel, accessible, culturally grounded technical assistance and training, resources, and tools.
- 3 Improve access to and the quality of data on substance use, pain, and related health and wellbeing factors to maximize their potential use for use in local decision making.

Key Definitions Across ROAs

- Tribes and Native American Serving Organizations are federally or state recognized Tribes or organizations with a core mission to serve and/or a track record in serving Native Americans and that are poised to reach this population.
- Native Americans (as defined for this Program) are American Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians.
- Ally Organization are organizations with the ability to document a track record of partnering successfully with Native American communities

N CREW Program: Addressing Overdose, Substance Use, Mental Health, and Pain		<u>Program Phases – Total \$~268 Million (FY24-FY30)</u>	
		Phase I (FY24-FY25) Theme: Development and Planning \$~25 million	Phase II (~FY26-FY30) Theme: Implementation \$~240 million
<u>Components</u>	N CREW T/NASOs Research and Data Projects	ROA OTA 23-007 Solicits applications from T/NASOs for planning, developing, piloting, and/or implementation of research and/or data improvement projects.	Phase II will build on Phase I and priorities, potential opportunities and associated activities to be announced at later date
	N CREW Native Research Resource Network (NRRN)	ROA OTA 23-008 Solicits applications from T/NASOs and Ally Organizations to form a Native Research Resource Network (NRRN). NRRN will provide comprehensive training and resources, and program coordination.	
	Other Components	To be determined	

Potential Outcomes of N CREW

- Reduce overdose related health inequities through science based, culturally relevant, community embraced, and sustainable strategies
- Discover best way to enhance HEAL related research capacity within T/NASOs
 - Discover effective models of Native research capacity and infrastructure including opportunities for Native scholars
- Data sharing and stewardship best practices
 - Partner to learn under what circumstances (if any) data sharing may be desired and supported
 - Potentially build Data Archive and support cross site collection of outcome data
- Advance application and integration of Indigenous Knowledge in NIH research

ROA OTA-23-007

**Tribes and Native American Serving
Organizations (T/NASOs)
N CREW Research & Data Projects**

T/NASO N CREW Research and Data Projects – *ROA OTA-23-007*

- Solicits Phase I applications from T/NASOs to:
 - Develop, plan or implement **research studies**
 - **Improve data** (e.g., access, quality, availability)
 - **Enhance capacity** to engage in research
- Projects **must explicitly** include a focus on overdose, substance use (including opioids or stimulants), **OR** pain management.
 - Supports inclusion of related factors (e.g., wellness, mental illness, alcohol use)

Encouraged Activities and Priority Consideration T/NASO N CREW Research and Data Projects – ROA OTA-23-007

Applicants are encouraged to

- Propose projects that generate knowledge to inform decisions and implement sustainable strategies to address overdose, substance use, or pain management
- Consider a range of Indigenous and/or Western methodologies and approaches
 - Includes those that rely on Indigenous Knowledge or lived experience of Indigenous researchers or practitioners

Priority consideration will be given to

- Applicants who document a commitment to advance their research capacity to participate in future NIH research
- Meritorious applicants who have not previously applied for or received NIH funding

ROA OTA-23-008
**N CREW Native Research
Resource Network (NRRN)**

N CREW NRRN - ROA OTA-23-008 – Goals

- Solicits applications from T/NASOs and/or Ally Organizations to participate in a Phase I (2 years) multi-component and agile NRRN working responsively and collaboratively to:
 - Develop and provide comprehensive, **real-time resources and support** to T/NASOs
 - **Identify effective strategies and approaches for supporting T/NASOs** as they develop and conduct HEAL related research and/or data improvement projects
 - Identify and implement activities to **maximize investments and facilitate long term sustainability** of research/data gains made by T/NASOs
- In Phase I the NRRN is structured to:
 - Provide a broad range of research support that cannot be fully predicted in advance
 - Be agile and allow for flexibility in modifying activities, partners, or formal partnership structures

Example potential activities to support the N CREW Program in each category- *ROA OTA-23-008*

Technical Assistance Areas

- Tracking and reporting on activities
- Identifying study designs
- Intervention research
- Financial accounting systems
- Grant writing and monitoring

Partnership Development

- Development and implementation of innovative strategies for fostering and sustaining partnerships.
- Support teaming meetings, workgroups, governance meetings, other cross-site meetings

