

Issue #101

Public Health PBRN Review | March 21 2011

PBRN Grantees: Please circulate relevant information to network members. To request additional information or make suggestions for future items, please contact the Public Health PBRN National Coordinating Center (NCC) at publichealthpbrn@uky.edu or (859) 218-2094. Past issues are available in the [newsletter](#) archive.

Notable PBRN Activities

- **PBRN Leaders Examine Legal Issues in Multi-jurisdictional & Multi-organizational Alliances:** Several Public Health PBRN leaders convened in New Orleans earlier this month as part of a meeting organized by the [Network for Public Health Law](#) to examine legal issues that are emerging as public health agencies form multi-jurisdictional and multi-organizational arrangements for delivering public health services. Among the arrangements discussed were “cross-jurisdictional service sharing” arrangements that involve multiple public health jurisdictions collaborating in service delivery, as well as alliances among public health agencies, hospitals, and community health centers for implementing public health strategies. Among the PBRN participants were Justine Hyde (Institute for Community Health) of the Massachusetts PBRN, who has been studying regional approaches and incentives for public health delivery in the Bay State; Nancy Young (Institute for Wisconsin’s Health) of the Wisconsin PBRN, who is leading a new Quick-Strike study of cross-jurisdictional arrangements in the Badger State; Lisa VanRaemdonck (Public Health Alliance of Colorado) of the Colorado PBRN who leads an ongoing study of the effects of a 2008 state public health reform law on regional and cross-jurisdictional public health arrangements; and Earl Fox (Florida Public Health Institute), a collaborator in the Florida PBRN who shared his experiences with alliances among public health agencies, community health centers, and other medical care providers. The Coordinating Center’s Glen Mays noted the array of research needs and research opportunities that are surfacing with these new alliances, and stressed the need for collaboration among legal experts, researchers, and public health professionals to conduct the needed research. A summary of observations and next steps from the meeting are expected to be available soon. The [Network for Public Health Law](#) is a program supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to enhance the application of law and legal expertise to improve public health across the U.S.
- **Georgia PBRN Studies Multi-Jurisdictional Arrangements for Quality Improvement:** At last week’s Research-in-Progress segment of the monthly Public Health PBRN Virtual Meeting, Dr. Bill Livingood shared emerging findings from the Georgia affiliate PBRN’s Quick Strike research examining the role of regional public health districts in supporting multi-jurisdictional collaboratives for quality improvement, particularly among small local public health agencies. The study involved 13 of Georgia’s 18 regional public health districts and 118 of its 159 counties, along with the state health department, state public health association, and faculty at Georgia Southern University. The team adapted and validated an instrument for measuring QI collaboratives that originally was developed for primary care settings with AHRQ support, and

then fielded the instrument with county health department, district health department, and local board of health professionals within the state. The preliminary findings indicate that multi-jurisdictional public health districts play important roles in stimulating and supporting QI capabilities within local public health practice settings, and in supplying the basic infrastructure needed to deliver essential public health services at the local level. The research, which is continuing under a recently-awarded administrative supplement award to the PBRN, promises to enhance the evidence base surrounding multi-jurisdictional approaches to public health delivery and quality improvement. An archived recording of Dr. Livingood's presentation will be available on the PBRN website shortly.

- **Special Journal Issue on Advances in PHSSR Uses Rapid-Cycle Development:** Eighteen research manuscripts were submitted earlier this month to be considered for an upcoming special issue of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* that will showcase advances in PHSSR, guest edited by Glen Mays of the PBRN Coordinating Center and Doug Scutchfield of the PHSSR Coordinating Center. More than 50 percent of the submitted articles profile research conducted by the Public Health PBRNs – an important signal of the impact these networks are having on the volume and quality of research being conducted within the PHSSR field. The articles are now in peer review, with revisions and final acceptance decisions scheduled to be made later this spring. Many thanks to all of our PBRN and PHSSR colleagues who developed and submitted their manuscripts in less than 60 days, a true “rapid-cycle” time frame. The issue is schedule to be released in October 2012 in conjunction with the APHA Annual Meeting, so stay tuned.
- **PBRN Multi-Network Research Award Applicants Notified:** PBRN networks who applied to participate in the Multi-Network Practice and Outcome Variation Examination Study (MPROVE) were notified of the award decisions earlier this month, with the collaborative project scheduled to start up on April 15, 2012. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation received a large number of high-quality applications to be a part of this study, making very difficult the process to select six applications for funding. The primary and affiliate PBRN networks selected to receive awards to support their participation in the study include Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Washington. Applicant networks not selected for one of the six awards can still participate in the study, which will involve collection and analysis of a standard set of measures of local public health service delivery in the domains of chronic disease prevention, communicable disease control, and environmental health protection. A kick-off meeting for the study will be held as part of the Public Health PBRN Grantee Meeting April 16-17 at the Keeneland Conference.
- **PBRN Quick Strike Research Project Funded on Cross-Jurisdictional Service Delivery:** The Wisconsin Public Health PBRN recently received a Quick Strike Research Award from the PBRN Coordinating Center to implement a rapid-cycle study of cross-jurisdictional arrangements for local public health delivery across the state of Wisconsin. A statewide survey will be fielded with all local public health agencies to identify the number and type of cross-jurisdictional arrangements already in place, the rationale and experiences to date with these arrangements, and the current planning and decision-making processes that are being used to evaluate future options for cross-jurisdictional delivery. Results and their practice and policy implications will be disseminated broadly to inform the future development of these arrangements across the state and nation.

