

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

# Memorandum

Date: March 7, 2016

From: Chief Academic Affiliations Officer (10A2D), VHA Central Office, Washington, DC

Subj: Opportunity to Apply for Mental Health Physician Assistant Residency (MH-PAR) Positions for Academic Year 2016-17

To: Director (00/Mental Health/Education Office)

1. The Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) is pleased to announce a highly innovative new program to train Physician Assistants to work in mental health. Residents trained in this one-year program will have the opportunity to work with senior Physician Assistants and board-certified psychiatrists to understand the sometimes complex needs of Veterans with mental health concerns. This Request for Proposals is separate from the upcoming Mental Health Education Expansion Phase V that will be released in Spring 2016.
2. VA facilities demonstrating commitment to training for Physician Assistants may submit one application per Designated Education Officer.
3. The mental health Physician Assistant Residency announcement provides background information and procedures to be followed by facilities wishing to submit applications. In addition, the purposes and characteristics of the program, including application instructions and criteria for selection are described. A non-binding Letter of Intent is due to OAA by **March 25, 2016**. Completed applications are due to OAA by **May 6, 2016**. Sites will be notified of their selection or non-selection by June 30, 2016. Funding will begin between July 1, 2016 and January 31, 2017, depending on the training schedule of the selected sites.
4. Should you have questions about this program announcement, please contact Kenneth Jones, PhD, Director, Associated Health Education Office (10A2D), at [Kenneth.Jones6@va.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Jones6@va.gov) or at 202-461-9493.



Robert L. Jesse, MD, PhD

Attachment