

Questionnaire for the K Program Participants

Your responses will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law, including AHRQ's confidentiality statute, 42 USC 299c-3(c).

SECTION 1: SATISFACTION WITH THE APPLICATION AND GRANT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

1. How satisfied were you with the following aspects of the application process? Select one answer per row.

	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>Very dissatisfied</i> ⇒ (Go to 1A)	<i>Dissatisfied</i> ⇒ (Go to 1A)	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Very Satisfied</i>
Obtaining information about the program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarity of program goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instructions for preparing application	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reviewer feedback	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistance from AHRQ during the application process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mentor-matching process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistance from AHRQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, the estimated time required to complete the survey. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer Attention: PRA, Paperwork Reduction Project (0935-0106) AHRQ, 540 Gaither Road, Room # 5036, Rockville, MD 20850.

during participation						
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1A. If you were dissatisfied with one or more of the above, please indicate the item(s) and explain why:

SECTION 2: PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE AND CAREER PLANS

2. Which of the following knowledge and skills have you acquired or improved while you were funded by the AHRQ K Award? Select all that apply.¹

	<i>Acquired knowledge/skills</i>	<i>Improved knowledge/skills</i>
Scientific knowledge		
Gaining knowledge about my area of study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using analytical approaches to define scientific questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designing appropriate studies to test scientific hypotheses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpreting and analyzing data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Skills		
Implementing experimental design/protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carrying out data analysis and interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Applying effective literature search strategies and critical evaluation of the scientific literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understanding principles of peer review process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications Skills		

¹ Core competencies of a successful scientist. Developed by the National Postdoctoral Association. <http://www.fhcrc.org/en/education-training/oscd/core-competencies.html>

Developing publications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing grant proposals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing career-related documents (e.g. CVs, biosketches, research plans)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presenting research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interviewing for jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Networking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interacting with patients and other human objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership and Management Skills		
Creating a vision and setting goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Running meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delegating responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motivating and inspiring others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mentoring and serving as a role model	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working with individuals of diverse gender, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Managing and resolving conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. What were your short-term goals when you applied to this program? Select all that apply.²

- Gain scientific knowledge
- Develop or improve research skills
- Develop or improve communication skills
- Develop or improve leadership and management skills
- Gain guidance and mentoring
- Author publications and presentations
- Other, please explain: _____

² This question was asked in the survey of the NIH Diversity Supplement Program participants.

4. What were your long-term goals when you applied to this program? Select all that apply.³

- Advance my field of study
- Maintain position within academia
- Obtain independent research position
- Obtain follow-up funding support
- Improve the quality of patient care
- Other, please explain: _____

5. To what extent were you able to achieve the short-term and long-term goals that you set? Select one.¹

	<i>Short-term goals</i>	<i>Long-term goals</i>
Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mostly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completely	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exceeded all goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. What is your level of satisfaction with the mentoring that you received during your K Award? Select one.

- Very dissatisfied ⇒ (Go to 6A)
- Dissatisfied ⇒ (Go to 6A)
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very satisfied
- N/A

6A. If you were dissatisfied with your mentor(s), please explain why you were dissatisfied and how your mentor(s) could have been more helpful to you.

7. In which of the following aspects of your training experience did you receive adequate help and mentoring? Select all that apply.

- Generating project ideas
- Designing an approach
- Implementing the approach
- Analyzing the data
- Developing publications
- Developing presentation skills

³ This question was asked in the survey of the NIH Diversity Supplement Program participants.

- Assistance with job searches
- Connecting you with other researchers
- Educating you in areas beyond your immediate projects
- Other _____

8. How likely are you to continue in a research career in the next five years? Select one.³

- I am no longer in a research career ⇒ (Go to 8A)
- Very unlikely ⇒ (Go to 8B)
- Somewhat unlikely ⇒ (Go to 8B)
- Unsure ⇒ (Go to 8B)
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

8A. Why did you leave your research career?

8B. You indicated that you are _____ [option selected]
to continue in a research career. Why?

9. How likely are you to apply for another research grant or contract? Select one.

- Very unlikely ⇒ (Go to 9A)
- Somewhat unlikely ⇒ (Go to 9A)
- Unsure ⇒ (Go to 9A)
- Somewhat likely (Go to 10 and 11)
- Very likely (Go to 10 and 11)

9A. You indicated that you are _____ [option selected]
to apply for additional funding. Why?

