

## **PEDSnet Scholars Program: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **GENERAL**

- 1. To gauge the likelihood of being selected – there will be 6 scholars total selected from a possible pool of 36 (12 sites x 3 submissions/site)?**
  - a. Here are some factors that will impact the likelihood of selection for receiving funds/resources.
    - Historically all sites have not applied for every application cycle, nor submitted maximum number of nominations, so the denominator may not be 36. However, the potential maximum would be 36 candidates for consideration.
    - Every applicant may not request AHRQ PCORI funding, which we also have experienced historically, either due to other institutional or sponsor commitments. Also, applicants may in theory ask for different components of resources (e.g. request for data scientist effort only), which may affect the total number of individuals we may fund.
- 2. Will a candidate's selection of the "AHRQ- only" option versus "AHRQ or institutional" funding impact how they are evaluated for the AHRQ funding?**
  - No, the applications are reviewed and scored for merit, independent of funding category.
- 3. Can your scientific mentor be outside your institution but within the PEDSnet network?**
  - We encourage scholars to build their network within and outside their institution. However, to facilitate embedded research in your local institution, we feel it is important to have a local primary mentor. Scholars may propose a mentorship team that include more than one research mentor, one at your institution and a co-primary mentor at another institution.
- 4. Is the use of PEDSnet data required?**
  - No, the use of PEDSnet data for the proposed project is not required. Applicants may propose to use local data or other data sources that enable the analysis of project aims. One new data source is the Patient-Centered Outcomes Data Repository (PCODR). The Repository contains data from a growing number of PCORI-funded CER clinical trials covering a range of diseases and therapeutic areas. The data has been curated to a high standard to ensure that it's accessible, interpretable, and re-usable. For each study you will find a rich set of resources, including the dataset, metadata, data dictionary, statistical analysis plan and analytic code. Please visit [PCORI's Data Sharing Webpage](#) for more information.
- 5. How is it decided who will receive the data scientist effort resource?**
  - The proposal, which includes the merit and feasibility of the relevant data science, is reviewed and scored in a competitive process. Ultimately the Steering

Updated March 15, 2024

Committee has the final decision-making power for scholar selection and resource allocation.

6. **(With regard to stakeholder engagement that is underscored in the application proposal) Could you elaborate on how a community partner should be incorporated especially for those proposing Big data or epidemiological research, should we be thinking of a qualitative component?**
  - We are not suggesting you include people as participants, that is engaging them as research subjects. Even Big data projects are intended to ultimately lead to changes in care, therefore, consider the individuals that will be affected, engage them in the identification of questions, and share results in an ongoing fashion. A qualitative component could be considered if appropriate for the specified project aims.
7. **When will a second cohort be selected?**
  - We anticipate the second cohort to begin their program in mid 2026.

## FUNDING

1. **Please note the following clarification regarding program effort and funding. The funding mechanism for this second phase of the PEDSnet Scholars program is much more flexible than the K12 institutional award that we had for Phase 1. To that end, we can provide more flexibility to participants.**
  - a. Time Commitment
    - Regardless of source of funding, all participants must commit to:
    - The full 2.25 years of the Scholar Curriculum and Mentoring Program (25% effort)
    - A minimum of 25% protected time for research (can be more)
  - b. Salary Support
    - As mentioned during the webinar, Scholars' salaries can be supported by the P30 grant, Institutional funds, Foundation/Federal career awards (e.g., K awards), or a mix of any of these. A person could start with one source and transition to another, such as someone starting with the P30 grant and receiving a K award during the 2.25 years. In this case, their salary once the K award was received would be covered by the K, while other funds, previously used for salary support, could be repurposed for research related expenses.
    - We will post additional guidance (on the website application materials section) on how the LOS should specify the effort and salary commitment. If you have questions or concerns, please do reach out.
2. **Would the funding be directed toward training courses?**
  - If the question is referring to the online training courses described in the course syllabus and curriculum (2022-2024), there are no costs for the required online courses/modules. All courses or modules are free resources available online. In some

Updated March 15, 2024

- cases, scholars choose to take a certification option (versus an audit), but it is not required. Scholars may use awarded research stipend funds to cover the costs of any additional courses one would personally like to take for their own benefit to further their knowledge or skill in specific LHS competencies.
3. **For the \$73.5K salary stipend – the salaries here are relatively high given the cost of living. Is the idea that this salary stipend can simply cover whatever it can cover. In other words, it's ok if it just covers 25% of salary (+ fringe + over the cap)**
    - Yes, the scholar would be responsible for identifying funds to cover the difference.
  4. **For the .25 effort that will support a data scientist at the PEDSnet Data Coordinating Center – can that support a data scientist at our own site given that we are a Center Without Walls?**
    - Unfortunately, no. An underlying concept of the P30 mechanism is to establish resources within Center cores that can be used across projects and investigators. Therefore, the Data scientist effort was designed to be leveraged from the central Data Coordinating Center.
  5. **Can you shed more light on the “Commitment from institutional/other funding” row? Is this just basically saying “if you have other funding feel free to use it”?**
    - Yes, it means that you have secured support to cover the required effort levels, research related expenses, as well as participation annual meetings. A Letter of Support is required to confirm the financial commitment.

## OTHER GRANTS

1. **Can I apply for this program concurrent with submitting K08 application?**
  - Yes, this is permissible. It is also possible to participate in both programs if the research aims are aligned and assuming participation in the P30 does not represent an exclusion for the specific K award (please review the terms for the K). Please refer to questions 1 under the FAQ FUNDING section.
2. **Can the applicant submit for a NIH K award or R grant before concluding the training with PEDSnet?**
  - Yes, many scholars work this into their timeline during the program duration.

Please contact the Coordinating Center with additional questions. [Moonej1@chop.edu](mailto:Moonej1@chop.edu)