



Ashley Peddicord-Austin

We're giving folks just a minute, and then we'll get started.

Hello, everyone. Thank you for joining us today. We're glad you could take some time out to join us at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health to hear some more about our minority research grant program and to join us for this Application Assistance Webinar.

Before we dive in today, I just want to share a few updates of the purpose of the webinar.

The Minority Research Grant Program Application Assistance Webinar sessions are designed to provide additional assistance by providing background information as well as some firsthand experience from a previous grantee who can talk about their experience and answer any questions that you might have for CMS or for a previous grantee.

We hope that today's session will be able to help you get more familiar with our program, especially as you consider whether your institution would like to apply this year.

Joining us for today's webinar is Dr. Veronica Ajewole of Texas Southern University, and she is one of our 2020 grantees. She will speak about her institution's research and share experience applying for the grant.

We'd like today's session to be an opportunity for you to learn more about the grant program broadly but also from the perspective of a grantee who was previously in your shoes.

We can go ahead to the next slide.

Here's our agenda for today.

We'll begin with an overview of the Minority Research Grant Program, which you'll hear us call MRGP; followed by the presentation from Dr. Veronica; details on the 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity, including eligibility requirements and how to submit an application via the grants.gov website. Following these items, we'll conclude with some time for questions from the audience.

On this slide, we also have instructions regarding accessibility for today's event. To access the live transcript feature, go to the menu at the bottom of the screen and click the live transcript icon. After you click the icon, click on view full transcript, which will allow closed captioning to appear at the bottom of your screen. And the transcript will show on the right-hand side of your screen.

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Before we dive into this overview, we wanted to provide just a little background on CMS as a whole and our office in particular. CMS is the largest provider of health insurance in the United States. It's responsible for ensuring that more than 160 million individuals that are supported by CMS programs can get the care and healthcare which they need and deserve. Our office, the Office of Minority Health, is one of eight minority health offices within the larger Department of Health and Human Services.

We serve as a principal advisor to CMS on the needs of minority and underserved populations, and that includes racial and ethnic communities; people with limited English proficiency; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons; persons with disabilities; those who live in rural or geographically isolated areas, or the territories; and persons otherwise affected by persistent poverty or inequity.



We can advance to the next slide.

We'll give a brief overview of the Minority Research Grant Program before I turn it over to my colleague.

Go ahead to the next slide.

So, again, you'll often hear us call this MRGP. If you see that in our announcements and things, that's what it means, Minority Research Grant Program. It's administered by our office, CMS OMH, to support researchers at minority serving institutions to explore how CMS can better meet the healthcare needs of the populations we serve. In addition, the grant programs support CMS' efforts to advance health equity by increasing understanding and awareness of health disparities, developing and disseminating solutions, and implementing sustainable actions.

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The program has been around for about 20 years.

CMS has provided grantees with funds to further health equity research that support researchers pursuing topics that impact minority populations; investigate the root cause of health disparities; and fosters dissemination of research within the CMS programs. This grant program gives our communities the opportunity to benefit from the research as well.

It's a fantastic opportunity for minority serving institutions and health equity researchers to grow their work and their own portfolio.

All right.

We can go to the next slide.

So, we do have a short video to highlight the Minority Research Grant Program.

And this is something that you can find on our YouTube channel if you are ever looking to play it for colleagues or others to help share information, and I believe we'll go ahead and watch it.

Video plays: The Minority Research Grant Program helps researchers at minority serving institutions like yours build a portfolio while funding studies important to the healthcare needs of medically underserved populations across the nation.

As a grantee, you can investigate the root causes of health disparities; share best practices for reducing these disparities; and better improve the health of racial and ethnic minorities, people living in rural areas, individuals with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.

Becoming a grantee allows you to partner with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, grow your research credentials, increase the public's knowledge on health equity, and share your findings to join the ranks of other Minority Research Grant Program awardees who have published dozens of manuscripts that have been widely cited.

For over two decades, Minority Research Grant Program awardees have uncovered health equity barriers and solutions in the US by addressing a variety of issues and chronic conditions and healthcare access.

The Minority Research Grant Program strengthens the capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Asian-American and Native American Pacific



Islander Serving Institutions; and helps widen the pipeline of researchers making a difference in disparities affecting minority healthcare.

To learn more about the Minority Research Grant Program, eligibility requirements, and how to apply, visit go.cms.gov/minorityresearch.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Thank you, team, for playing that.

So, we'll go ahead and advance to the next slide.