10. For which of the following research grants or contract are you likely to apply?

- Independent Research grant (e.g., R01, R03, etc.)
- Research Programs Projects and Center Grants (e.g., P)
- Training grant (e.g., K, T)
- Cooperative agreement (e.g., U)
- Contract
- Other _____

11. What type of funding source administers the grant or contract opportunity you intend to pursue?

- Federal Government
- State or Local Government
- University
- Foundation
- Industry
- Other _____

12. Which of the following challenges have you experienced since receiving the AHRQ K Award in establishing or maintaining your research career? Select all that apply.⁴

	<i>Previously Experienced</i>	<i>Currently Experiencing</i>
Obtaining continued funding to support your research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding a suitable position that matches your interests and facilitates continued professional growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establishing collaborative relationships with other researchers in your field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding/connecting with good mentors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recruiting talented students/postdocs to your research group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balancing research and clinical duties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balancing research and teaching responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balancing research and administrative duties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balancing work and family responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accommodating your spouse's or partner's career	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁴ This question was adapted from a survey of participants in the NIH Loan Repayment Program

Inadequate pay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-doubts about your ability to succeed in a research career	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of interest in or motivation for a research career	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 3: THE IMPACT OF THE AHRQ K AWARD ON YOUR CAREER

13. What has been the most important contribution of the AHRQ K Award to your career?
Please describe.

14. How valuable has the AHRQ K Award been in your career success? Select one.

- Too early to tell
- Not at all valuable
- Somewhat valuable ⇒ (Go to 15A)
- Very valuable ⇒ (Go to 15A)

14A. Do you attribute achieving any of the following career landmarks to your receipt of the AHRQ K Award? Select all that apply.

Career Indicator	K Award Contribution
Attainment of a faculty position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receipt of tenure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased salary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receipt of additional research funding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publication of peer reviewed articles and/or books	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establishment of an independent health services research program	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment of additional researchers and support staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receipt of professional honors or distinctions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service on editorial boards, peer review panels, advisory councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appointment as department/division chair, dean, provost, president, or other leadership position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appointment as mentor to other researchers	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Which of the following best describes current your work? Select all that apply.

- I am still participating in the K program
- Research
- Clinical
- Teaching
- Administration

Other _____

16. How would you describe your primary workplace environment? Select all that apply.

- Academia
- Clinical Practice
- Private Industry
- Professional Society
- Federal Government
- State or Local Government
- Other _____

17. How would you describe your secondary workplace environment? Select all that apply.

- Academia
- Clinical Practice
- Private Industry
- Professional Society
- Federal Government
- State or Local Government
- Other _____
- N/A

18. To what extent has your K grant experience enabled you to apply your health services research expertise within an inter- or multi-disciplinary environment?

- Not at all
- To some extent
- To a considerable extent

19. With what other disciplines have you collaborated during your post K award career? Please list up to 3 disciplines.

20. Do you think the AHRQ K Award has enabled you to achieve or contribute to any of the following? Select all that apply.⁵

<i>Area</i>	<i>K Award Contribution</i>
RESEARCH	
Advancement of your field	<input type="checkbox"/>
Influence on another field	<input type="checkbox"/>
POLICY	
Contributions to a systematic review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributions to clinical, educational, or other guidelines or standards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributions to laws or policies	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁵ This question was adapted from a survey to evaluate the research program at the Department of Education

Contributions to government reports	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of factsheets, newsletters or other educational materials	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of expert testimony	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRACTICE	
Development and testing of new or improved tools, devices, tests, measures, services, or screening approaches to identify, confirm, treat, or manage disease or disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
SYSTEM CAPACITY	
Adoption of new or improved delivery methods for care or services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduction in the cost of care or services	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. What would you consider your most important contribution to health services research, health care-related policy, practice, or system capacity to date? Please describe.

For items 22 through 25, please refer to the following scale:

0% _____ 50% _____ 100%

Not At All Valuable *Neutral* *Extremely Valuable*

22. What percentage would you assign to reflect the value to your research skills development of having been awarded an AHRQ K grant award? _____%

23. What percentage would you assign to reflect the value to your career progression of having been awarded an AHRQ K grant award? _____%

24. What percentage would you assign to reflect the value to your professional growth of having been awarded an AHRQ K grant award? _____%

25. Overall, what percentage would you assign to the value of having received the AHRQ K grant award? _____%

SECTION 4: CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

26. Is there anything else you would like to convey to AHRQ about your K program participation or its effects on your career?

27. Based on your experiences with the K Award, do you have any suggestions, comments, or criticisms to offer about both the strengths and weaknesses of the K Award program? (Your advice will be greatly valued.)