- **New PBRN Awards will Support Mentored Research Experiences for Scholars to Enhance Diversity:** The National Coordinating Center for PHSSR has selected three pre-doctoral and post-doctoral scholars to receive funding to support their engagement in mentored research experiences with Public Health PBRNs. The awards are designed to support early-career scholars from racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds that are under-represented in the scientific and research professions, thereby helping to enhance the diversity of the PHSSR workforce. The Public Health PBRNs in Ohio, Missouri, and Washington and will provide the mentored research experiences for these three scholars, helping them to contribute to and expand upon research studies underway within the networks. More information about these scholars and their research projects will be forthcoming.

Activities on the Horizon

- **Public Health PBRN Quarterly Skill-Building Webinar March 23 to Focus on Sustainability.** A Public Health PBRN Quarterly Skill-Building Webinar will be held on Friday, March 23 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. EST, entitled “The Forward-Looking Network: Strategies for PBRN Sustainability.” The webinar will focus on strategies for ensuring the sustainability of your PBRN, including ways of tapping new funding sources, maintaining practitioner engagement and enthusiasm, and attracting the right mix of researchers to advance your network’s research portfolio. Details on how to register and participate have been emailed to each network. Please [email](#) us your ideas on topics for future skill-building webinars.
- **Public Health PBRN Grantee Meeting at the Keeneland Conference April 16-17.** Planning is well underway for the annual grantee meeting to be held April 16-17 in Lexington KY in conjunction with the Keeneland PHSSR Conference. A separate email containing logistics, travel and registration information along with a draft agenda has been sent to the key contacts in each network. Contact the PBRN National Coordinating Center with any questions you may have regarding the meeting.
- **No April Edition of the Public Health PBRN Monthly Virtual Meeting:** In deference to the Keeneland Conference, the monthly virtual meeting will resume in May.

Research Dissemination Opportunities

- **Call for Papers on Systems Science Applications in Health Promotion and Public Health.** The journal *Health Education & Behavior* (HE&B), in collaboration with the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health, intends to publish a special issue of the journal devoted to the topic of systems science. This issue will showcase the application of various systems science methodologies to health promotion and public health research questions. Particular methodologies of interest include, but are not limited to: system dynamics modeling, agent - based modeling, network analysis, microsimulation, operations research, and various engineering approaches. The submission deadline is May 1, 2012. More information is [here](#).
- **Call for Abstracts for NIH Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities:** The 2012 Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities will be held October 31 through November 3, 2012 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. NIH will soon release a call for conference presentation abstracts. Proposals

should reflect the broad summit theme of integrating science, policy, and practice to build a healthier society. Abstracts will be accepted under three categories: i) integrated panel presentations, ii) oral presentations, and iii) poster presentations. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations will be limited to 300 words and 500 words for integrated panel proposals. Each presentation should fall under one of three tracks: Translational and Transdisciplinary Research; Capacity-Building and Infrastructure; or Outreach Partnerships, Collaborations, and Opportunities. Additional details, including submission guidelines, themes and topics will be forthcoming in the official call for abstracts. For any specific inquiries, send an e-mail to: 2012Summit@mail.nih.gov