And, at this point, I will turn it over to Brian Young of the CMS Office of Minority Health, as well, who can get into a little bit more detail about the grant program. Brian.

Brian Young

Hello, everyone. My name is Brian Young, and I am a public health advisor within the CMS Office of Minority Health.

Through MRGP, we set out to achieve several goals.

The first is to develop capacity at minority serving institutions to research health disparities and social determinants of health. This support for minority researchers helps them grow to a point where they can conduct research independently and be competitive for other major grant support and opportunities.

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The second goal aims to understand the root cause of issues that lead to health disparities and identify repeated interventions. Institutions investigate these root causes by exploring local conditions and populations, specifically, medically underserved populations.

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And, lastly, the research funded by the MRGP uses various methods to broadly disseminate best practices for addressing health disparities, providing culturally competent care for all patients. CMS reviews these findings and best practices to strengthen CMS programs.

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So, I'd like to share a few summary highlights from the 48 grantees funded between 2005 and 2020 Minority Research Grant Program cycles so that you can better understand the impact that MRGP has on the grantees and the grantees' research has had in the communities.

The MRGP has funded a range of projects focusing on various populations that experience health disparities.



Grantees from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions have focused on health disparities affecting African Americans and Hispanics, respectively. Through research efforts from the funded grantees, we were able to see the impact MRGP has had.

Many of the grantees reported disseminating their findings academically, through peer-reviewed journals and conferences, as well as to the communities that they served or that participated in their research. The MRGP is an opportunity for health equity researchers to not only expand their research efforts but also disseminate their findings through diverse methods.

We can go to the next slide, please.

We have funded health equity researchers in minority serving institutions through the MRGP for over two decades, almost 30 years now. This slide shows our 2022 grantees, the Board of Trustees at the University of Illinois; Prairie View A&M University, and the University of Hawaii who have all examined critical public health disparities.

We can go to the next slide, please.

Now I'd like to introduce our featured grantee, Dr. Veronica Ajewole, on behalf of Texas Southern University. Dr. Ajewole, you may begin.

Dr. Veronica Ajewole

Thank you very much, Brian and Ashley, for having me join the call today. And good afternoon, everybody.

Please go to the next slide. Thank you.

As rightly introduced, my name is Veronica Ajewole. I'm a clinical pharmacist by training from Texas Southern University, and I had the privilege of receiving this grant award in 2020.

And I've just put on this slide a couple of pictures, you know, more like a memory line of how, you know, this all-grant funding opportunity was received. Myself and my colleagues at TSU, we came across this RFP sometime around May of 2020. And if we all remember, this was in the midst of COVID. So, it was really tough, you know, for us to be able to you know, we're transitioning to working remotely and everything going on all around, kids all in the house. It was pretty crazy. But, you know, we were able to, you know, pull all the resources we had together. And, you know, we were able to successfully submit the proposal seen in the second picture here.

Oh, I missed the name of the grant. Okay.

We were able to successfully submit the grant here in you know, in May, you know, around the due time, the due date. So, we came across the notice of award in I will say maybe somewhere around March, April. Pardon me. And then we were able to successfully submit in June, on the 2nd of June.

This particular award, you know, was looking into aggressive prostate cancer; looking at, you know, some of the causes from a better analysis standpoint; and also engaging directly with community members around initiatives on aggressive prostate cancer for African American population. And then the last picture is the day that, you know, we got the real great news, you know, sharing with us that our grant has been funded, you know, from CMS funding agency.



Next slide, please.

And now I'm going to go quickly over the study background and why we decided to, you know, conduct the study.

Next slide, please.

So prostate cancer disparity, you know, several of us might be aware that African American males do have a higher incidence of prostate cancer, you know, incidence compared to Caucasian males. And, unfortunately, several African American patients also do present at a clinically advanced stage or an aggressive type of prostate cancer, which would, you know, obviously lead to mortality, less survival, and higher comorbidities, higher complications down the line, and also increased costs, you know, when it comes to the overall impact on healthcare.

Early screening for prostate cancer improves the chance for early diagnosis and reduces morbidity and mortality. However, African American men are less likely to screen early for prostate cancer. So, this is more of the background, you know, for why we were able to engage in this study.

Next slide, please.

Then specifically looking at the study, we set out with two aims.

The first objective was to identify the key elements associated with aggressive prostate cancer among African American males and for us to create a social determinant of health-based interventions to potentially reduce burden of African of aggressive prostate cancer among African American males.

