

CTSA Program Updates: Sunsetting of the Common Metrics Initiative in Summer 2022

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To: CTSA Program Principal Investigators (PIs) and CTSA Program Administrators

Subject: CTSA Program Updates: Sunsetting of the Common Metrics Initiative in Summer 2022

Dear Colleagues:

The Common Metrics Initiative has been transformative in creating a culture across the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program of using data to leverage change and sharing unique approaches and best practices to enhance metrics. The Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration (CLIC) has been crucial for the use of mixed quantitative and qualitative methods and collaborative activities to share information among the consortium members on how to enhance CTSA Program impact via the use of certain metrics. NCATS acknowledges and appreciates the efforts that CLIC has contributed to this Initiative.

With the current CLIC grant ending in the summer of 2022, the support of the Common Metrics Initiative also will sunset. Over the next year, CLIC will present the last set of aggregate Common Metrics data (presentation scheduled for the January 2022 CTSA Program webinar), finalize the update of the Informatics Metric, launch the Insights to Inspire webinar and blog series on the Informatics and Careers Metrics and, most important, communicate the successes of the initiative through publications.

New CTSA Program collaborative activities related to metrics will be supported through [PAR-21-203](#): **Limited Competition: Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Consortium-Wide Centers: Resources for Rapid Demonstration and Dissemination (U24 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)**. Topic areas that would be supported with this opportunity for applications submitted by the June 21, 2021, receipt date were **Health Informatics** and **Demonstrating Research Impact: Leveraging innovative approaches to assess, quantify, and communicate research impact for large networks** ([NOT-TR-21-025](#)).

Furthermore, with the release of the new CTSA Program UM1 funding opportunity announcement ([PAR-21-293](#)), hubs are expected to have a strong Continuous Quality Improvement program, which is an ongoing cycle of collecting data and using it to make decisions that gradually improve program processes. This is described in the Strategic Management Module of [PAR-21-293](#). All Common Metrics materials developed over the last five years and currently available on the CLIC website will be transitioned to the CTSA Program Operations Contract for reference and use.

The Common Metrics Initiative has been a truly enlightening and educational experience for NCATS and the entire CTSA Program community. The rest of the NIH community is quite interested in lessons learned from the Common Metrics Initiative and continues to view the CTSA Program as a testbed for future innovations.

As the completion of the CLIC grant in June 2022 approaches, please rest assured that NCATS and CLIC are working together to develop a communication and transition plan to ensure that seamless support continues for the CTSA Program Steering Committee, CTSA Program Steering Committee Task Forces, Working Groups, Enterprise Committees, Consortium Groups (Administrators, Communicators, KL2 PI/Directors, TL1 PI/Directors), Evaluators Group, Discussion Forums, CTSA Program Annual Meeting, small meeting support, listservs, newsletter, communications, manuscript support, website and existing content (inclusive of the Education Clearing House), surveys and the CTSA Program monthly

webinar. The plan is to continue the support of these activities through a CTSA Program Operations Contract mechanism. (For more information, please refer to the [description of the contract concept](#) and the January 2021 NCATS Advisory Council [meeting minutes](#) and accompanying [Webex recording](#).)

As we embark on a new chapter in the CTSA Program, as well as emerge into a post-COVID era, we appreciate that CTSA Program hubs are regarded as major drivers of innovation across the biomedical research enterprise.

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