Health disparities among minority and underserved women

Purpose of the Program Announcement-04-153
- Stimulate research aimed at reducing health care disparities among underserved women.
- Initiate intervention studies that show promise for addressing the health profile of underserved women.

Definition of underserved women
"Medically underserved populations are defined as populations that have inadequate access to, or reduced utilization of high quality health care. Included are low literacy, rural and low-income populations, including older minority women, geographically isolated women…"

Healthy People 2010 Leading Health Indicators
- Physical activity
- Overweight and obesity
- Tobacco use
- Substance abuse
- Responsible sexual behavior
- Injury and violence

Objectives of the PA
- Interventions that include an array of factors such as: Physiological, social, economic, demographic, emotional, environmental, cultural, and genetic factors.
- Interventions designed to reduce risk factors and exposures that lead to development of one or more of the leading health indicators selected for this NIH grant: substance abuse, specifically methamphetamine abuse.
- Unique and gender sensitive interventions that promote health enhancing behaviors.
- Innovative interventions that target prevention or cessation of tobacco use, substance abuse and injury and violence simultaneously.

Mechanisms of support
- This PA will use the NIH R21 award mechanism: R21-1: supporting scientific ideas or new model systems, tools or technologies that have the potential to significantly advance our knowledge or the status of health-related research.

Purpose of the PA-03-126
Behavioral Therapies Development Program
"...to encourage research on the development, refinement and testing of behavioral and integrative (combined or integrated behavioral and pharmacological and/or complementary/alternative) treatments, for methamphetamine abuse and dependence." 

Stage I of Behavioral Therapy Research
- Early therapy development, involves research on the development, refinement, and pilot testing of behavioral interventions.

Research Objectives Include:
Developing, modifying, refining, and improving behavioral and integrative treatments for: methamphetamine abuse and dependence; new populations (e.g., women, adolescents, and special populations) of methamphetamine abusers; modifying or refining behavioral treatments to make them more "community-friendly" (e.g., more accessible, less costly, less intensive, easier to administer, etc) but similarly or even more potent.

Areas of interest for treatment:
- Therapies to treat abuse or addiction to understudied drugs including, but not limited to, marijuana, methamphetamine, MDMA and other club drugs...
- Behavioral therapies in group settings.
- Therapies that address the unique needs and perspectives of women, minorities, families...

Best practices as reported in the PA:
"Behavioral therapies are frequently the only treatments available to drug-dependent individuals. Where even medications are available, behavioral therapies can be an integral component of treatment, and may enhance adherence to medications. In addition, behavioral treatments may be an important alternative for those unable to take medication."

Stage I area of interest:
"Group therapies are the most commonly used approach in the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse and dependence...Behavioral dynamics and modeling of group sessions and evaluation of its effectiveness with subtypes of alcoholics or drug addicts in diverse treatment setting need to be investigated."