This FOA aims to fund the development or expansion of longitudinal cohorts of hepatitis B and C patients in care to enhance public health knowledge of the effectiveness, cost, benefits, and adverse effects of evolving antiviral therapies and clinical treatments for HBV and HCV on the US population. The longer-term goal of this project will be to use the results of analyses of data from the cohort for public health planning, informing policy decisions and for clinical management of chronic hepatitis B and C virus infections. Applicant organizations must provide a research plan that details the design, implementation and evaluation of a population-based cohort study that includes population groups disproportionately affected by hepatitis B infection and hepatitis C infection. The research plan should include an enrollment strategy that can achieve minimum target populations of 2,000 chronic hepatitis B patients and a minimum of 5,000 chronic hepatitis C patients, aged 18 years or older, and also address the following objectives:

- Determine the differences in access and uptake of antiviral therapy for HBV and HCV;
- Determine the extent of health burden and mortality from chronic hepatitis B and C virus infection;
- Describe the spectrum and natural history of disease associated with chronic hepatitis B and C virus infection;
- Describe the characteristics of persons in care for chronic hepatitis B and C virus infection;
- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of recommended chronic viral hepatitis screening and care practices;
- Explore and describe real-world barriers to testing, referral for specialist care and antiviral treatment;
• Understand the types of therapies and treatments in use, the benefits and risks associated with therapy and treatment, and factors influencing outcome of therapy and treatment for chronic hepatitis B and C virus infection.

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION
Only one application per institution (normally identified by having a unique DUNS number) is allowed.

KEY DATES

If you are interested in this funding opportunity, please send a one-page summary of the proposed research and your biosketch to Eric Boberg (e-boberg@northwestern.edu) by February 1, 2016.

The sponsor application due date is March 15, 2016.

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES
The Office of Research Development offers assistance in identifying and facilitating collaborations, putting together interdisciplinary teams, programmatic and administrative development of large, cross-school proposals, and leveraging institutional resources for outreach and education. Contact Fruma Yehiely (yehiely@northwestern.edu), Associate Vice President for Research, for more information.

CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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Limited Submissions web site:
http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/