Grant Title: WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND SEX/GENDER DIFFERENCES RESEARCH (R01, R21)


Agency/Department: Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Mental Health.

Area of Research: Women's mental health and sex/gender differences in mental health.


Application Deadline: R01-New: February 5, June 5, October 5 annually; Resubmissions: March 5, July 5, November 5 annually; R21-New: February 16, June 16, October 16 annually; Resubmissions: March 16, July 16, November 16 annually.

Amount: R01: Typically under $500,000 per year in direct costs; if request equals or exceeds $500,000, prior approval is required; R21: $275,000 direct costs for the 2 year period.

Length of Support: R01: Up to 5 years; R21: 2 years.

Eligible Applicants: Public and State controlled institutions of higher education. See the full announcement for a complete list of eligible applicants.

Summary: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to study women's mental health and sex/gender differences in mental health. NIMH has three major areas for research emphasis related to sex and gender differences: basic and clinical neuroscience; epidemiology and risk factors; and intervention and services research. (1) Basic and Clinical Neuroscience - There is increasing evidence that neurobiological sex differences influence a wide array of behaviors and may alter vulnerability to: different mental illnesses, severity of course, and/or treatment response. Basic studies in animals and humans as well as human clinical studies in subjects with mental illnesses are appropriate for developing knowledge of the processes underlying sex differences. (2) Epidemiology and Risk Factors - During the past two decades, advances in diagnosis and in survey methodologies have enabled researchers to establish general estimates of the impact of mental disorders in women and men and their intervention and service needs. Such research remains to be done for children and adolescents and is particularly pressing, because in many disorders, gender differences first emerge in adolescence when early intervention strategies may be most effective in preventing full-blown mental disorders. There is also relatively little information about the influence of gender-related or gender-specific factors on such important clinical aspects of mental disorders as risk for recurrence, chronicity, comorbidity and disability in later life. Studies to further elucidate the role of sex/gender-related or sex/gender-specific factors in diagnosis, epidemiology, risk for onset or recurrence, and in the course of mental disorders across the lifespan and across ethnic and cultural groups are needed. (3) Intervention and Services Research - There are an increasing number of findings indicating sex/gender differences in response to interventions as well as in preferences for different kinds of services and interventions. Additionally, women's social roles and reproductive status raise special issues related to choices of treatments and services. Interventions are defined here to include preventive, treatment, services-system and rehabilitative strategies at the individual, provider, organizational and systems levels. There is a need to incorporate consideration of such issues in the design and analysis of outcomes in mental health research.