



National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) Coordination Center & NRMN Resource Center (U24)



Webinar Outline

- I. Program Overview
- II. Application Overview
- III. Peer Review Overview

Disclaimer

This webinar and accompanying slides are for informational purposes only. They serve as an overview of the NRMN U24s and are not meant to be comprehensive in coverage of all required components of an application.

For any submission, applicants are responsible for following the instructions detailed in the FOA and any Related Notices included in the FOA's Overview Information section.

First Step in Preparing an Application



Read the FOA(s),
Guide Notices and
SF424 (R&R)
Application Guide
thoroughly.

- [NRMN Coordination Center FOA](#)
- [NRMN Resource Center FOA](#)

Diversity Program Consortium Overarching Goal

- The Diversity Program Consortium is comprised of three highly integrated initiatives:
 - **BUILD:** Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (limited competition)
 - **NRMN: National Research Mentoring Network (open competition)**
 - **CEC:** Coordination and Evaluation Center (limited competition)
- To enhance diversity in the biomedical research workforce through the development, implementation, assessment, and dissemination of innovative approaches to:
 - Student engagement, training and mentoring
 - Faculty development
 - Institutional research training infrastructure





Diversity Program Consortium

- The **National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN)** is a major component of the NIH Diversity Program Consortium (DPC) that is funded by the NIH Common Fund Initiative.
- All NIH Institutes and Centers participate in Common Fund initiatives.
- NRMN and the DPC are administered by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences ([NIGMS](#)) on behalf of the NIH Common Fund.



National Research Mentoring Network 2.0

Funding Opportunity Announcements:

- National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) Coordination Center (U24 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-18-003.html>
- National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) Resource Center (U24 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-18-002.html>
- National Research Mentoring Network: The Science of Mentoring, Networking, and Navigating Career Transition Points (U01 – Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-18-004.html>

National Research Mentoring Network 2.0

The NRMN is a nationwide consortium that was designed to **enhance mentoring and career development** of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical research workforce.

All grantees of the NIH DPC are expected to **share** their data with the Diversity Program Consortium via their engagement and interactions with the NRMN Coordination Center.

The “U” Mechanism

- U=Cooperative Agreement
- A cooperative agreement is a support mechanism used when there will be substantial Federal scientific or programmatic involvement. Substantial involvement means that, after award, NIH scientific or program staff will assist, guide, coordinate, or participate in project activities.

NRMN Overview

National Research Mentoring Network 2.0

Funds Available	Amounts Include Indirect
Coordination Center (U24) (previous NRMN Administrative Core)	NIH intends to commit up to \$1.1M in total costs per year Number of awards=1
Resource Center (U24) (previous Mentorship and Networking Core)	NIH intends to commit \$1.1M in total costs per year Number of awards=1
Science of Mentoring, Networking, and Navigating Career Transition (U01)	NIH intends to commit \$7.8M total costs per year Number of awards=up to 15 awards
Award Project Period	Up to 5 years

National Research Mentoring Network 2.0

Key Features

Application Due Date	June 11, 2018 , by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization
Scientific Merit Review	October - November 2018 at NIGMS
Advisory Council Review	January 2019
Earliest Start Date	July 2019
Cooperative Agreement	There will be substantial Federal scientific or programmatic involvement.

Funding Opportunity Announcement Writing Philosophy

- FOAs are written very broadly.
 - Allows for unknowns
 - Allows for PI's creativity
- This is reflected in the Research Strategy in both the NRMN Coordination Center and the NRMN Resource Center.
- What should I keep in mind?
 - Review Criteria

NRMN Coordination Center

National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) Coordination Center (U24)

- The **NRMN Coordination Center** will provide infrastructure and expertise surrounding data collection, storage, and reporting for the NRMN.
- Additionally, the PD(s)/PI(s) and personnel involved with the award are expected to work with the [DPC's Coordination and Evaluation Center \(CEC\)](#) to develop data collection and analysis protocols, as well as to ensure data integrity, privacy, and security.

