

Frequently Asked Questions for PAR 22-115 and PAR 22-120 “Community Level Interventions for Firearm and Related Violence, Injury and Mortality Prevention.”

General:

Will the 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 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 institute research priorities. Applicants to NIMH are encouraged to be consistent with the priorities outlined in [NOT-MH-22-095](#) (research on violence and aggression towards others).

In general, however, firearm-related outcomes may be assessed at 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/or 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 22-115 consider projects that focus on or are exclusively about gun-violence related to suicide death?

Yes. These PARs utilize 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 their own (local) community advisory/stakeholder group and then there will be a second engagement group more National in scope that will be organized and facilitated by the CC?

Yes, that is the plan as outlined in the PARs.

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 as they will be the primary coordination support for the network of research projects.

Is the Coordinating Center expected to have expertise in firearm and related violence, injury and mortality research?

The team for the Coordinating Center is expected to have demonstrated expertise in the three areas of responsibility for the Coordinating Center. Given the expectations around integration of firearms and related data, it seems that this expertise would strengthen the application.

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 non-Federal, non-academic organization that provides goods, services, support, resources, or advocacy to members of a defined community. Please see the PAR for examples of community organizations.

What Types of Community/CO-level interventions are within scope of the initiative 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 in scope. In addition, interventions that are delivered in community settings and/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.

Application Process:

Can an organization apply to both PAR 22-115 and PAR 22-120?

Yes, it is possible for the same organization to submit an application to both PARs. However, the organization may want to seriously consider whether they would have the bandwidth and staffing plan and structure to support both projects, and an independent governance structure that would ensure adequate and impartial oversight for the program as a whole.

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 PARs 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.

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 own 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(link sends e-mail).

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 AM to 8:00 PM (Eastern Time).