Oral Health Research Integration Grant

PURPOSE

The nccPA Health Foundation® offers this **research study** grant for Board Certified PAs to track the impact of strategies to integrate oral health into PA educational curriculum or practice. Learn about national progress made and ongoing challenges to address oral heath inequities in Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges (2021), the twenty-year follow-up to the seminal Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General. Then, review the Health Resources and Services Administration's Oral Health page to see how efforts to integrate oral health are occurring across the health care system.

Educational integration may evaluate strategies for initial integration or expansion of existing oral health curriculum. Strategies may include integrating the Smiles for Life curriculum, integrating oral health into the physical exam, integrating the oral health delivery framework (Qualis white paper), integrating oral health as an exemplar for interprofessional education and practice, etc. Innovative strategies are encouraged.

Practice integration may evaluate strategies for initial integration or expansion of existing oral health efforts in PA practice. Strategies may include integrating the Smiles for Life curriculum, integrating oral health into the physical exam, integrating oral health delivery framework (Qualis white paper), integrating oral health patient education, integrating oral health as part of an electronic medical record, etc. Innovative strategies are encouraged and find additional resources here.

Proposals are reviewed as received and awarded based on merit in amounts up to $3,000, until funds are expended.

BACKGROUND & PRIORITY

The nccPA Health Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit and a supporting organization to the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), the only national certifying body for more than 168,000 PAs in the US. The Health Foundation seeks to advance the role of Certified PAs to improve health through grants and other programs that address mental and behavioral health, oral health, professional practice, health disparities, DEI, and equitable care. The Health Foundation's values are to benefit patients, promote the PA profession, foster partnerships, support equitable care, and use research and education for informed decision-making. Grant applicants should demonstrate how their research proposal aligns with the Health Foundation's mission and values. The Health Foundation gives priority to *new* projects that seek to

- Promote innovation in education and care delivery
- Foster research and scholarship
- Promote PA leadership development
- Foster medical/dental collaboration
- Reduce health disparities
- Reach underserved/diverse populations
- Foster cultural humility and raise awareness of implicit bias

ELIGIBILITY

The principal applicant(s) should be a PA faculty member at an ARC-PA accredited PA program or a clinically-practicing, Board Certified PA. Co-applicants may be interprofessional partners or PAs who hold the PA-C Emeritus designation. Grant funds are disbursed to the organization sponsoring the project.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

All materials should be the applicants' original work and should be submitted via email to
Grants@nccPAHealthFoundation.net. Successful proposals will include the following:

1. Grant proposal (5 pages maximum)
2. Budget with budget justification (1 page maximum)
3. CV for principal investigator (not included in 5 pages)
4. IRB status (The study does not need to be approved prior to submitting the application; however, before disbursement of any funds, documentation stating that the project is approved or that approval was not necessary must be provided.)
5. Completed and signed *Grant Proposal Support Form* (not included in 5 pages)
6. Completed and signed W-9 for the organization that will hold the funds (not included in 5 pages)

The grant proposal is limited to 5 single-spaced pages at size 12 font, including all tables, figures, and appendices, and must include the following sections with headings:

- **Grant overview.** (top of the first page):
  - Project title and application submission date
  - Applicant name(s) and contact information (email and telephone)
  - Abstract describing the program (not to exceed 250 words)
- **Statement of the problem / opportunity:** What is the problem you would like to address? This should include relevant health statistics, information on the community/population to be reached, existing curriculum or practice data, or other data that supports the necessity of the proposed program. Referenced information should include citations; no specific citation format required.
- **Review of pertinent literature:** What does the seminal and current literature offer as a framework/ rationale for your study? How does the project add value to your curriculum/practice?
- **Methodology:** What activities will you implement to accomplish your objective: What exactly will you do, when will you do it, who will partner with you (individuals/organizations)? Have you considered the potential impact of implicit biases[1]? Have you ensured activities are tied to the budget? Have you documented how all partnerships will help you achieve your health care/education outcomes?
- **Anticipated Outcomes:** How will you determine if you are successful? What do you expect to happen? Estimate number(s) of participating PA students, providers, and others.
- **Dissemination Plan:** How will you share your work and findings as a model for the future (i.e., poster/presentation, article, etc.)? Please acknowledge the nccPA Health Foundation when disseminating your work.
- **Project Timeline.** Projects should be completed within eighteen (18) months of receiving funds, and the timeline should include an estimated timeframe for each activity.
- **Brief Personal Statement:** Describe how this project to integrate oral health furthers your goals as an educator or as a clinician.

