

**Request for Proposals:
Recovery-Oriented Mental Health Research Grants in Texas**

Questions & Answers

How many grants will the Hogg Foundation award?

The foundation has limited funds available for the research grants and will award grants based on the merits of the proposals. The foundation anticipates funding six to eight research projects depending on both the quality of the projects and the size of the awards. The foundation plans to award grants of up to \$22,000. This total award amount includes 10% for overhead expenses.

Can an applicant submit more than one proposal?

No.

Is there a limit on the number of proposals submitted by an institution?

There is no limit to the number of proposals submitted by an institution. However, each faculty or research staff member may only submit one proposal.

What makes a research proposal recovery-oriented?

Recovery-oriented research includes one or more mental health consumers, individuals with lived experience of a mental health condition, in all phases and aspects of the research and/or evaluation process. This type of research strongly values the perspective that mental health consumers bring to the research/evaluation enterprise, recognizing consumers in recovery as having “expertise by experience” (Davidson, 2014). Research in this area utilizes measures, questions, and tools that have been informed by lived experience with mental illness and recovery (Davidson, 2014). Examples of recovery-focused projects are listed in the RFP in *Section C: Program Description*.

What makes a research project “participatory”?

All projects must be participatory, as defined by having at least one mental health consumer, who is currently experiencing personal recovery, involved in all stages of the research project. Respondents are encouraged to seek mental health consumers who have been engaged in providing peer support or advocacy in their community. The involvement of care givers or family members who have provided support to persons with lived experience is also encouraged.

Are postdoctoral fellows or research associates eligible to submit a proposal?

Yes. Eligible respondents are required to have completed their doctorate.

What are some characteristics of a strong proposal?

A strong proposal will include a research study with focused goals that can be reasonably obtained. It will involve one or more mental health consumers in all phases of the project in a meaningful way. The proposed project will advance the evidence base for mental health recovery. The study should be innovative with a compelling rationale and a hypothesis that can be feasibly tested. The applicant must be well prepared to carry out the project. Factors that will be used to evaluate proposals for this RFP *Section D.2.: Review and Selection Process*.

What are typical reasons why proposals are not selected?

Projects that do not meaningfully involve primary mental health consumers and are not likely to advance the evidence base for mental health recovery will not be selected. Factors that may weaken a proposal include presenting a research study that is too ambitious (e.g., too much work proposed for the time period covered by the grant), proposing a research design that is not a good fit for the question being asked, presenting unclear goals, lack of detail in the description of the project, and inadequate demonstration of knowledge or expertise in the area of the proposed research. Studies in which mental health is not the focus, but appears to be one of a number of variables being studied, are not likely to be selected.

Should respondents provide letters of support?

Respondents must provide the required approval letter from their university grant office. If an applicant is planning on partnering with a non-profit organization or agency, a letter of support from that organization will be required. If a respondent is planning on accessing existing data or analyzing data that is owned by another organization, you must present a letter of support indicating approval to access the data. Other letters of recommendation or reference letters will not be accepted.

Can a respondent request funding for a project that will be partially funded by another entity?

Yes. Additional financial or in-kind support for the project is an evaluative factor for proposal consideration. Project funding from another entity should be described in the narrative section of the proposal.

What is “overhead”?

A maximum of 10% of the total project expenses in overhead is allowed. Overhead costs are often defined as expenses incurred for common or joint objectives, which cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored project.

What are “underserved communities”?

Underserved communities are those that receive inadequate mental health services. Communities may be underserved for a variety of reasons, including the location of services in relation to the community (i.e., not being easily accessible), lack of health insurance or mental health coverage under one’s insurance plan, absence of linguistically appropriate or culturally relevant services, mental health workforce shortages, inadequate funding of community mental health centers, and stigma or attitudes about mental illness that affect people’s willingness to seek treatment.

What is meant by the involvement of mental health consumers in all phases of the project?

The Hogg Foundation values the involvement of consumers, their families and consumer advocates in planning, implementing and improving mental health services, research, policy and education. The involvement referred to here is reflective of a situation where consumers are part of the research team designing the project and collecting data (i.e., community-based participatory research), rather than simply being included as participants.

I plan to hire a research assistant (RA) for the project, but I have not yet identified the individual. Do you require that the person already be identified, and do I need to include a resume or curriculum vitae for the RA in my proposal?

No, you do not have to name a specific individual for the research assistant position in your proposal or budget, and a resume is not required for this position. Please do clearly specify the number of hours and the salary/rate on which the RA wages are based.

Are proposals for research being conducted in other states or countries eligible?

The RFP does not restrict the location of data collection. However, respondents whose research has a national or international scope must clearly demonstrate the project’s relevance for improving mental health in Texas.