Secondly, we wanted to develop a social determinant of health-based interventions for aggressive prostate cancer among African American males, and we wanted to do this through a community based participatory research model.

For us at Texas Southern University, we did not work alone. We worked in collaboration with our study partners from Houston Methodist Hospital, which was where we did all the data analysis. We worked in collaboration with Sankofa Research Institute and community work group led by Dr. Richards Assata. We worked in collaboration with our community advisory board, as well as our student interns that assisted with data analysis and review. And I do want to mention that, you know, myself, along with my two Co-Is, that is, Dr. Uche Ndefo, as well as Dr. Grace Loudd, you know, provided support for my TSU site to be able to successfully complete this grant.

Next slide, please.

Then for the study variables, this is where I have to, you know, give my full disclosure, that, when we wrote the proposal, we had intended to perform the study over a ten-year period, you know, looking at 2009 into 2019, keeping in mind I submitted the proposal in 2020. So I wanted to do a ten-year snapshot, you know, looking at population of African American men with prostate cancer in Houston Methodist Cancer Registry, looking at demographics of age, race, ethnicity, ZIP code, you know, anything that related to social determinants of health; be able to obtain cancer-related information; what's their PSA; what's their Gleason score; what was their stage



at diagnosis; and also any comorbidities or medications that were previously reported to be associated with prostate cancer.

This was where we ran into a little bit of challenges, right, because, you know, writing the proposal, getting funded, and now implementation was where we realized that Methodist Hospital transitioned into a new medical record in 2016. So, everything that was in the medical record prior to 2016 became obsolete, and we were really not able to access that data. But even though it was challenging, I maintained an open communication.

And I want to say thank you to Brian Young and Shaan. You know, both of them, I had meetings with them to really be honest and open and say, well, this is what's going on. We've gotten into a challenge here. How can we make modifications to the timeline of the study, one; and also requesting a no-cost extension because it took, you know, several months before we were able to access the data that we need from the database at the Methodist Hospital registry. And, you know, with them giving us guidance and collaboration and support, we were able to successfully streamline the timeline to 2016 to 2021 and request that no-cost extension that was approved, you know, under the leadership of the CMS funding agency.

Next slide, please.

So, this is the Data Collection Plan, you know, collaborating with Methodist Hospital. We did beta query in the cancer registry. We were able to link these data with geocoded information so that we can obtain social determinants of health domain, looking specifically at area deprivation index, geocoding, and also medical record so we can obtain additional information for each patient.

Next slide, please.

For the study timeline, you know, including all the main key steps, you know, that we went through on the study, we received our Notice of Grant Award in late August. And then, in September, we put in information for IRB approval, which took a few months. When we got our approval, we did, you know, started off with data extraction, review, and analysis. And that was one of the reasons why we engaged our interns to assist with manual chart review for some information that we were missing in the medical record, you know, based on direct data extraction.

In September 2021, we were able to proceed with doing a community workgroup and initiating our community advisory board. And then September 2022, this was, you know, at this point, we had requested a no-cost extension because of the time it took us to get the data, you know, analyzed and finalized. So then, in November of 2022, we were able to successfully host a community engagement conference to share findings of our study and also next step.

This is really an anchor, you know, opportunity for our program because we just did not want to share information with scientific entity alone. We wanted to make conscious efforts to share information directly with community members, you know, with spouse, African American men, and their support system when it comes to addressing health disparities in prostate cancer.

Additionally, most recently in March, we went to the conference, a health disparity conference in DC where we were able to present the findings of the study both in a scientific setting, and currently now and working on, you



know, finalizing the manuscript for publication and also preparing the final report that will be sent back to CMS in a few weeks from now.

Next slide, please.

So, this is just a highlight of the conference that we had, which is titled Face to Face, Shoulder to Shoulder: Let's Talk About Prostate Cancer, which we had in November of 2022.

Next slide, please.

So, this is looking at a summary of the findings from the study. Like I said earlier, we have to truncate the timeline of the study, from 2010 to 2019, which was the initial timeframe. We had to shift that a little bit to 2016 to 2021.

These are the key findings from this study from a data standpoint, finding out that age older patients had an increased risk of developing prostate cancer, index, people that lived in an underserved community had a greater risk of developing prostate cancer; use of medications like thiazide-like diuretics and angiotensin 2 receptor antagonists also showed a positive signal for reducing the risk for aggressive prostate cancer, while the opposite was what we found for direct vasodilators.