The budget should describe expenses, unit and total costs, and rationale/justification. Customize the sample template at right.

- Funding provided for:
  - Administrative/technical support (e.g., research coordinator; clerical, data entry; and statistical assistance)
  - Supplies (e.g., duplication, mailings, computer software)

#	Expense Description	Unit Cost	Units	Total Cost	Rationale/ Justification
1					
2					
3					
Sample budget template. Please also indicate any additional funding sources or in-kind support.					

---

[1]For more on implicit bias, consider Harvard's Project Implicit and its Implicit Association Tests.

- o Outreach expenses and production of patient- or provider-education materials
- o Communication(s) between participants (e.g., Web/phone conference)
- o Meeting registration costs for dissemination of the findings
- o Other expenses may be considered based on project goals, justification, and alignment with the Health Foundation's mission.
- o *Exclusions:* No overhead or indirect costs (e.g., faculty/PA salary or stipends) are supported.
- In-kind support is encouraged, but not required.
- Additional funding sources, including any in-kind support, requested or received should be noted in a separate column to ensure clarity regarding what expenses will be supported by grants funds.

The Grant Proposal Support Form provides verification of organizational support for the project as proposed. The organizational representative should be in a position of authority and will be the individual the Health Foundation should contact if the applicant cannot be reached.

REVIEW PROCESS
Proposals will be considered as received until all funds are expended. An initial review will provide formative feedback to applicants, if needed, before proposals are advanced to the grant review team. The review process takes approximately four (4) to six (6) weeks from our receipt of the final electronic proposal. Please allow time for the review process when submitting your proposal. The Health Foundation may request additional information before making funding decisions.

CRITERIA
Applicants are encouraged to consider the Health Foundation's mission and values when developing their projects. Proposals are evaluated on the criteria that follow; ***please consider these criteria and demonstrate how your project meets them***:
- Clarity of goals, relevance of literature, appropriateness of methodology, and plan for dissemination
- Potential to enhance PA/PA student knowledge about oral health
- Potential to impact education (e.g., IPE, CME, patient education) or clinical practice (e.g., serve as a model).
- Realistic scope, potential for successful execution
- Self-sustainability post funding, if applicable

PROGRESS AND PROJECT DISSEMINATION
Grant recipients must provide a **Final Grant Report** within 30 days of the project completion. The report should not exceed five (5) pages and should include a full description of the curriculum or practice innovation and pertinent findings/outcomes. The report should indicate whether a poster, presentation, or article has or will be produced; and the Health Foundation requests copies of all materials produced or published about the study. See Final Report guidelines for more information.

In addition, grant recipients agree to the following:
- Acknowledge that their work was made possible by the nccPA Health Foundation. (Find and tag the nccPA Health Foundation for posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.)
- Authorize the nccPA Health Foundation to use the applicant's name(s), photo(s), organization name and organization logo, applications, and mid- and final grant reports, inclusive of any photos provided, for the purposes of sharing innovative strategies.

QUESTIONS?
Find grant writing tips and past projects online. Applicants may also send questions directly to the nccPA Health Foundation at Grants@nccPAHealthFoundation.net.