Big Picture Role of NRMN CC

- The NRMN Coordination Center (NRMN CC) should include individuals with expertise in evaluation as well as in coordination, communication, and consensus-building among diverse groups of stakeholders.
- NRMN CC is integral to ensuring the mini-consortium functions cohesively:
 - Conference calls
 - One annual meeting
 - Able to speak about effectiveness/impact of the NRMN efforts
 - Reporting of data

Big Picture Role of NRMN CC

- In conjunction with the NIH staff, the NRMN CC will help bring the new NRMN PIs up to speed on the DPC Hallmarks and progress made in Phase I of the NRMN Center grant.
- In particular, ensure the NRMN consortium grantees have knowledge about the Consortium Wide Evaluation Plan (including the [Data Sharing Agreement](#)), [Hallmarks](#), and data collection efforts.
- Strong leadership in evaluating activities essential to the success of NRMN.

Big Picture Role of NRMN CC

- Be a partner to NIH to ensure the data collection efforts of the NRMN are well-thought out in terms of data integrity, privacy, security and storage.
- Ensure that the DPC hallmarks are integrated into the data collection efforts of the NRMN U01s and Resource Center.
- CC will develop required templates/common shared elements for reporting of data.
- The CC will interact and synergize data transfer efforts with the DPC CEC.

Big Picture Role of NRMN CC

- The CC is not responsible, necessarily, for evaluating NRMN activities.
- The CC could serve as an external evaluator of the NRMN Resource Center (NRMN RC).
 - The CC is not an external evaluator of the U01s.
- The CC is not responsible for conducting any of its own research projects.

NRMN Resource Center

National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) Resource Center (U24)

The **NRMN Resource Center** (NRMN RC) will provide a web-based mentoring and networking portal with the objective of promoting the sustained interest of individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The NRMN website is intended to serve as a national resource for mentorship, networking, and professional development for individuals at various career stages.

This Resource Center will be responsible for reporting on outputs and services, and will serve as a platform for publicly available mentoring resources and tools, including effective practices.

Big Picture Role of NRMN RC

- Create on-line platform that offers mentorship and network opportunities that are tailored to key career transition stages.
 - Recruiting mentors and mentees from diverse backgrounds, including those from [underrepresented](#) groups.
- Developing, improving and maintaining a platform for a mentee-mentor matching system.
 - Nimble, flexible and adaptable.
 - Products Committee that provides feedback on improvements.
- Serve as a platform for other NIH Supported activities (i.e., BEST, CTSA, RMAR, RCMI, etc.)

Big Picture Role of NRMN RC

- Develop, improve and maintain the NRMN website:
 - Sharing information and lessons learned about mentoring and professional development;
 - Creating communication tools where individuals can meet for discussions and advice while navigating through the training pathway (e.g., mentoring challenges, grant writing, and career advice);
 - Developing the opportunities to build and sustain robust professional networks that promote career advancement and networking;
 - Creating tools that support a learning system where both self-directed and guided mentoring, and networking activities, are possible;