Other Categories

- As proposed by applicants

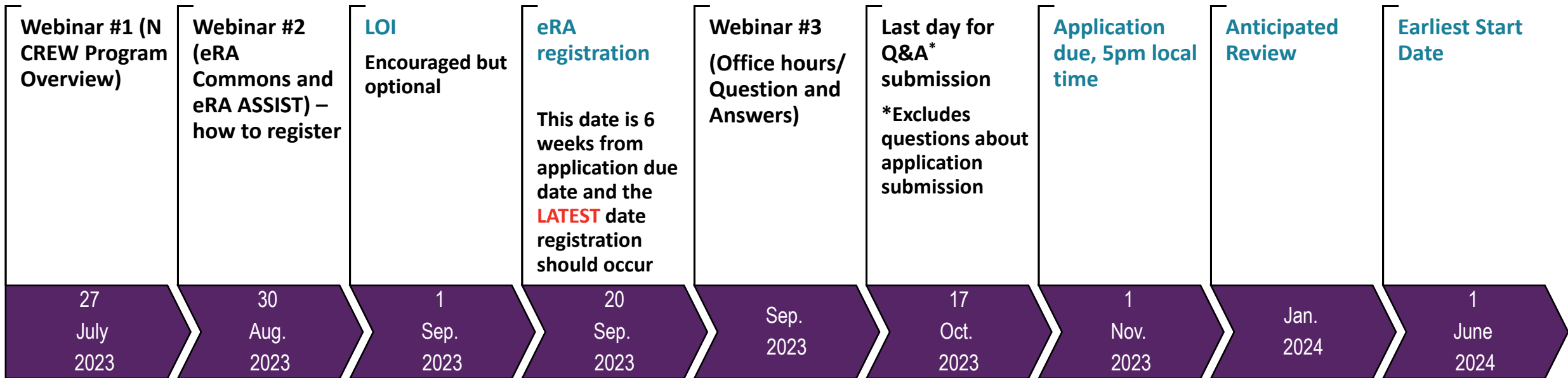
Coordination & Reporting

- 2 or more organizations from the NRRN will lead coordination
- Gather information & resources across sites
- Manage the coordination of comprehensive, real-time TA & resources
- Support dissemination of information learned

Spur Innovation & Accelerate Progress

- Identify, consolidate, and disseminate best or promising practices for developing and enhancing research capacity within T/NASOs; possibly develop a research readiness model
- Report on the different structures and strategies T/NASOs employ to carry out research.
- Develop an innovative program or process for training and mentoring research scholars.

Key Dates for OTA-23-007 OTA-23-008



Wrap Up: N CREW Program Highlights

- Responsive to Tribal Consultations
- Rooted in tribal sovereignty
 - Projects are community-prioritized
- Designed to provide novel, accessible, culturally grounded training, resources, and tools to build research capacity in community
 - Advance application and integration of Indigenous Knowledge in NIH research
- Supports community prioritized research and and enhancements in data
- Leverages OTA to facilitate the N CREW Program and participants quickly pivoting in response to lessons learned and new or evolving needs

N CREW Program has Trans-NIH Support

Issuing Institutes and Centers

- National Institute on Drug Abuse
 - Program
- National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
 - Other Transactions Financial Management and Review

Participating Institutes, Centers, and Offices

- National Institute of Mental Health
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
- National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
- National Cancer Institute
- Office of Research on Women's Health
- Tribal Health Research Office
- National Institute of Nursing Research
- National Institutes of Health Office of the Director
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Upcoming Technical Assistance

**Webinar on eRA
Commons and
ASSIST – Aug 30th at 1:30
EDT**

- NIH staff will walk through:
 - How to register organizations in eRA Commons
 - A hypothetical application submission in ASSIST
- Highlight common error messages and how to address them
- Answer questions

**Webinars for Office
Hours/Questions and
Answers - TBD**

- Please email ncrew@nih.gov with your questions and answers
- Sign up information forthcoming

Questions and Answers

- Questions and Answers are updated weekly on the NCREW website



Kathy Etz



Barbara Oudekerk



Jaclyn Smith



Angela Walden



Carly Marshall

NIH N CREW Team Contact Us! NCREW@NIH.GOV

Plus many other staff - not pictured



Nakia Brown



Jennifer Cho



Thank you!

NIDA, NCATS, HEAL and NIH are grateful for your time and attention. We look forward to learning from and partnering with you. Please consider applying!!

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Questions and Answers

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heal.nih.gov/ncrew