Applicant name: _____

Applicant status: □ Practicing PA   □ PA Faculty   □ Other _____

Project title: _____

How did you hear about the grant program? _____

Organization supporting the grant: _____

Organizational representative (name, title, and email address):

_____

W-9 Provided? □ Yes   □ No   *Any awarded funds will be disbursed to the entity named on the W-9.*

Please indicate the name and address to which any awarded funds should be sent.

_____

Attestation & Agreement

By signing this agreement, I/we

- Attest that the contents of this application are true, accurate, and represent my/our original work.
- Attest that all awarded funds will be used in accordance with the provided budget and timeframe.
- Acknowledge that the applicant (and any co-applicants) has the availability and capacity to complete the project as outlined.
- Agree that if for any reason the principal investigator is unable to fulfill his/her role, a new PI will be identified, and the Health Foundation notified. If a PI cannot be identified, the funds will be returned.
- Attest that any participating organization does not advocate, support, or engage in discrimination in the provision of health care based on but not limited to an individual's sex (including pregnancy), race, color, creed, national origin or ancestry, age, religion, mental or physical disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, citizenship, genetic information, marital status, veteran status, military status other than with respect to dishonorable discharge, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.
- Attest that any participating organization has professional liability insurance coverage in place if the program involves direct patient care and that patient information is HIPAA compliant.
- Agree to acknowledge the nccPA Health Foundation as supporting the program and understand that public announcements regarding the program are encouraged.
- Agree to submit a Final Grant Report, within 30 days of program completion, prepared per provided guidelines, and further agree to provide copies of any posters, presentations or article manuscripts prepared about the study.
- Authorize the nccPA Health Foundation to use the application, mid and final grant reports, any associated posters, presentations, or articles, as well as my/our name(s) and photograph(s), and organization name and logo(s) to promote the sharing of strategies online and in nccPA Health Foundation, NCCPA, and other publications/channels.

_____   _____
Signature of Grant Applicant   Date

_____   _____
Signature of Organizational Representative   Date

Submit *Grant Proposal Support Form* with complete application to Grants@nccPAHealthFoundation.net.

Grant recipients are required to submit a Final Grant Report **within 30 days** of the project completion. (Depending on the length of the timeline, applicants may be asked to provide a *mid-grant report* to keep the Health Foundation apprised of progress.)

The Final Grant Report should address the points below in no more than five (5) pages, not including any attachments, presentations, photos (with permission to use), or videos. Additionally, the report should include any posters, presentations or manuscripts being prepared as a result of the grant; if those items are still in development, the report should address when they will be completed and express a commitment to deliver copies to the Health Foundation at that time.

Project information: Briefly restate or describe …
- Project title, location(s), and timeline
- The problem
- The educational or practice integration strategy
- The methodology to assess impact
- Findings, including major successes, difficulties, or unexpected outcomes. (Note: This effort is meant to identify lessons learned that can be shared to support the design of future innovations.)
- Impact on the student, PA/provider, and/or patient communities (*Reflections from participating PAs, PA students, and other health profession providers/students are encouraged.)*
- Any partnerships resulting from the project
- Plans to sustain this project, including plans for any remaining funds.

Engagement
Please replicate and complete the following table and describe the engagement of project participants. *Reflections from project participants are encouraged.*

How many participating/impacted…	#	Additional description/reflections
• PAs/PA faculty		
• PA students		
• Other health professions clinicians		*Include disciplines.*
• Other health professions students		*Include disciplines.*
• Community members/patients		*Indicate any ways in which community members were directly/indirectly impacted*
Estimate total number of hours for project planning/execution		

Dissemination of Findings
- Describe any exposure the PA profession received through this project.
- How will the findings be disseminated to the PA profession? Beyond the PA profession?

Please submit your Final Grant Report and all attachments electronically
to the nccPA Health Foundation at Grants@nccPAHealthFoundation.net.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing the role of Certified PAs to improve health and specifically for your efforts to embrace oral health as the low hanging fruit of prevention.