Next slide, please.

Then here I'm going to show you now some of the engagements that we had. You know, by receiving proclamations from elected officials, you know, concerning this conference, so that that way we can continue stimulation; continue, you know, engagement; and continue our efforts when it comes to addressing prostate cancer disparity among African American population.

Next slide, please.

This here is showing some of the, you know, outputs that came out from the community workgroup and from our community advisory board, where we are now positioned to make a, you know, very concrete plan to be able to increase awareness about prostate cancer; to increase advocacy and be able to encourage men to take action; to screen early; you know, and find out more information about prostate cancer in general.

So, all of this information is available on our website. And we continue to stay engaged with community members with a message of early detection saves lives, you know, when it comes to prostate cancer.

Next slide, please.

As part of that conference, we also have the privilege of engaging with other funding agencies.

This is HRSA. You know, Steve Richards was able to do a recording on behalf of HRSA, you know, sharing information and support for the work that we do. The video is about three minutes long, so I'm not going to play it, you know, for the purpose of today's presentation.

Next slide, please.



And here also is a video from Shaan Trotter from CMS, you know, sending a message, you know, back to us and to the attendees about the findings from our program.

So, again, just showing that we're able to network across multiple levels, you know, community members, stakeholders, elected officials, funding agencies, that even though the funding timeframe of the grants is wrapped up, we continue to put forward efforts in addressing, you know, health disparity in our community.

Next slide, please.

And then now that we are, you know, coming into 2023, September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. We continue to make efforts, you know, using some other funding opportunities from other agencies and sponsorship to host another conference that will be in September 16. You know, staying Face to Face, Shoulder to Shoulder: Let's Talk About Prostate Cancer, focusing on early detection saves lives and the time is 10 to 2. This is going to be in-person with a virtual option when it comes to the format of the upcoming conference.

Next slide, please.

And I think that's really, you know, a summary of how we were able to receive the funding, the findings from the study, and the next steps that we have, you know, upcoming in the future. And I want to say thank you to CMS. Thank you, Brian, Shaan, and everyone, you know, that supported us, especially, you know, during that data analysis timeframe. Quite stressful but the support they provided was, you know, very helpful that we got no-cost extension and were able to successfully wrap up with the project.

Brian Young

Thank you, Dr. Ajewole, for your presentation today.

So next we're going to review the MRGP's Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Next slide, please.

So, I'm excited to share that on May 11, 2023, CMS OMH released the 2023 Minority Research Grant Program Notice of Funding opportunity or what -- we just say NOFO. We are now accepting applications via grants.gov, and the deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, July 12, at 3pm Eastern Standard Time. This year, we can award three grants up to \$333,000 each to eligible institutions.

Next slide, please.

Now, before we provide a demonstration on how to properly submit an application through grants.gov, I would like to go over some eligibility criteria and requirements.

Next slide, please.

So, applications undergo a thorough review process, evaluating the level of innovation, community collaboration, and scientific rigor. To be eligible researchers should focus on developing suitable interventions for health disparities impacting minority populations.



Health equity researchers with suitable projects from the following type of minority serving institutions may apply: Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Asian-American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.

So, this year, just hot off the press, newly eligible minority serving institutions who are able to apply this year are Predominantly Black Institutions, Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions, and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions.

For more information on eligibility requirements, you can visit the program's web page listed on the screen.

We can go to the next slide, please.

Next, we will provide a demonstration on how to properly submit an application through grants.gov.

Next slide, please.

So, when you visit grants.gov, the first thing you will need to do is to click on Search Grants tab. Next, you will type the MRGP grant number into the Opportunity Number box and click Search. Make sure to include the dashes, as they are part of the grant number.

We can go to the next slide, please.

So, once you click Search, the MRGP grant number will appear; and you will proceed by clicking on the actual grant number. Finally, the MRGP -- the MRGP -- oh, my gosh, I cannot say it -- the MRGP opportunity will appear, providing more information such as the grant synopsis and eligibility requirements.

Once you can completely read all the MRGP requirements, you will proceed by clicking Apply.

Next slide, please.

So, we will now move to the question-and-answer portion of the meeting. You can submit your questions using the Q&A feature. We will answer as many questions as time permits.

So, are there any questions in the chat?

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Everyone just encouraging, you know, please feel free to put some questions in through Q&A and/or through the chat, preferably through Q&A because those are just easier to mark if we've gone through them, so we don't miss anything. But the chat is open.