- ✦ **The Public Health REACT Podcast:** As more PBRN research projects are bearing fruit, the Public Health PBRN Program is developing a new vehicle for rapidly disseminating key findings and practice implications from this research to key audiences, tentatively called the ***Public Health Research-to-Action (REACT) Podcast***. Through this vehicle, the program will produce a series of fast and timely podcast interviews with PBRN networks as they are completing research projects, focusing squarely on the implications of the research for public health practice and policy decisions. NAC member and Arkansas secretary of health Dr. Paul Halverson has agreed to host this series of approximately 3-minute conversations with PBRN leaders about their research projects. Dr. Halverson will serve as an interviewer and provocateur for these sessions, driven by a few targeted questions asked by a sitting state health official. With Dr. Halverson leading the conversation, we can be sure that these sessions will emphasize brevity, clarity, and relevance to real-world public health practice and policy, particularly at state and local levels. We will disseminate the podcasts through a variety of channels, including the PBRN website, the PHSSR Youtube channel, and partnerships with key public health professional organizations. ***We are soliciting and scheduling topics for REACT Podcasts now – please let us know as soon as you have emerging findings from your network’s research that are ready for dissemination. Contact the [Coordinating Center](#) with your ideas about this opportunity.***

Research Resources

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✦ **Request for Information (RFI): Enhancing the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program:** The NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), seeks [comments](#) from all key stakeholders in the scientific and public health communities on “strengthening the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program to meet its broad clinical and translational goals. Key stakeholders include all researchers involved in bringing basic science through the translational pipeline to improve health in the community; those public and private partners who fund such research and services; and members of the public who are advocates, clinicians, patients, and community leaders seeking better diagnostics, treatments, preventions, and cures. Request for Information NCATS has reconvened this working group to advise on implementing these recommendations and now seeks public comment as well. Specifically, public comment is sought on how NCATS can better structure and position the CTSA program to develop novel designs, methods and research and enrich the translational pipeline. Submitting a Response To respond to any of the points above or others, please identify the critical issues(s) and recommended approaches. Responders are

free to address any or all of the above items.” All comments must be submitted electronically to: NCATSCTSAinformation@mail.nih.gov

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

➤ **NIH Resources on Systems Science.** NIH’s Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research continues to amass a treasure trove of resources for researchers seeking to understand and use systems science approaches in their work. Among these resources are:

1. Annual Institute on Systems Science and Health (ISSH). There is a call for applications each fall (mid-December) and a weeklong spring/summer course each year. To view ISSH materials from prior years, please click [here](#). The 2012 application site is not accepting applications just yet.
2. The archives for the wildly popular 2007 Symposia Series on System Science and Health sponsored by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other components of NIH is available. Resources include: Systems Methodologies for Solving Real-World Problems: Applications in Public Health <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?13712>; Network Analysis: Using Connections and Structures to Understand and Change Health Behaviors, <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?13878> ; Agent Based Modeling: Population Health from the Bottom Up, <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?13931> ; System Dynamics Modeling: Population Flows, Feedback Loops and Health, <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?14005>
3. The BSSR Lecture Series, including “Harnessing Systems Science Methodologies To Inform Public Policy: System Dynamics Modeling For Obesity Policy In The Envision Network” <http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?16756>

And don’t forget the wonderful NIH funding opportunities available to support health research that uses system science methodologies. See the PBRN funding opportunities list archive below.

- **Comparative Effectiveness Research.** The [Comparative Effectiveness Research Online Learning Center](#), launched March 1, 2012, is a collaboration among [The Ohio State University Center for Clinical and Translational Science](#) (CCTS), [College of Public Health](#) and [Nationwide Children’s Hospital](#). CER resources were developed with funding from the National Institutes of Health to provide training in CER methodology and application.
- **Tools for Evaluating Partnerships.** A variety of electronic resources are available to support the evaluation of research and practice partnerships, including:

PARTNER (Program to Analyze, Record, and Track Networks to Enhance Relationships)

<http://www.partnertool.net/> Supported by funding from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Partnership Synergy Tool <http://www.partnershiptool.net/>

CCPH website: <http://www.ccpb.info/>

Prevention Institute <http://thrive.preventioninstitute.org/tools.html>

Evaluation Metrics Manual for the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Partnerships for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) www.niehs.nih.gov/pephmetrics.

