

Request for Applications for VA SHIELD Collection Sites

VA SHIELD is announcing a request for applications (RFA) to establish new specimen collection sites for VA SHIELD. **Applications are due July 11, 2022.**

VA SHIELD is intended to be a comprehensive repository of biospecimens and associated data in emerging diseases. Specimens stored in VA SHIELD are to be used to advance scientific understanding in support of developing diagnostic, therapeutic and preventative strategies for immediate deployment in clinical environments. VA SHIELD is intended to be a flexible ORD resource that can respond to research needs across the VA research enterprise.

As a research enterprise resource VA SHIELD can maximize the collection of high-quality specimens and data ethically and efficiently including close monitoring of costs, space, equipment, facility, and personnel needs and reducing research duplication and participation burden on participants, and/or any other identified protected populations. More information about VA SHIELD may be found: [VA Science and Health Initiative to Combat Infectious and Emerging Life-Threatening Diseases \(VA SHIELD\)](#).

This call is open to:

- Sites that are a part of a tertiary care facility with an annual estimated population of served Veterans greater than 20,000 Veterans.
- Investigators who are or who will be VA-salaried investigators at VAMCs or VA-approved sites at the time of funding.
 - Must have a VA paid appointment of at least 25 hours per week (5/8ths) to receive ORD research funding (VHA Program Guide 1200.15). Contract clinicians are not VA employees.
 - Local site investigators are not required to apply for eligibility for this RFA but must have a commitment from the medical center director of the host facility to provide VA employment after funding. For purposes of eligibility, a clinician is defined as a licensed practitioner with a doctoral or professional degree (MD, DO, DDS, PhD, etc.) All others are considered as non-clinicians. Note that the eligibility criteria for this funding mechanism differ from those for most other BLRD funding opportunities.

Please use the associated application to join VA SHIELD template. In your application submission, please include the completed application template, key personnel biosketches, and a summary budget worksheet with budget justification.

Summary Budget Worksheet Template: (VA network access only)

<https://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/docs/SummaryBudgetWorksheetTemplate.xls>
[X](#)

Example Budget Justification with Summary Budget Worksheet: (VA network access only) <https://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/docs/ExampleBudgetJustification.pdf>

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Applications must be submitted by the contact PI's local VA Research Office via email to VASHIELD@va.gov. Applications should use the subject line: VA SHIELD Collection Site Application.

Any questions regarding this request for applications should be submitted to:
VASHIELD@va.gov