

Questions and inquiries regarding the VISN 1 CDA program

1. How do I submit my LOI or full application?

LOI's and full proposals will be submitted through the research office at the proposed facility to the VISN 1 Chief Medical Office.

2. Who is the facility contact for the VISN 1 CDA award?

Bedford – Ben Cipolloni (PB.Cipolloni@va.gov)
Boston – Terry Keane (Terry.Keane@va.gov)
VA Central Western Mass – Dr. Kristin Mattocks (kristin.mattocks@va.gov)
Connecticut – Dr. Fred Wright (fred.wright@va.gov)
Manchester – Dr. Mark Gilbertson (mark.gilbertson@va.gov)
Providence – Regina Correa-Murphy (regina.correa-murphy@va.gov)
White River Junction – Diane Rivera (diana.rivera@va.gov)
VA Maine – Dr. Ray Lash (ray.lash@va.gov)

3. Do the letters of recommendation have to be in Arial 11 point font with 1/2 inch margins also? Do they also require page numbering, or is that for the proposal only?

The letters of recommendation do not need to be page numbered, but should be in Arial 11pt font.

4. Do I need to also submit a formal R&D LOI cover form (e.g., VA Form 10-1313-13)?

No, but each applicant should submit a LOI applicant information form, available on the VISN 1 research website or through the Research Office.

5. How would the location adjustment be determined for specialists?

The salary will be set locally by the pay panel.

6. Are non-US citizens eligible to apply?

Clinicians holding an MD who will have hospital privileges must at least hold a green card, but need not be US citizens. For PhD non-clinician researchers who will not have hospital privileges, US citizenship is required

7. Do we need to submit a budget at this point in the process?

No. Since no project funding is included, only an estimate of salary and benefits for the PI is required.

8. Is January 1st the earliest date that funding could start?

Yes.

9. Will this award be available yearly, or at least again next year?

Most likely, this award will be offered on a yearly basis.

10. Is a researcher who is based at Newington/UConn Health Center eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as they get approval from the Director and ACOS/R at VA CT.

11. Can I use the “old” Biosketch format or do I need to use the new format (2015)?

Either format will be fine.

12. Can the VISN 1 Career Development Award be used to fund research projects for an MD who is currently enrolled in a PhD program?

No, since the award is meant as salary support, and not to fund research projects.

13. Can an applicant who has already submitted to the VA CDA program also submit to the VISN 1 early CDA program?

Yes.

14. In the national VA CDA's, the candidates must be mentored by someone who already has had a VA Merit Review grant. Is this the same for this grant?

No.

15. Can a mentor serve as the primary mentor for more than one VISN 1 CDA applicant?

Yes, provided he or she can fully support both candidates.

16. Does the investigator need to have an MD or PhD (or equivalent) in order to apply?

Yes.

17. If an investigator is still within 2 years of their post-clinical training, but have received a VA CDA award, are they still eligible?

No.

18. Who should the letters of recommendation be addressed to?

The letters should be addressed to the VISN 1 CDA review committee.

19. Can my reference letters be included in the application, or do they need to be submitted independently?

Reference letters for the full application (as well as other endorsements outlined in section 13 of the instructions) should be compiled, along with the rest of the application, into a single PDF file that the research office will submit.