

**SSRPCB-6: Strategies for Seeking NIH Funding in the Current Environment:
Mechanisms, Writing, Review, Success Stories**

Thursday, January 21, 2027, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm

Presenters:

Denise Juliano-Bult, MSW, retired (National Institute of Mental Health) (organizer), Belinda Simms, PhD (National Institute of Mental Health), Amy Blank Wilson, PhD (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and Michelle Munson, PhD (New York University)

Description:

Federal research support is a key sustainer of scientific research in social work, and has long been a significant building block in the development of research careers. This support has enabled the validation and implementation of effective service and intervention strategies, informing policy decisions, and thereby has contributed to improved health outcomes for various communities. Recently, there have been significant and on-going changes in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding priorities and processes, while the need for the products of social work research has continued and, in some cases, increased. The intent of this workshop is to enable participants to: 1) better understand the current NIH funding system and priorities, 2) enhance skills in idea development, 3) tailor their study approach to match current program requirements, and 4) craft applications with a heightened probability of success in obtaining research or career development support in the face of current funding limitations.

These goals will be accomplished via presentations by 1) a retired NIMH research program officer with 36 years of relevant federal experience, 2) a current NIMH training director with expertise in career development mechanisms and strategies, 3) two well-established social work researchers with successful track records in obtaining NIH and other research funding, mentoring junior colleagues, participating as scientific review committee members, and implementing their research results in community settings.

This session will consist of five parts: an overview of current funding mechanisms; an overview of grant writing approaches; description of the review process; presentation of research success stories by established social work researchers; and group discussion and Q&A. During the final section, the floor will be open for participants to share experiences and questions as they consider application development. Speakers will serve as resource persons, providing general guidance and suggestions, direction to appropriate NIH contacts and mechanisms, and their own experiences in order to assist scholars with research application development and career strategies. While this session is intended to inform participants at any career level who wish to understand the current state of NIH

funding, in the interest of time, we will privilege questions from postdoctoral scholars and pre-tenure faculty.

Agenda:

Overview of Funding Opportunities -	20 minutes
Current status of NIMH/NIH funding: priorities/prohibitions	
Research Awards	
Career Development Awards	
Grant Writing Overview	20 minutes
Developing your idea/soliciting input/innovation	
Building a Team /Collaborators	
Finding and working with mentors	
Submission and Grant Review	20 minutes
What happens in review?	
Summary Statement	
Post-review next-steps	
Success Stories: Conducting Study /Implementation of Findings	20-30 minutes
-Amy Blank-Wilson, Tiny Homes Village Project (formerly homeless adults with SMI)	
-Michelle Munson, You Do You Program (teen/young adult MH)	
-(tentative) Rohini Padwa, junior researcher (health disparities populations)	
Discussion/Q & A	