So, Brian, it looks like we do have one question so far in the chat asking about HSIs and eligibility.

Brian Young

So, yes. Hispanic Serving Institutions are eligible to apply for the grant.



Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Great. Thank you. And there was one other question about the grant made to the University of Illinois.

Brian Young

Yes.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

The name -- I think they have a long title for their formal name.

Brian Young

I added it to the chat earlier, but it's called Addressing Disparities and Access to Transplant, the ESRD Patient Evaluation Clearinghouse.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Great. Thank you. So, we -- we have plenty of time if you have any questions. This is a great way -- you know, there's some questions that are maybe too particular that we aren't allowed to answer during the funding opportunity but -- you know, Brian's been working with this program for a couple of years or if you have questions for Dr. Veronica about her experience, we are happy to help.

And there was one thing, Brian, I remember a piece of advice from our grants office last year that they gave somebody, which was don't use the deadline as the deadline. Pretend the deadline is much earlier because I believe that there's, you know, just one for planning ahead and because it sometimes takes longer to actually submit it than you might think.

And then I believe they said something about the -- I'm hoping you remember this one -- the person that actually has the approval on the institutions end, it might be the PI, even has to, at some point, approve or be the one to do something in that process. So just planning ahead and trying to make sure not just that you have your information and you're meeting the deadline but, you know, there's a little bit of nuance to that timing.

Brian Young

There are a few people from your organization who have to participate. Yeah, like you said PI and then it's like the AOR, the approving official for your organization. So, you have to definitely collaborate with a couple of people within your organization to submit the application.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Yeah, and I understand that can -- just like at CMS, it can take a little time. Yeah. so don't wait until the day of.

All right, we do have some questions that have come in through the Q&A, Brian.

The first one, if we represent a consortium that includes minority and non-minority serving institutions, but we are collectively conserving the community, would we be eligible?

Brian Young



So, if you are applying as a minority serving institution and was just partnering with a non-minority serving institution, that -- you could possibly apply, but if you're trying to apply from a non-minority serving institution, then no.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

And I know in the past we've had people that have worked together to partner with somebody who is a minority serving institution but then there's like some other community partners, some other researcher that they work together to do it. But I believe that minority serving institution does have to be the one to actually submit it. Right?

Brian Young

Correct. Yes, Ashley.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Okay. Another question that came in. Are there any specific evaluation processes we should consider?

Brian Young

That's more of an internal, internal process. So, we can't really share how we, like, actually grade until after we actually grade all of the applications, then we can provide feedback.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Yeah. I would just make sure that you read through the requirements that are listed on the NOFO and the website gives a lot of information about past work. That might help as well.

Brian Young

And please make sure that you include every single item that the NOFO has.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Yes, good point. All right.

Let's see, Dr. Veronica, I think there's one in the chat if you don't mind. I'm going to read this out loud, though. If you could, thank you for coming on camera.

Do you mind talking more about the process that you had to apply and how it hopefully was helpful for your institution?

Dr. Veronica Ajewole

Yes, that's a great question. Yeah. I'll be glad to share.



You know, so, again, it was a bit challenging because we were all transitioning to remote work, right? It was right in the midst of pandemic declaration. So, from that standpoint, we were all off campus. So, working remotely was a bit tough. But I think planning ahead of time, you know, and communicating as much as possible with the Office of Research, you know, telling them, hey, I have a grant due. You know, this is the timeline. How quickly do I need to get all the paperwork in internally so that they review and approve and have the AOR, you know, the delegates, the authorized signing official of the institution available to push the final button because I can submit on my side. You know, I submit on my end; and the AOR, they still have to go in after me to make sure that everything's cleared and submitted.

So that was, you know, a learning curve but I think, you know, working collaboratively within my group at TSU, we were able to, you know, walk through all of that.

I hope that answers the question.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Thank you. I think so. I appreciate it. And let's see.

If there's -- was there any of the other questions that came through that you wanted to add anything to, please feel free to, or any tips or anything else that you would want to share.

Dr. Veronica Ajewole

Yeah. I mean, I think also getting letters of support, you know, because with minority health, you know, focus, we'll definitely need that our support from collaborators and, you know, depending on the level of collaboration is going to be a plain letter of support or a letter of intent to establish a consortium, especially if we are moving money around from your institution to another institution. Like, for me, with all our collaborators, we moved money around. So, I needed to have an LOI, you know, executed between both institutions, you know.

