Q&A from NNLM Region 5 Town Halls

*2021 June 8th, 9th, & 10th*

# Funding

## Since nnlm.gov is currently under construction, how will we find outreach award requirements?

We will send out award announcements to the [NNLM Region 5 listserv](https://mailman11.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/nnlm-region5) with the application as an attachment, hopefully in early July. In the future the NNLM.gov website will have online toolkits and application forms for funding.

## Since first-time applicants are prioritized for funding, if staff from an organization recently received individual Professional Development awards from NNLM Region 5, would that count against that organization when applying for a larger award?

Given that award funding is limited and our region has increased in size, we do need to be careful about equitably distributing funds and making sure to allocate funding to those who are new to outreach. That said, Professional Development awards tend to be smaller awards and thus are not likely to heavily impact your eligibility for larger awards.

# Membership

## Is membership free?

Yes!

## Who can become a member?

Membership is institutional. Members include libraries of all types, community-based organizations, public health departments, health clinics, associations, government agencies, faith-based organizations, and more who are interested in advancing access to health information.

## How do I find out more, or become a member?

Contact Emily Hamstra ([ehamstra@uw.edu](mailto:ehamstra@uw.edu)) for information about membership, including becoming a member, questions, and updating your organization’s membership record.

## What are the benefits of membership?

NNLM membership is free and offers a variety of benefits and services, including:

* Eligibility for funding provided by NNLM Region 5
* Access to training and other educational opportunities offered through NNLM
* Opportunities for partnership- we can assist you in fostering connections with health sciences libraries and other health-related information centers in the region
* Opportunities to request an NLM Traveling Exhibition to visit your library or organization

## What does membership entail?

Membership is a way to show that your organization is supportive of the work of the NNLM and committed to advancing access to quality health information. Network members are involved in NNLM to varying degrees. Members are expected to keep their contact information up to date in the NNLM Membership Directory (updated directory coming soon), keep current with opportunities provided by NNLM (funding, education), and remain interested and open to collaborating with other Network members.

# Education

## When are we going to be seeing educational opportunities open up again?

Classes and webinars and registration are hosted on the nnlm.gov website, which is being migrated to a new Drupal site. Delays are expected until the Fall. We expect that on-demand classes, such as the data classes and the health reference class, will be the types of classes available as soon as the website is ready.

In the meanwhile, we will promote educational opportunities created and hosted through NNLM subawards and by other organizations.

Please sign up for the [Region 5 announcement listserv](https://mailman11.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/nnlm-region5) where we will let you know when NNLM classes become available. Thank you for your patience during this transition.

## Is there a charge for the courses?

All trainings provided by the NNLM are free.

# Advisory Committees

## Are there any representatives from hospital libraries that are not university-affiliated in the Region 5 advisory committees?

At the time of the Town Hall there is one such hospital librarian on both the Access & Outreach subcommittee and also the Community Engagement subcommittee, but we are interested in having more representation. If you are interested in serving on a subcommittee, please contact [ehamstra@uw.edu](mailto:ehamstra@uw.edu) or [mspatz@uw.edu](mailto:mspatz@uw.edu)

## How can I get engaged with one of the Advisory Subcommittees & which one would be best for me, particularly in the interest of helping get medical professionals in underserved regions connected with resources they need?

The issue of lack of access to quality health/medical information for health professionals, particularly in rural or other underserved areas, is a big concern for us and we intend for this to be one of the many things that we will work on together in the Community Engagement Subcommittee.

There is nothing to preclude you from involvement on both subcommittees except for time constraints. To get involved, please contact [ehamstra@uw.edu](mailto:ehamstra@uw.edu) for the Access & Outreach subcommittee or [mspatz@uw.edu](mailto:mspatz@uw.edu) for the Community Engagement Subcommittee.

## Has the Executive Committee been established?

Yes, the Executive Committee is established and all seats are filled. The Executive Committee is advisory to the Principal Investigator. It is a structure that's used in other UG4 cooperative agreements. The PI will be looking for input from the Committee about progress of the Region 5 program. It’s likely that membership on the committee will undergo transitions midway through the 5-year Cooperative Agreement.

# Other Topics

## Are borrow-only libraries are allowed in DOCLINE?

No, libraries are required to lend and have at least 10 journals in their holding.

## Can you clarify; the RML will have monthly meetings?

We plan to hold monthly listening sessions, starting in September, open to members and partners and any interested individuals or organizations in Region 5. Please stay tuned for more information in August!

## Does the NNLM provide resources or guides about resuming onsite services or returning-to-work (post-pandemic) for libraries and their patrons?

NNLM has not developed resources specific to returning-to-work either for libraries or the general public. Organizations that provide this type of information include some libraries and library associations. For example, see the ALA resource: [ALA Planning for Reopening](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/planning-reopening-resources) (*https://www.ala.org/advocacy/planning-reopening-resources*). State libraries, such as the CA State Library, provide information on advocacy for worksite health and safety, and how to return to work safely. The CDC also provides information that may be helpful (though not specific to libraries). Please see [CDC Returning to Work](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/returning-to-work.html) (*https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/returning-to-work.html*); and [CDC Workplaces and Businesses](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/workplaces-businesses/index.html) (*https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/workplaces-businesses/index.html*) Local public health departments may be a good source of information specific to your library location. Please email us at [NNLM@uw.edu](mailto:NNLM@uw.edu) if you have specific questions on this topic.

## Will the slides and the recording of this town hall be available, and how do we access them?

Yes, email [nnlm@uw.edu](mailto:nnlm@uw.edu) for slides, and you can view the [Town Hall recording on YouTube](Town%20Hall%20recording%20on%20YouTube) (*https://youtu.be/A0cZJr97skY*)