

Center for Accelerating Suicide Prevention in Real World Settings (ASPIRES) Annual Pilot Program: Practice-Based Research on Youth Suicide Prevention

Supported by P50 Center grant funding from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Center for Accelerating Suicide Prevention in Real-World Settings (ASPIRES) aims to accelerate the development and implementation of effective interventions to reduce suicide in children and adolescents. Jeff Bridge, PhD, director of the Center for Suicide Prevention and Research (CSPR) in the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, and Cynthia Fontanella, PhD, a principal investigator in CSPR, lead ASPIRES and its investigators as co-directors.

The goal of the ASPIRES pilot program, Practice-Based Research on Youth Suicide Prevention, is to fund small-scale, innovative or exploratory clinical research focused on youth suicide prevention in practice settings. We encourage applications from researchers from underrepresented ethnic and racial backgrounds proposing research focused on understanding and preventing suicide.

Up to two projects will be funded each cycle. For each project, up to \$50,000 in direct costs may be budgeted for a one- or two-year project. Indirect costs are allowed.

Applicant Eligibility

The applicant/principal investigator must be affiliated with a university and/or a research institute. Investigators from all academic disciplines are eligible to apply, and both basic science and applied research projects will be considered, provided that the proposed study has an essential focus on suicide or suicide prevention. Colleagues at other universities may be co-investigators.

Two applicant tracks are available:

Early-Stage Investigators (e.g., tenure-, clinical- or research-track assistant professors, clinical scholars, postdoctoral fellows, medical residents, research fellows, research scientists).

Established Investigators (i.e., tenure-, clinical-, or research-track associate or full professors).

Pilot grants for early-stage investigators are designed to facilitate guidance and supervision from an established mentor in a selected area of suicide research. Applicants on this track must select a mentor with expertise in suicide research. The mentor must have an academic rank of associate or full professor and an established record of suicide research and publication relevant to the researcher's proposed study.

Project Requirements

All funded projects must have youth suicide prevention as their focus, and the target population must be youth and/or young adults. They must have the potential to generate academic publications, and priority will be given to projects with potential to develop pilot data that would

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lead to applications for extramural federal and foundation funding. **If participants are to be recruited from Nationwide Children's Hospital, approval prior to applying is necessary. Please contact Kendra Heck (Kendra.Heck@nationwidechildrens.org) for instructions and allow a month to receive approval.**

A variety of project types are supported, including:

- Pilot or feasibility studies.
- Secondary analyses of existing data.
- Intervention studies.
- Implementation science studies.
- Research methodology development (e.g., statistical innovations).
- Research technology development.

Consistent with a practice-based research approach, there is also emphasis on:

- Settings where youth suicide risk might be addressed.
 - Health care systems (e.g., outpatient, inpatient, emergency department settings).
 - Mental health or primary care practices
 - Other systems or settings that serve individuals at risk for suicide (e.g., schools, the child welfare system, the juvenile justice system).
- Vulnerable populations.
 - Individuals with mental illness or substance-use disorders.
 - Groups at elevated risk in terms of demographic characteristics (e.g., members in certain racial/ethnic groups, sexual and gender minorities) or social/environmental history and context (e.g., early adversity, economic hardship, geographic locations), or developmental context.
 - Individuals who experience disparities in healthcare access, engagement or quality.

Application Requirements

Applications must include the following components:

- Abstract and face page (1 page; abstract must be 30 lines)
- Specific aims section (1 page)
- Research strategy section (6 pages)
- References
- Project timeline
- NIH format biosketches
- Detailed budget
- Budget justification
- Letters of support (if applicable)
- Environment details
- Mentor statement of support
- Protection of human subjects

Applications must be formatted with the following specifications:

- Typeface: Arial (11-point font; single-spaced)
- Paper Size: 8.5" x 11" with 0.5" margins

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Review

In June, applications will be sent to a minimum of two external reviewers with expertise in the subject matter to evaluate using an NIH-type nine-point scale. All applicants will receive brief, written reviews.

Applications are evaluated based on:

- Significance (i.e., project's potential to contribute to scientific understanding of suicide and/or its prevention)
- Innovation
- Methodology
- Qualifications, experience and prior productivity of the applicant(s)
- Environment

Award Requirements

Funds may be used for compensation for investigators or personnel (e.g., graduate student, clinical research coordinator), consultant fees, research supplies, or costs of measures, tests or procedures. Funds may also be used for travel required to conduct the research. Principal investigators must be funded at a minimum 10% effort.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is necessary before the project can begin and before funds are released. All award recipients must submit a semi-annual and final progress report (within 90 days of project completion) documenting publications, presentations/posters and subsequent internal/external grant applications resulting from the funded project. Award recipients must present their project at the Annual ASPIRES Research Conference. All published work must include a statement indicating the work was supported by this award.

Contact

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See application for additional details. Please direct any questions to both Drs. Bridge and Fontanella.

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