Considering the timeframe, considering COVID pandemic, you know -- you know, all the logistics barriers, right, but I think most institutions now have a better process getting some electronically across the board. So just giving considerations for that and getting as many letters of support as possible. And, I mean, there will be situations where maybe you can't get a letter of support but at least stating the intention, right? Okay.

Get that -- as much letter of support commitment as possible and there may be very few that you can get, just, you know, setting those intentions out. I think those will make the application overall stand out, showing that you're really intentional in bringing the information back to the community.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Thank you. Brian, this is -- she made me think of something that I know some people have asked about in the past. I believe there's a letter of intent or that you -- like a notice of intent or something that you can do to let CMS know that you're intending to apply.

Brian Young

Yes. So, that has passed. That was June 11th. Yeah.



Ashley Peddicord-Austin

But it's not required, right?

Brian Young

No, it's not required.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

So, if you didn't do it, don't worry.

Brian Young

Exactly.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Okay. All right. And then we have another question. This is our last one in the Q&A. So, if folks have others, so don't worry. Feel free to send it and we'll put in the email address for the grant program, too, in case you think of something afterwards.

Again, during the funding opportunity, sometimes we're limited exactly what we can answer but general questions or guidance or things we can point you towards, we are certainly happy to do so.

All right. Brian, I think that's one's to you.

We would like to develop a community health worker program, which sounds great, to train students to go into the community to gather and disseminate information to minority populations. Sounds really interesting.

They're asking if it would align with the NOFO in terms of getting -- I assume to get funding to do that work.

Brian Young

So, unfortunately, this is one of the questions I cannot answer because we cannot answer, like, specific research questions while the NOFO is out.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Yeah.

Brian Young

Still, still apply. Still apply.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin



Yeah. That's true. And it does take your time and your effort. But, you know, we get a good number of applications for how many spots we have. But, you know, it's not hundreds. So, you'll definitely -- your application will be read.

So, let's see.

I would also just suggest reading back through, again, with the funding opportunity and the website to kind of look through. Our office has done community health worker stuff in the past. I don't know if there was a grant or anything that would necessarily assist you but maybe there's something that would help you connect to the program or connect to the funding opportunity.

Hopefully -- that is not an answer, but hopefully helpful.

Brian Young

They could help assist.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

All right. Well, we can hang out for another minute or two.

Oh, Brian, would you mind putting in OMH grants in the chat.

Brian Young

Here.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Thank you.

Brian Young

Let me make sure it's to everyone.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Thank you. And then, let's see.

Brian Young

And I do answer all questions because they come directly to me.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

All right. Brian, I know I think we have two more slides and then we'll pause and see if we get any more questions if you like.



Brian Young

Okay. So, there's one more question in here. It says, will the webinar be sent out at a later date?

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

I believe we're planning to put a recording on the website.

Yeah. So, it will take a little bit, though, just to get this back out and then there's a second version, if you wanted to join again or you thought of questions later on, we're doing this again on Thursday.

Brian Young

Okay. So, before we conclude, we would like to thank Dr. Veronica Ajewole for sharing her research study and MRGP experience. If you would like to connect with Dr. Ajewole, her contact information is listed here.

And, Ashley, I think that you have the last slide.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

All right. Thank you.

So, I just put in the chat the long version of the URL for the grant website, but you'll also see it posted on this last slide, go.cms.gov/minorityresearch. That's just the shorter version of what I just put in the chat. So, we are planning to post the recording on our website. So, if you want to go back and look at it again, please feel free.

And then there's the email, as well, that Brian just put it to -- put out in the chat, OMHGrants@cms.hhs.gov. Those are the best two places in the upper left-hand corner there to reach us for the grant program, but you have all of our information here should you want to reach out to us for any other reasons. We have lots of listservs, coverage to care and initiative, rural health, all kinds of things going on. So, feel free to reach out to us.

And Brian, I'll let you -- he tracks that email directly. I check mine directly, so you will reach a person.

Let me just check if there are any other questions. One person asked about -- yeah, mental health.

Brian Young

Substance abuse. So, I can't answer but if you see something on that CMS website, then there's probably something that you all could, you know, possibly do research on.

Ashley Peddicord-Austin

Yep. Similar to the community health worker one. We can't necessarily address that topic but search around and help find connections and things. Always encouraged to apply again.



All right. Well, I think that'll wrap us up then and conclude. Thank you all so much for your time today. And thank you Brian and Dr. Veronica and our support team here. We appreciate everyone, and hope you have a great rest of your week.

Brian Young

Thank you, all.