PEPH Evaluation manual

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/programs/peph/materials/index.cfm>

CDC: TOOLS and Fundamentals of Evaluating Partnerships:

http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/programs/nhdsp_program/evaluation_guides/evaluating_partnerships.htm

CDC Evaluation Framework <http://www.cdc.gov/eval/evalguide.pdf>

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- **Economic Recovery? Not for Many Local Health Departments:** Fifty-seven percent of all local health departments (LHDs) cut programs during 2011, according to results from NACCHO's January 2012 Job Losses and Program Cuts survey. LHDs collectively lost more than 10,000 employees due to layoffs and attrition last year, as employees left and the LHD was unable to fill the position due to budgetary restrictions. Forty-one percent of all LHDs reported reduced budgets, and an equal percentage expects a lower budget in the next fiscal year. Findings from this survey are being shared with government agencies, members of Congress, and the press. More information is available at www.naccho.org/lhdbudget. State-level analysis of budget, staffing, and program cuts data will be available in the coming weeks.
- **Opportunities in Austerity.** An editorial appearing earlier this month in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) outlines new roles that public health agencies could undertake in collaboration with colleagues in medicine and health care systems to reduce costs and improve population health under health reform. The authors identify some compelling ideas that are perhaps ripe for testing using federal dollars currently available for delivery system innovation projects.
- **Systematic Review of Collaboration and Network Research:** Another new paper available early online from [AJPH](#) provides a systematic review of the literature on collaboration and network analysis in the public affairs literature, and examines the implications for research and practice in public health. The paper identifies a number of concepts and methods that are ripe for translation and application in public health settings, and elucidates three findings from the public affairs literature that need to be explored more fully in public health: "network structure affects governance, management strategies exist for administrators, and collaboration can be linked to outcomes."
- **A Research Agenda on Public Health Accreditation:** A new paper in this month's issue of the [American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#) by PBRN collaborator and PHSSR scholar Bill Riley and colleagues lays out a research agenda to answer important questions about the design, implementation, and impact of the national accreditation program for public health agencies.

- **Local Public Health System Performance and Community Health Outcomes:** Another new study in this month's [AJPM](#) examines measures of local public health system performance collected as part of the CDC's National Public Health Performance Standards Program and their association with community health outcomes. This study by Kentucky PBRN collaborator Rick Ingram and colleagues finds some important performance-outcome relationships.
- **National Agenda for Public Health Informatics Released.** This month's [Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association](#) features an article that presents a national agenda for advancing public health informatics, including many actions to provide the data infrastructure needed for advancing PHSSR and PBRN research.
- **System Science Methods in Public Health:** The new issue of [Annual Review of Public Health](#) features an article co-authored by Missouri PBRN collaborator Katie Stamatakis on the application of system science methodologies for public health research and practice.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

- **Inaugural National Health Impact Assessment Meeting.** Washington, DC April 3-4, 2012. More information [here](#).
- **Annual Public Health PBRN Grantee Meeting.** Lexington, KY April 16-17, 2012. In conjunction with the Keeneland Conference.
- **Annual Public Health PBRN National Advisory Committee Meeting.** Lexington, KY April 17, 2012. In conjunction with the Keeneland Conference.
- **Keeneland Conference on PHSSR.** Lexington, KY, April 17-19, 2012. Keeneland Conference
- **[National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual Conference.](#)** The meeting will be held May 21-23, 2012 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- **4th Biennial Meeting of the American Society of Health Economists.** June 10-13, 2012. Hosted by the University of Minnesota. More information [here](#).
- **AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting.** Orlando FL on June 24-26. [More](#) information.
- **NACCHO Annual Meeting.** Los Angeles, CA July 11-13, 2012. [More](#) information.
- **APHA Annual Meeting.** San Francisco, October 27-31, 2012. [More](#) information.

Funding Opportunities and Announcements

The NCC maintains a [list of funding opportunities](#) of interest to its networks. Grant opportunities with recurring deadlines are tracked and updated.

NEW LISTINGS

- **Funding for Natural Experiments in Public Health Services & Systems.** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently announced the availability of funds to support research on

natural experiments in public health through the call for [Public Health Services and Systems Research: Building Evidence for Decision-Making](#). Application Deadline: March 27, 2012 3:00 PM EDT. See the call for proposals for information on the applicant webinar and letters of intent to apply.