Big Picture Role of NRMN RC

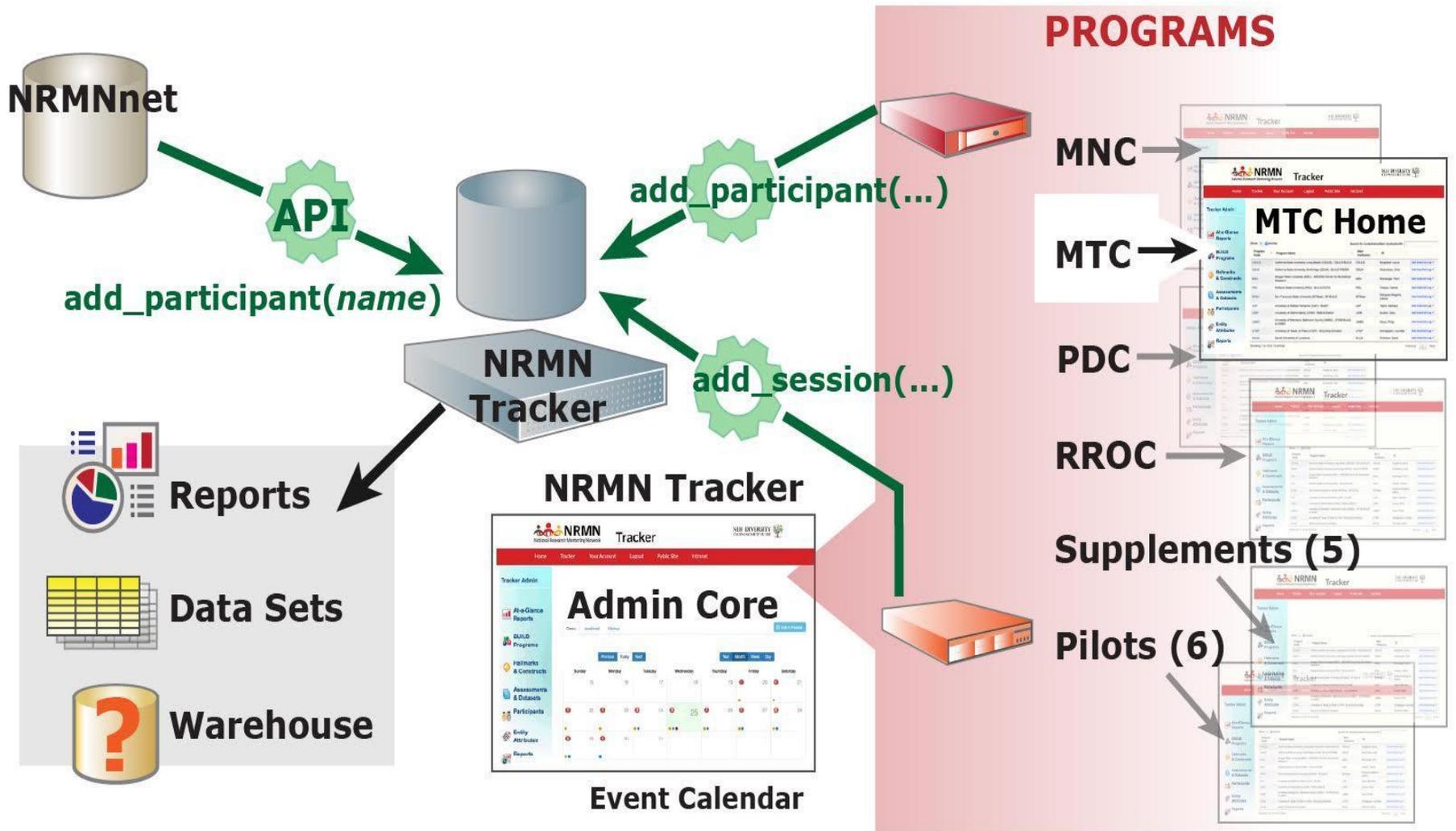
- Develop, improve and maintain the NRMN website, *cont.*:
 - Developing mechanisms for sustained mentoring of participants throughout their career path;
 - Tracking of mentor-mentee interactions, in collaboration with the NRMN-CC;
 - Tracking of participants' engagement in the various NRMN resources;
 - Monitoring whether refinement of deliverables is necessary, in collaboration with the NRMN-CC;
 - Tracking and compiling of participants' outcomes in a dashboard format, in collaboration with NRMN-CC.

Big Picture Role of NRMN RC

- Sustainability:
 - Applications must include a sustainability plan that extends beyond the five years of funding. Sustainability plans may include, but are not limited to, innovative business models or strategies to secure external sources of government, private sector, or professional society funding.

