Frequently Asked Questions for PAR-23-066: Community Level Interventions for Firearm and Related Violence, Injury and Mortality Prevention

<u>General</u>

Will funded UG3/UH3 research projects be required to follow a common/shared protocol and/or include common outcome measures?
No, this network is not one in which there will be a common protocol for all sites, as it is likely they will be quite different in their focus. However, the expectation is that, with the support of the Coordinating Center, the network will identify common data elements and outcomes as appropriate for the range of projects in the network.

What firearm-related outcomes are appropriate measures to propose in applications?
Each of the participating institutes and centers (ICs) have specific priorities regarding firearm-related outcomes of interest for this initiative, so applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to the relevant program staff for more information about the institute's research priorities. Applicants to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) are encouraged to be consistent with the priorities outlined in NOT-MH-22-095, NIMH Priorities on Research on Aggression and Violence Against Others.

In general, firearm-related outcomes may be assessed as a combination of the individual (e.g., firearm ownership, safety behaviors, or use; being threatened with or injured by a firearm), interpersonal (e.g., firearm ownership, safety behaviors, or use among peers or family members), organizational (e.g., firearm-related incidents in schools, workplaces, or community settings), and community levels (e.g., neighborhood firearm-related 911 calls; county-level hospital admissions for firearm injuries). For all applications, justification should be provided to support the proposed outcome measures.

Will PAR 23-066 consider projects that focus on or are exclusively about gun violence related to suicide death?
Yes. This PAR utilizes the definition of violence put forward by the World Health Organization: "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation." This definition includes self-directed violence and suicide.

Will each project have its own (local) community advisory/stakeholder group *and* an engagement group more national in scope that will be organized and facilitated by the Coordinating Center?
Yes, that is the plan as outlined in the PAR.

Will the U24 Coordinating Center provide administrative and technical assistance to the funded research projects?
Yes, that is one of three areas of responsibility for the Coordinating Center. They will be the primary coordination support for the network of research projects.

How do you define Community and Community Organizations?
Community: A specific group of people, often living in a defined geographic area, who share a common culture, values, and norms and who are arranged in a social structure according to relationships the community has developed over a period of time. Community may be self-defined or defined by the catchment area of local government or service providers. Virtual or other communities that do not reside in the same geographic location are not included.

Community organization: A nonfederal, nonacademic organization that provides goods, services, support, resources, or advocacy to members of a defined community. See the PAR for examples of community organizations.

What types of community- and community organization–level interventions are within scope of the initiative's objectives?
An intervention that focuses exclusively on helping individuals or populations cope with the impacts of violence and does not directly address community- or organizational-level root causes of the violence is not within the scope. In addition, interventions that are delivered in community settings or use community-based outreach or enrollment but intervene only at the individual level and do not target community-level determinants of health are not considered community-level interventions.

Are policy changes that impact organizational practices considered an aspect of a multilevel intervention?
Organizational-level policy changes implemented as part of the project would be considered an organizational-level intervention. The assessment of policy changes implemented independently from the project would not constitute an appropriate intervention. Projects examining policy changes that impact community-based efforts would be of particular relevance. For more details about responsive and non-responsive types of interventions please see the FOA.

Are there limitations on whether more than one project will be funded in the same city?
No. There are no specific exclusions with respect to number of projects in one geographic area. However, geographic diversity across the network will be considered as one factor among many in funding decisions.

Where are the currently funded sites for the network located?
Currently funded sites are located in Chicago, Illinois; Washington, D.C.; and Jackson, Mississippi. See https://obssr.od.nih.gov/about/violence-research-initiatives for more information.

Do you encourage multicity/multisite studies?
It is up to the applicant to make the argument for a single-site or multisite/multicity project as the most appropriate evaluation of the proposed community-level intervention. Applicants are not excluded or encouraged de facto.

Is there a specific reach for network interventions you are expecting in terms of how many people are impacted? There is no specific target reach for the network interventions. Each project needs to address this based on population(s) of focus and the scope and structure of the proposed intervention.

Application Process and Eligibility

Is a letter of intent (LOI) required to apply for this award?
No, LOIs are not required, are not binding, and do not enter into the review of the submitted application. However, the information that the LOI contains enables scientific review officers to initiate the planning process for the scientific review meeting, which includes identifying expert reviewers.

How do I decide which participating IC to submit an application to?
As always, applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to the relevant program officer(s) listed in the PAR for more information about institute research priorities.

If you need help determining the potential fit for a number of ICs, please contact Dara Blachman-Demner at dara.blachman-demner@nih.gov.

Do key personnel from community organizations need to submit an NIH biosketch? What are the qualifications expected for the community organization PIs or key personnel?
As per the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide, biosketches are required for all key personnel. All key personnel will need to demonstrate the ability to fill the roles that they are assigned for the project based on their relevant experience and expertise.

Are budget estimates for each year of the UH3 required at submission of UG3?
Yes, a complete budget is required. Please see the FOA for more information.

Is there a link to expenses that are not allowed, such as firearm storage safes?
All NIH awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement. See https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_7/7.9_allowability_of_costs_activities.htm.

Will there be opportunities to resubmit to this mechanism, responding to reviewer critiques?
No. This is a one-time funding opportunity. However, we encourage you to talk with your assigned program offer to determine if there may be other FOAs (including the parent FOAs) that would be appropriate to submit an application to that incorporates reviewer feedback.

If we have Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) funding for service delivery (not research) with some community violence partners, are our partners and our institution still eligible?
NIH does not have any exclusions for application based on ARPA service delivery funding.

What must be done before I submit an application to Grants.gov?
It is important that you check with your sponsored research office in advance of application preparation to determine whether your institution is registered with Grants.gov. The institution's authorized organizational representative (AOR) is responsible for completing the registration process. If your institution is not already registered, it must first register with the System for Award Management and then with Grants.gov.

Both the institution and the investigator must also complete a one-time registration in the [NIH eRA Commons](#) in order to submit applications to NIH. Institutional officials are responsible for registering investigators in the eRA Commons. You should work with your AOR (also known as the signing official in the eRA Commons) to determine your institution's process for registration.

All key personnel now require an individual eRA Commons username/ID. If your organization is not currently registered with eRA Commons, see FAQ #3: "[What are the options for obtaining an eRA Commons username (Commons ID) for a senior/key person who isn't affiliated with a registered organization?](#)" for available options.

Where can I find help registering for Grants.gov or with my application submission?
For help with the Grants.gov registration process, contact [Grants.gov](#) customer support at 1-800-518-4726 (Toll Free) or at [support@grants.gov](#).

Where can I find help in registering for the eRA Commons?
For questions regarding the [eRA Commons](#) registration process, contact the eRA Service Desk at 1-866-504-9552 (Toll Free) or 301-402-7469 from Monday–Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern time).