

## **CENTER FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPROVEMENT SCIENCES (CIIS) FELLOWSHIP**

**Description:** The demand for implementation and improvement scientists – researchers trained in the study of methods that promote adoption and integration of evidence-based practices into routine healthcare settings – continues to grow proportionally to the exponential increase in research evidence. Building institutional capacity for implementation science is critical. The **Evans Center for Implementation and Improvement Sciences (CIIS) is a methodological hub for the scientific evaluation of efforts to improve healthcare delivery within safety net settings.** In order to build institutional capacity in Implementation and Improvement Sciences, **CIIS offers a two-year Implementation Science Fellowship (CIIS Fellowship).** During the fellowship, CIIS Fellows will:

- Participate in weekly CIIS team meetings, Fellow methods sessions, and career development/mentorship discussions (**Thursdays 10-11am**)
- Have access to formal and informal mentoring through the CIIS team
- Learn theory, qualitative, and quantitative implementation research skills through participation in seminars and methods meetings, engagement in implementation science methods meetings, and hands-on immersion in IS research projects.
- Lead 1-2 implementation/improvement science projects in their content area of interest
- Lead or participate in other CIIS projects that target specific learning points and methodological skills
- Participate in monthly educational seminars for the BU/BMC community (**Thursdays 1-2pm**)
- Following Fellowship, return to their respective Departments with new skills and become local leaders in Implementation and Improvement Sciences.

Under mentorship of CIIS Directors, Associate Directors and faculty, CIIS Fellows will have the opportunity to engage in specific areas of learning designed to improve their research skills. They will also have the opportunity to interact with current CIIS Fellows and CIIS research partners. Following the fellowship, CIIS Fellows are expected to become leaders in Implementation and Improvement Science at BU/BMC.

**Who should apply?** Clinician- or non-clinician scientists with a strong interest in a research career that involves Implementation and Improvement Science and a Departmental commitment to their research career development. The CIIS Fellowship is intended to serve as a bridge to a Career Development (K) Award or similar research funding. Applicants are not currently expected to be funded researchers, but to be individuals willing to learn new research skills and pursue implementation science research as a substantial part of their career goals.

### **Two groups may apply:**

- 1) Post-doctoral fellows (either clinician [e.g., MD, DMD, DO, PharmD, NP, etc.] or non-clinical [e.g., PhD, DrPH, ScD]) who have a commitment to remain at BU/BMC as junior faculty after fellowship.
- 2) Early-career Faculty (Instructor or Assistant Professor).

**How much time is devoted to the fellowship?** CIIS fellows will commit 50% FTE to the fellowship. The effort devoted to activities outside of the CIIS Fellowship (including clinical work, administrative work, or other research projects) cannot exceed 50% time.

**What funding is included for the CIIS Fellowship?** Department/Sections must demonstrate a substantial commitment to career development for CIIS Fellows through protected research time and funding support. CIIS will supplement the protected time support provided by the Department/Sections. Because of the wide range of roles of the potential applicants, the shared funding contribution of CIIS will be discussed on an individual basis after review of applications (see 2c below). Typically, the

Department/Section covers 25% of the time and CIIS covers 25% of the time. Fellows are expected to fully devote the 50% time to CIIS work, for which they will be provided dedicated project funds of up to \$10,000.

### What is needed for the application?

- 1) NIH Biosketch
- 2) A letter of support from Section Chief and/or Department Chair that outlines:
  - a. Local need for an Implementation Scientist
  - b. If applicant is a post-doctoral fellow, a commitment to retain applicant as faculty after fellowship (co-signed by applicant).
  - c. Total proposed FTE of the applicant devoted to CIIS fellowship (50%) and % FTE support that will be provided by the sponsoring Section/Department as protected research time (minimum 25% FTE).
  - d. How applicant will spend non-protected time (% clinical, administrative, teaching, etc. outside of Fellowship time).
- 3) Budget that includes anticipated cost of salary support requested from CIIS for the Fellowship and support contributed by home Department/Section.
- 4) Completed CIIS Fellowship Application (see below).

### CIIS Fellowship Application

- 1) Please describe your plan for career development towards becoming an independent researcher, and how the CIIS Fellowship will play a role in your career development plan (up to 500 words).
- 2) Please describe your proposed Implementation or Improvement research project. Please use the framework provided in Table 1 here <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5975262/> to describe (up to 1500 words):
  - a) The care gap or quality gap within the safety net setting to be addressed
  - b) The evidence-based or evidence-informed intervention implemented
  - c) Conceptual model (i.e., Implementation Science Framework)
  - d) Stakeholder priorities, engagement, and readiness for change
  - e) Implementation strategy(ies) to be tested
  - f) Your experience with the setting, intervention, and implementation strategies
  - g) Proposed outcomes, measurement and analysis plan
- 3) Please describe your current methodological strengths and the areas you are looking to improve upon with the CIIS Fellowship (200 words).

### Criteria for Selection

- Plan for career development
- Quality of proposed implementation or improvement research project
- Willingness to learn new methodologic skills outside of content area of interest through collaborative research projects
- Commitment to actively participate in CIIS activities, including educational seminars, team meetings, etc.
- Department/Section's commitment to and investment in the applicant's research career development

**Application Due Date:** March 15, 2024  
**Interviews for select applicants:** March 25-29, 2024  
**Applicant Notification Date:** April 15, 2024  
**Fellowship Start Date:** July 1, 2024

Questions: Please contact Santana Silver at [ssilver3@bu.edu](mailto:ssilver3@bu.edu) with questions.