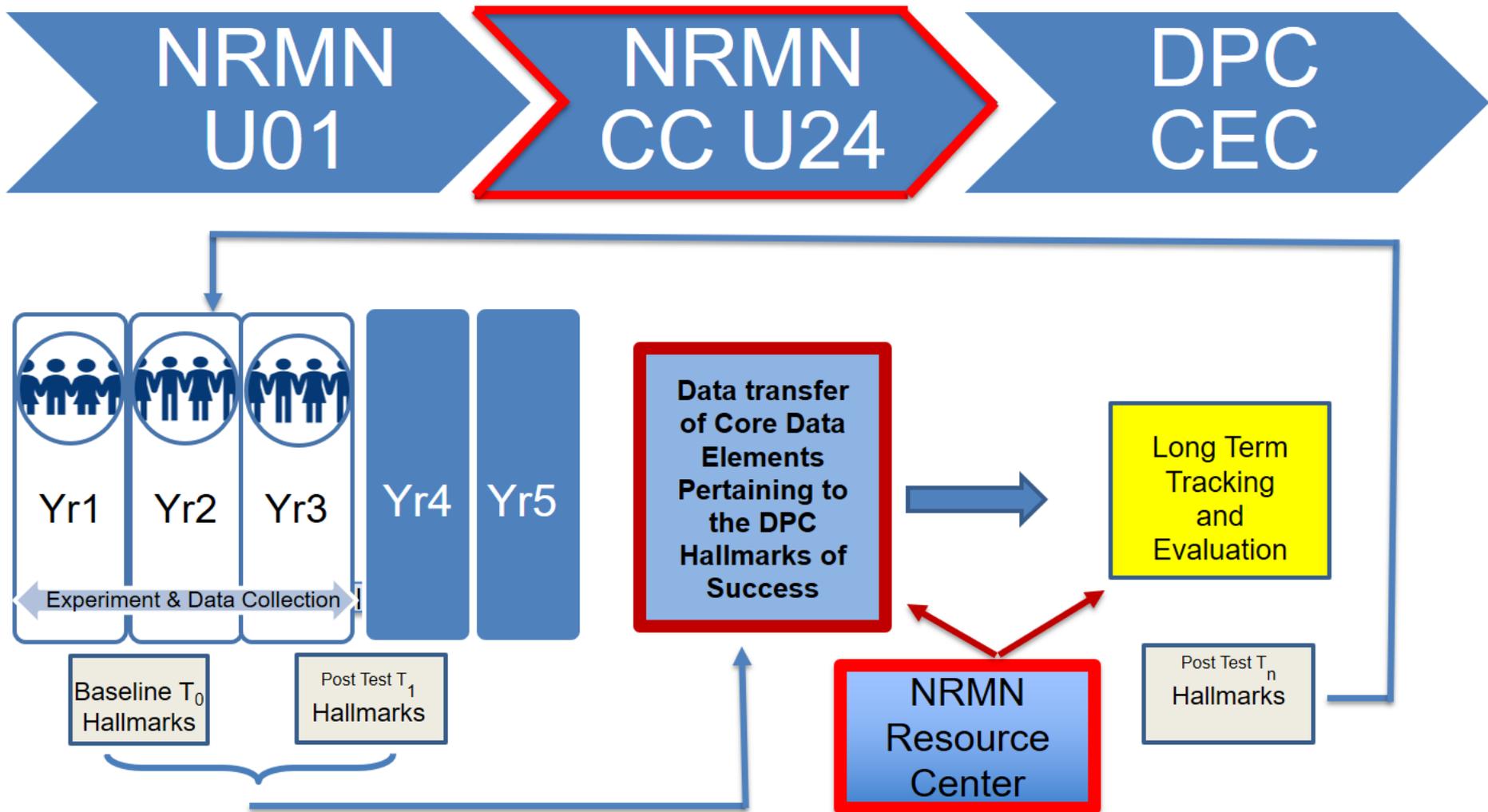
Systems in Place

NRMN Data Management System (Warehouse)

