

**Novel and Emerging Practice-based Evaluation Studies for OT21-2103 Grant Recipients**  
*National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities*

**The Opportunity:** The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), in partnership with select OT21-2103 grant recipients, will be conducting evaluation studies as a part of the *National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities*. The goal of the evaluation studies is to build evidence related to **novel and emerging practices** for increasing recipients' capacity to address COVID-19 health disparities implemented under the grant's four strategy areas.

**Novel and emerging practices** are programs, policies, or services that don't have a large evidence-base – they haven't been tested extensively and there is little to no written documentation of these practices. They are practices that have been newly adapted or implemented for the first time to address COVID-19 health disparities. These practices should be equity-focused, culturally responsive, and should involve community members and other stakeholders in the practice implementation.

The novel and emerging practices evaluation studies are separate and discrete from CDC's program monitoring and will contribute to the larger CDC evaluation of the OT21-2103 grant. The studies will focus on the implementation and effectiveness of select novel or emerging practices. The novel and emerging practices evaluation studies will include several **key activities** with select OT21-2103 recipients and conducted in partnership with NNPHI, including:

- Developing an evaluation plan that includes evaluation questions, methodologies, data collection instruments, data management planning, and data analysis
- Conducting the evaluation
- Sharing findings via various products including reports, presentations, and peer-reviewed journal articles (as a part of a special supplement for this grant initiative)

NNPHI and CDC will oversee public health institutes that have been selected to conduct the evaluations. Each recipient site will be paired with a public health institute that will lead the evaluation activities. Your organization does not need to have evaluation staff in order to volunteer to participate.

**Expectations of OT21-2103 grant recipient volunteer evaluation sites:** The level of participation of the OT21-2103 grant recipients can vary based on staff capacity and experience. At a minimum, we expect novel and emerging practice-based evaluation study sites to:

- Share any existing data, documentation, or other information related to the practice implementation (as allowable based on existing organizational data agreements and regulations)
- Connect evaluators with key staff, stakeholders, and community partners related to the practice implementation
- Approve all evaluation plans and activities
- Co-author all evaluation products

The public health institutes will perform the evaluation activities (e.g., data collection, analysis, writing of products), in collaboration with recipients. We **do not** expect OT21-2103 grant recipients to conduct the actual evaluation activities, unless the grant recipient staff would like to be more involved in any of these aspects.

**Estimated timeline/time commitment by OT21-2103 grant recipient volunteer evaluation sites:** The timeline for this work is as follows:

- The selected OT21-2103 grant recipient volunteer evaluation sites will be notified of selection status in mid-July.
- The selected sites will participate in an orientation meeting and will be paired with a public health institute that will lead the evaluation planning and activities by late July.
- Evaluation planning will begin in August. NNPHI anticipates the evaluation studies will last between four to six months, with an option to extend based on OT21-2103 grant recipient volunteer evaluation site interest and capacity.

NNPHI anticipates selecting *four* OT21-2103 grant recipient volunteer evaluation sites this summer. There will be additional opportunities to volunteer to participate in the next round of novel and emerging evaluations.

**Benefits for novel and emerging practice evaluation study participants:** Recipients who participate in the evaluation studies will have the opportunity to work closely with a public health institute that will lead the evaluation and provide individualized support throughout the evaluation and reporting process. Potential benefits for OT21-2103 grant recipients who participate in a novel and emerging practices evaluation study include:

- Technical assistance from NNPHI on evaluation and related processes around report writing and dissemination
- Evaluation resources, assistance, and reporting for sites
- Web-based publication in a case study format for the novel or emerging practice evaluation study
- Journal supplement participation and opportunities to co-author publications

The evaluations, results, and recipients' participation or recusal will not affect current or future funding or relationships with the funders.

**Sites were selected via a questionnaire process in Summer 2022.** For more information, please reach out to Desiree Smith at [dsmith@nnphi.org](mailto:dsmith@nnphi.org).