- **Funding for Public Health Law Research.** The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently announced the availability of funds to support research on law and public health through the call for [Public Health Law Research: Making the Case for Laws That Improve Health](#). Application Deadline: **April 4, 2012** 3:00 PM EDT. See the call for proposals for information on the applicant webinar and letters of intent to apply.
- **PBRN Quick Strike Research Projects:** The Public Health PBRN Coordinating Center will solicit, select, and coordinate the implementation of up to four Quick Strike Research Fund (QSRF) research projects to be carried out by primary and affiliate members of the Public Health PBRN Program during the 2011-2012 program year. Projects must address time-sensitive research questions based on emerging information needs in public health practice and policy; must have a high probability of leading to subsequent, larger-scale studies; and must be feasible for completion with a limited budget of up to \$25,000 in total costs and within 3-6 months. These projects will be funded through a subcontract to each awardee to expedite initiation of the research. Grantees will be expected to disseminate practice-relevant findings rapidly through the new rapid-release publication *Frontiers in Public Health Services and Systems Research* and other vehicles, and will be expected translate findings into practice improvements through the development of webinars, training sessions, and decision tools for use by practitioners and policy analysts.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until all awards have been given or until a final deadline of August 31 2012 has been reached. PBRN networks should submit a brief proposal of no more than four single-paged pages (one-inch margins, 11 point Arial font) by emailing their proposal as an attachment in PDF format to publichealthPBRN@uky.edu with “QSRF Proposal” indicated in the subject line. The proposal must include: (A) a description of the rationale and specific aims for the proposed project; (B) a summary of the research design, data and analytic methods to be used; (C) a description of the practice settings involved in the research and how they will be engaged in the design, implementation, and translation of the research; and (D) a brief summary of the roles and qualifications of key personnel. Proposals will be reviewed by Coordinating Center staff and members of the Public Health PBRN National Advisory Committee (NAC) using the following selection criteria: (1) the importance of the topic in terms of its ability to inform public health practice and/or policy; (2) time-sensitivity of the research opportunity; (3) feasibility of the project given budget and time constraints and expertise of network; (4) strength of mechanisms for engaging practice settings in the study and its translation; and (5) potential for the study to lead to subsequent, larger-scale funded research. Additionally, for PBRN networks that have received prior QSRF awards, reviewers will consider the past performance of the network in publishing and disseminating results from prior QSRF projects and in pursuing subsequent larger-scale studies. Based on the proposal reviews, successful applicants will be asked to submit a project budget and additional materials required for award processing.

OTHER LISTINGS

- **Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity** is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The program supports research on environmental and policy strategies with strong potential to promote healthy eating among children to prevent childhood obesity, especially among lower-income and racial and ethnic populations at highest risk for obesity. Findings are expected to advance RWJF's efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015. More information [here](#).
- **NSF Solicits Interdisciplinary Research Across Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences:** The NSF released a “dear colleague” letter this month encouraging research proposals that pursue solutions to important social problems using approaches that cut across the social, behavioral and economic sciences. The announcement states, “innovative partnerships and research collaborations that allow diverse individuals to work together in synergistic ways are especially encouraged. We also encourage projects that *include beginning researchers* as team members and, when appropriate, develop international partnerships. Finally, applicants are encouraged to consider the cross-cutting Research Coordination Networks solicitation (11-531), which supports *networking activities*, not research per se, so that *groups of investigators can communicate and coordinate their research, training and educational activities across disciplinary, organizational, geographic and international boundaries*. Proposals that come through the RCN solicitation are also eligible for supplemental funding through SMA.” More information [here](#).
- **National Institute for Nursing Research to fund studies of “Mobile Health” applications.** The purpose of this initiative issued by the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) is to stimulate research utilizing Mobile Health (mHealth) tools aimed at the improvement of effective patient–provider communication, adherence to treatment, self-management and prevention of chronic diseases in underserved populations. With the rapid expansion of cellular networks and substantial advancements in Smartphone technologies, mHealth tools may facilitate more timely and effective patient-provider communication through education communication around goal setting, treatment reminders, feedback on patient progress and may improve health outcomes. *Public health agencies in some areas are becoming involved in the development and deployment of these technologies for prevention, active surveillance, and disease control.* This announcement encourages the development, testing and comparative effective analysis of interventions utilizing mHealth technologies in underserved populations. More information [here](#).
- **NIH Systems Science and Health Research.** Proposals are being solicited from multiple NIH institutes for R01 behavioral and social science research projects, both basic and applied, that use methods of systems science (e.g. network analysis, agent-based modeling, etc) to understand complex processes that affect human health. Includes an interest in studies that elucidate the relationships between health service delivery processes and health outcomes across the entire system of care, multi-level effects of health promotion and disease prevention interventions, and mechanisms underlying health disparities. Details available in the [FOA](#) and standard application dates for R01s apply.