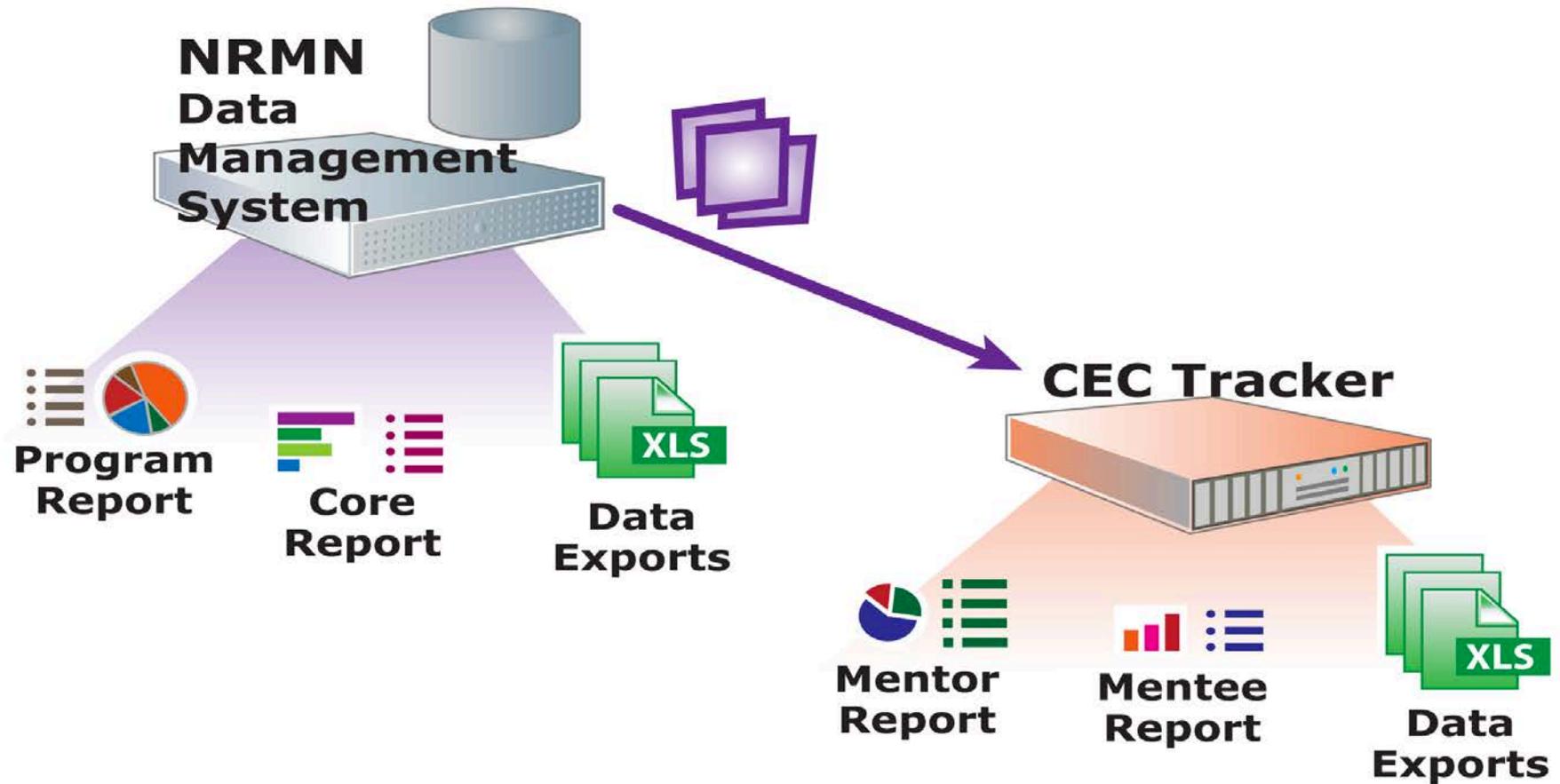


Originally created for a January 2017 NRMN Key Personnel Meeting update presentation on “Network Growth”.

