

The NICHD Institutional Predoctoral Training Program in Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology

The NICHD Institutional Predoctoral Training Program in Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology supports broad and fundamental, early stage graduate research training in reproductive, perinatal and pediatric epidemiology via institutional training grants. Because the nature and scope of the proposed research training will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary. The total amount awarded and the number of awards made will depend upon the number, quality, duration, and costs of the applications received. This PA will use the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) mechanism (T32). Only domestic, non-profit, public or private institutions may apply for grants to support research training programs. Training Program Directors should have a strong track record in epidemiologic research applied to reproductive, perinatal and/or pediatric issues, graduate research training, and be capable to provide scientific and administrative leadership for the proposed training program. An eligible institution may submit only a single application and may only have a single training program supported by this funding opportunity. The PHS 398 application kit is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html> in an interactive format. Telecommunications for the hearing impaired is available at: TTY 301-451-0088.

The aim of this program is to encourage and support broad, early stage (pre-dissertation) training in reproductive, perinatal and/or pediatric epidemiology. Trainees are expected to be participants in a formal predoctoral curriculum offering broad and fundamental training in epidemiology, as well as opportunities to acquire substantive knowledge of reproductive, perinatal and pediatric health issues. We encourage a curriculum that covers epidemiologic skills and principles, and applies epidemiologic methods to research regarding reproductive, perinatal and/or pediatric health. Training grants should include courses in epidemiologic methods and biostatistics, reproductive, perinatal and/or pediatric epidemiology, research ethics, and related areas. The training program will provide each trainee with a minimum of three years of full-time predoctoral research support. The objectives of this research program is to produce a well-qualified cadre of academic and research investigators who are capable of research excellence in reproductive, perinatal and/or pediatric epidemiology. Specific skills and research areas include: fertility, measurement of peri-conceptual and pre-natal exposures (including occupational and pharmacologic), determinants of pregnancy outcomes, neonatal treatment issues, racial/ethnic disparities in child health, pharmacoepidemiology, methodologic issues regarding conduct of clinical trials in pregnant women and children, as well as concentrations on specific health care questions such as pediatric asthma, pediatric obesity, injury prevention, and management of pediatric psychiatric conditions.

The training programs must ensure that there are ongoing research programs available to trainees in reproductive, perinatal and/or pediatric epidemiology. Training programs may focus on one, two or three of the areas: reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric epidemiology. Only early predoctoral training is supported under this funding opportunity. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, early predoctoral training

typically spans the first and second years of graduate training and is restricted to that training occurring before full-time thesis research is initiated. Trainees are expected to participate in a formal predoctoral curriculum offering broad and fundamental training in epidemiology, as well as specialized courses in reproductive, perinatal or pediatric epidemiology, and coursework in basic sciences, medicine, policy, statistics relevant to their concentration. We encourage a curriculum that spans the breadth of epidemiology, ensuring a thorough grounding in epidemiologic methods and principles, statistical methods and principles, special issues related to reproductive, perinatal and pediatric epidemiology, collaboration with appropriate programs in fields such as demography, statistics, occupational health, pharmacoepidemiology, health services research, injury, prevention and molecular epidemiology and integration with appropriate bio-medical sciences such as genetics, developmental biology, obstetrics, gynecology, neonatology, pediatrics, psychiatry, and adolescent medicine. The training program should expose trainees to the clinical concepts relevant to reproductive, perinatal or pediatric epidemiology. This exposure, for example, may include seminars, coursework, laboratory rotations or field placements. Programmatic activities unique to this training program are formalized interactions of participating departments and programs that may include, but are not restricted to, journal clubs, seminar series, and an annual retreat.

For questions: please contact the Project Officer

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