

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Health Administration**  
**VISN 1**  
**VA New England Healthcare System**  
**Request for Applications**  
**CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD**  
**(Updated May, 2012)**

**1. Purpose**

The VISN 1 career development award (V1CDA) is a program intended to assist investigators in their research careers and to lead to their successful application for further peer-reviewed research funding such as VA Career Development Award (CDA), Merit Review, or other federal or non-federal grants. The award will provide up to two years of salary support.

**2. Eligibility**

Physicians and PhD (or equivalent) clinicians are eligible to apply. Under exceptional circumstances, a proposal from a non-clinician investigator may be considered for a high impact appointment especially if the applicant is involved in collaborative research with clinician investigators. Applications will be accepted under two tracks, M (Mentored) or I (Independent), with the eligibility criteria outlined below.

**V1CDA-M**

1. Applicant should be a clinician with a demonstrated clinical role in the medical center (MD or PhD, or equivalent).
2. Applicant must have an academic appointment (Instructor or Assistant Professor).
3. Applicant should be within 5 years of completion of training.
4. Applicant must have demonstrated substantial research training and accomplishment.
5. The sponsoring VA facility must demonstrate institutional commitment to the individual during the award period, including plans for the candidate after the award ends.
6. Applicants are expected to submit a VA CDA-2 application or equivalent, and a research grant, before the end of the award.

**V1CDA-I**

1. Applicant should be a clinician with a demonstrated clinical role in the medical center (MD or PhD, or equivalent).
2. Applicant must have an academic appointment (Assistant Professor or above).
3. Applicant should be less than 15 years beyond completion of training.
4. Applicant must have current peer-reviewed research funding.
5. The sponsoring VA facility must demonstrate institutional commitment to the individual including an explanation of how the award would influence the candidate's career, document all efforts of the candidate to obtain research funding over the preceding two years including other career award applications, and outline plans for the candidate after the award ends. If the candidate does not currently have adequate funding to conduct the research, explanation of

sources of funds for the proposed work beyond the salary of the candidate must be provided.

6. If not already done, applicants should submit a VA Merit Review proposal or equivalent prior to the end of the award.

Applicants need not be VA employees at the time of application, but must be eligible to be paid VA employees at the time of award (including being a US citizen), and have a commitment letter from the Medical Center Director indicating that they will be hired full time at the VA should the V1CDA be awarded. Since the career award can provide a maximum of 75% of the investigators salary, the commitment letter must demonstrate that the remaining salary will be paid from another specified source.

### **3. Funding**

Appointment level and salary will be determined locally according to current standards. Applicants may request two years of funding full- or part-time. Awardees are expected to devote at least 75% time (30 hours per week) to research. Awardees may spend up to 25% time in non-research activities, such as clinical activities, teaching or service activities. Reimbursement of 75% of the awardee's salary will be provided to the local facility from the VISN. Awardees will be encouraged to apply for and receive additional research funds. If salary awards, such as the VA Career Development Award, commence before the end of the two-year funding period, the awardee and his or her medical center will surrender the unused V1CDA funds.

### **4. Review and Selection Process**

Prospective applicants are required to submit a Letter of Intent by July 2, 2012. The Letter of Intent will provide information to determine eligibility. The LOI is limited to 2 pages and should include:

- Stage of career
- Clinical responsibilities
- Impact of award on research career and current research effort
- Anticipated VA and Academic Affiliate career pathway (department, relationship of activity to established activity in department)
- Medical Centers involved
- Planned research
- For V1CDA-M, proposed mentor(s) (including their funding and commitment)
- Brief statement of eligibility for paid employment at VA (US citizenship)

Append biosketches (4 pages maximum each) for applicant and mentor(s) (if applicable)

In addition, include the LOI Applicant Information Form available under Application Materials on the [website](#).

The letter should be submitted to the VISN Chief Medical Office by the Office of the Associate Chief of Staff for Research at the proposed facility no later than July 2, 2012.

The VISN Review Committee will notify applicants of the outcome of the review of the Letter of Intent by July 31, 2012.

Full applications are due October 1, 2012. Refer to separate detailed instructions for preparing the application available on the [website](#). Arial 11 point font and 1 inch page margins are to be used in the application. The Career plan and Research plan are together limited to 10 pages.

The application should include the following:

1. Applicant and mentor (if applicable) biosketch
2. Budget
3. Career plan
4. Research plan
5. Human/Animal Studies information
6. Resources
7. Letters of commitment from
8. Endorsement letters

Appendices, other than those specified in the submission instructions, will not be considered. Do not attach a full CV.

Applicants will be notified of the review outcomes by November 15, 2012. Awards will begin in February, 2013.

Letters of Intent and Applications will be reviewed by a committee of senior investigators representing the medical centers in VISN 1.

Information on the program and the application process can be found on the VISN 1 websites:

<http://vaww.visn1.va.gov/intranet/programs/research/53060> (internal VA site)

<http://www.newengland.va.gov/research/v1cda> (external VA site)

Please contact [Maria.Lebedeva@va.gov](mailto:Maria.Lebedeva@va.gov) with any additional questions.