- **HRSA Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Pediatric Research Network Program.** This announcement solicits applications for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Pediatric Research Network Program competition. Support in the form of a cooperative agreement is available from the Division of Research, Training and Education, part of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The MCH Pediatric Research Network Program exists to support a pediatric applied research network that promotes coordinated multi-centered research activities, focused on translating research to practice that should result in health and health service improvements when applied directly into pediatric primary care and/or service settings. These funds should be used to identify more effective approaches to children's health in primary care settings. This will be accomplished through the development and maintenance of a national network of primary care child health professionals who collaborate in the development and implementation of research designed to increase critical child health care knowledge. More [here](#).
- **HRSA Rural Health Research Center Cooperative Agreement:** The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is providing funding to organizations to support the Rural Health Research Center (RHRC) Cooperative Agreement Program. Recipients of cooperative agreements will establish RHRCs which conduct and disseminate policy relevant, rural health services research on issues of national significance with a specific topic of concentration. Approximately \$4,620,000 will be available each year to fund seven (7) recipients. Each center may apply for a ceiling amount of \$660,000 per year for a 4-year project period. Funding beyond the first year will be subject to the availability of appropriations, satisfactory performance of the grantee, and a determination that continued funding is in the Federal Government's best interest. Four research projects are conducted each year. Each RHRC must produce studies where 2 of the 4 studies are within the RHRC's specific topic of concentration or expert area and the other topics may be outside of the RHRC's topic of concentration. The RHRC must be led by a principal investigator who has a substantial research background (at least five previously published rural-relevant publications) on the RHRC's topic of concentration. Recipients will examine critical issues facing rural communities in their effort to secure adequate, affordable, high quality health services. Research findings will inform rural stakeholders and policy-makers interested in rural issues at national, state, and local levels. More [here](#).
- [NIH: Building System Capacity for Implementing Evidence-Based Practices in Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention](#) Expiration Date: May 7, 2012
- [NIH: Community-Based Partnerships for Childhood Obesity Prevention and Control: Research Inform Policy](#) Expiration date: May 8, 2012
- [NIH: Social Network Analysis and Health \(R01\)](#) Closing Date: May 11, 2012
- [NIH: Climate Change and Health: Assessing and Modeling Population Vulnerability to Climate Change \(R21\)](#) Closing Date: May 24, 2012
- [NIH: Improving Diet and Physical Activity Assessment \(R01\)](#) Expiration Date: July 6, 2012
- [NIH: Obesity Policy Research: Evaluation and Measures \(R21\)](#) Closing Date: January 7, 2013

- [NIH: Interventions for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Native American Populations \(R01\)](#) Closing Date: May 15, 2014

Grants Administration Corner

- **Remember to Route All Questions on Grant Budgeting, Reporting, and Administration to the PBRN Coordinating Center:** The PBRN National Coordinating Center is your one-stop source for information and assistance on the administrative aspects of your Public Health PBRN grants, including budgeting, expenditures, subcontracts, and reporting. Please make sure that you send your network's questions to the Coordinating Center (email publichealthPBRN@uky.edu or telephone **(859) 218-2094**) to ensure the fastest response. All requests for no-cost extensions, budget modifications, and other changes regarding your network's Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Public Health PBRN grants must be submitted to and reviewed by the PBRN National Coordinating Center before they can be considered by the Foundation.
- **Remember to Route all PBRN Grant Reports and Products to the Coordinating Center and the Foundation:** Your network's narrative and financial reports should be submitted electronically to the PBRN National Coordinating Center and to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation following the Foundation's reporting guidelines. All products from your network should be submitted electronically as well, as soon as they are completed. Remember to follow these reporting guidelines:

RWJF guidelines for annual and final narrative reports & bibliography:

http://www.rwjf.org/files/publications/RWJF_GranteeReportingInstructions.pdf

RWJF guidelines for financial reports:

http://www.rwjf.org/files/publications/RWJF_FinancialGuidelinesReporting.pdf

RWJF guidelines for electronic submission of grant products and reports

www.rwjf.org/files/publications/RWJF_ElectronicSubmissions.pdf

Key Dates for Public Health PBRNs

Mar 23, 2012 Quarterly Public Health PBRN Webinar: Strategies for Growth and Sustainability | 1:00-2:30PM EST

Apr 16-17, 2012 Public Health PBRN Grantee Meeting and National Advisory Committee Meeting at the Keeneland Conference. Lexington, KY

Apr 17-19, 2012 Keeneland Conference on Public Health Services and Systems Research. Lexington, KY

