

NCRN 2.0: Next Steps for the Non-degree Credentials Research Network

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1. Membership Update
2. Microgrant RFP
3. Research Briefs
4. Meetings
5. Project Staffing
6. Communications





Membership Update

- 190 combined researchers and stakeholders!
- Growth in stakeholders has been particularly impressive
- Strong engagement in both groups
- Always looking to increase diversity in our membership



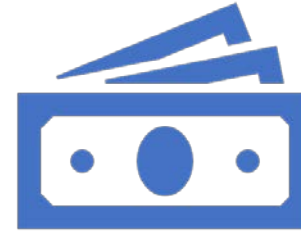
Request for Proposals



Microgrant priorities

Help NCRN members without institutional resources

Encourage research that aligns with emerging questions/themes



Sample requests

Purchase data

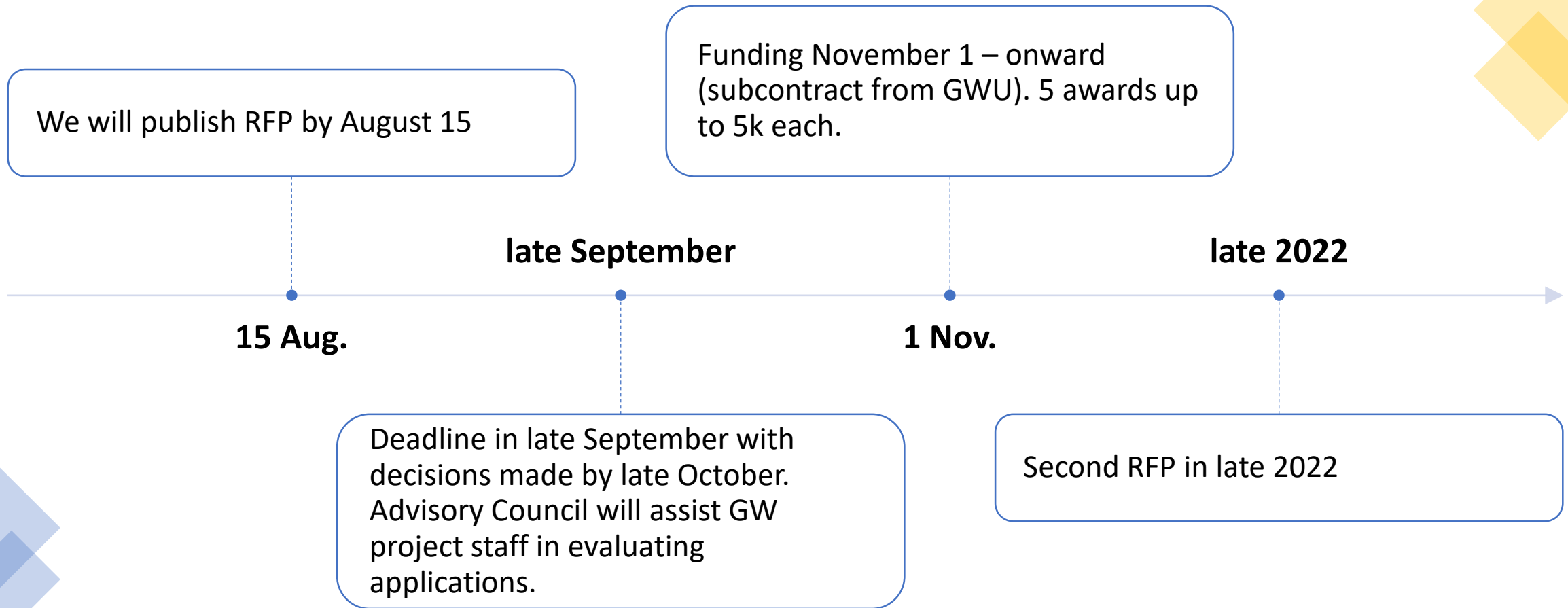
Technology/software needs

Fund travel for data collection

Costs associated with publication/dissemination


Research assistance (e.g., work study)

Microgrant Application and Review





Research Briefs

- Focus will align with meeting themes
 - Members will be able to propose specific topics
 - Program intended to support early-career scholars
 - Follow timeframe for microgrant RFPs
 - Advisory Council will consult on selection
 - Limited research support may be available from NCRN postdoc & staff
 - We will help promote via Workforce Monitor, website/blog
 - 5 briefs @ 10k per brief
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Sample Research Brief Questions

How does the regulation of NDCs differ between the U.S. and other countries? What can we learn from other nations with respect to quality assurance/improvement?

What fields of study and credential types tend to be characterized by low quality?
How can adult learners, especially adult students of color, best avoid low-quality credentials?

What are the motivations of credential issuers launching new non-degree credentials?

How do states vary in their efforts to connect job seekers to data on quality credentials?

How portable are employment-aligned credentials beyond local or regional labor markets?

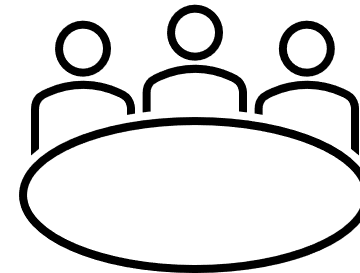
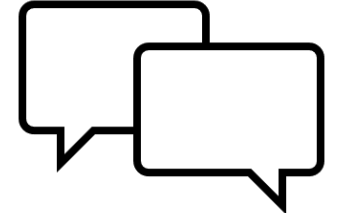
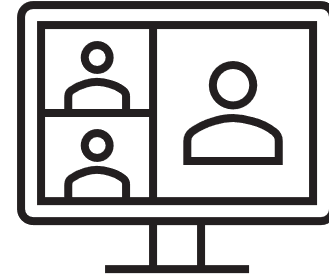
Other research questions generated by our members!

Meetings

3 themed day-long, in-person meetings

Policy and stakeholder summary event day before or after each meeting

20 total webinars over two years



Next In-Person Meeting



GWU taking an exceptionally cautious approach to reopening



Institutional and intellectual risks associated with not returning to in-person format



We may explore off-campus meeting locations



Target dates: November - January



Please contact us now with presentation ideas within equity theme

Project Staffing

- Kyle Albert: Principal investigator (PI), network manager
- Steve Crawford: Speaker recruitment, meeting planning, research strategy
- Holly Zanville: Speaker recruitment, communication strategy
- Jontae Burton: Communications and administrative support
- Postdoctoral Associate: **We are hiring! Please contact us ASAP if you, or a colleague, may be interested in working with us this fall.**

Communications

- Significant budget for PR and communications
- Awards program to highlight quality work
- International outreach planned
- Working on overhaul of website
- Plan to upgrade email list, stakeholder communications
- Partnership with *Workforce Monitor*