DPC Consortium Wide Evaluation



NRMN Data Management System & CEC Tracker: Data Flow



Peer Review Overview

Application Review Information

I. Criteria

A. Overall Impact – Overall

B. Scored Review Criteria – Overall

1) Significance

2) Investigator(s)

3) Innovation

4) Approach

5) Environment

Preparing for a Scorable and Successful Application



Read Section V:
Application Review
Information, thoroughly.
Pay close attention to the
items under each of the
Scored Review Criteria

Some Tips

Tip #1: Read the FOA



Read the FOA(s),
Guide Notices and
SF424 (R&R)
Application Guide
thoroughly.

- [NRMN Coordination Center FOA](#)
- [NRMN Resource Center FOA](#)

Tip #2: Familiarize Yourself with the DPC

- DPC websites:

<https://www.diversityprogramconsortium.org/>

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/dpc/Pages/default.aspx>

- DPC Hallmarks:

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/dpc/Pages/success.aspx>

- BMC Proceedings:

<https://bmcproc.biomedcentral.com/articles/supplements/volume-11-supplement-12>

- NRMN Website:

<https://nrmnet.net/>

Tip #3: Appendix

New policy eliminates most Appendix material for NIH applications submitted after January 25, 2017.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-129.html>

Please review the notice, so that you can be aware of what is allowed.

Tip #4: Resource Sharing Plans

- Required for any application seeking \$500,000 or more in direct costs in any single year
- https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/
- Sample: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/sample-data-sharing-plan>

Tip #5: Show commitment to playing nice in the sandbox

- NRMN awardees will be required to work with the DPC Coordination and Evaluation Center (CEC).
- We encourage applicants to review the consortium-wide [hallmarks of success](#) and the [data sharing agreement](#) which will continue during the second phase.
- Being able to work alongside others to ensure the success of the DPC's overall goals is vital.

Tip #6: Show commitment to playing nice in the sandbox with NIH

- This is a cooperative agreement which means that there will be substantial Federal scientific or programmatic involvement. Substantial involvement means that, after award, NIH scientific or program staff will assist, guide, coordinate, or participate in project activities.

Questions?

Some Submitted Questions

- The NRMN RFA states that “the NRMN Coordination Center should include individuals with multi-site evaluation expertise.” Can we assume since this expertise is needed, the Coordination Center will play some role in evaluation of NRMN *component projects*?
 - The evaluation expertise is important because the CC will be encouraged to assist with the onboarding of the NRMN 2.0 grantees on the Consortium Wide Evaluation Plan, Hallmarks, and data collection efforts to date.

Some Submitted Questions

- Will the NRMN CC serve as an external evaluator of the U24 Resource Center? The U01s?
 - It will serve as an external evaluator of the U24 Resource Center.
- Who are the NRMN components?
 - The grantees of the NRMN 2.0: the U24 Resource Center, the U24 Coordination Center, and the U01 grantees.
 - And depending on the status of activities of NRMN 1.0, it might include some of those activities as well.

Some Submitted Questions

- It seems that the FOA calls for an internal evaluation of the NRMN CC to allow for improvement – should someone be hired to do this?
 - An advisory board can serve this function and assist.
- What are the consortium-wide metrics in the FOA as they relate to NRMN?
 - We are referring to the [Hallmarks of Success](#).
 - We anticipate the standardization of data collection and of the use of common shared elements.

Some Submitted Questions

- Given that the NRMN CC will work with the DPC CEC, is a letter of support from the CEC advisable?
 - A letter from the CEC is not required.
- Is there something that we should budget for that is unique to being part of a consortium?
 - The Diversity Program Consortium holds an annual meeting and applicants should request funds to attend this required meeting for all of the PIs of the grant.
 - The NRMN awardees will also be a consortium, so budget for a meeting related to NRMN specific efforts.
 - **One DPC annual meeting + One NRMN annual meeting**

NRMN Team



Thank you!
Questions?

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