



Call for Team Applications 2024 SIRC Cup

Introduction

The Society for Implementation Research Collaboration (SIRC) is dedicated to facilitating communication and collaboration between implementation researchers, implementation practitioners (e.g., intermediaries, community providers, policymakers), and other partners invested in the implementation of evidence-based interventions. SIRC recognizes that scientific advances are frequently due to teams of individuals working together. In this spirit, **SIRC is excited to announce a friendly team-based competition** that will culminate in a special presentation session and new award at the 2024 SIRC Conference. The *2024 SIRC Cup* has been developed as part of the SIRC Practitioner Network Special Series, *Contending with the Implementation Research-Practice Gap*. The competition draws inspiration from the Society for Prevention Research's *Sloboda and Bukoski SPR Cup*.

The 2024 SIRC Cup is an opportunity for a unique experience that brings together people with varied professional identities and stages of career development. Participants will have the opportunity to collaborate on teams with a mixed membership of researchers, practitioners, and trainees (i.e., students, post-baccalaureate staff, and post-docs). Each team will develop a proposal to respond to a community-based implementation scenario, framed through a case study shared across all participating teams. Teams will develop the components of an integrated implementation and evaluation plan responsive to the presenting needs and context of the case study. Finalist teams will present their work to each other, a panel of judges, and the SIRC membership during the 2024 SIRC Conference. **Winners will receive a 1-year SIRC membership for 2025 and the honor of hoisting the SIRC Cup!**

How the 2024 SIRC Cup Will Work

At least one representative from each team must attend the 2024 SIRC Conference in Denver, CO, to present on behalf of their team.

During May and early June, each team will develop a 2-page proposal of their integrated implementation and evaluation plan based on the case study. Components of the proposal related to implementation practice should reflect cutting edge implementation practice thinking, approaches, and strategies. Community implementation strategies along with support strategies that would be used by the participating team to ensure the success of community partners must be included. Components of the proposal related to evaluation must integrate rigorous evaluation methods that are feasible within the context described in the case study and have the potential to generate new insights that can advance implementation research. Teams are encouraged to incorporate recent implementation science literature when deciding on their practice and evaluation approaches. Proposals will be due on **Friday, June 14th**.

Up to four teams will be chosen as finalists based on their proposals. Finalists will have the opportunity to develop their proposals more fully, culminating in a 15-minute pitch to a panelist of judges and audience members during an invited lunch session at the SIRC conference. A panel of judges and the audience at the session will rate the quality of the proposals and the pitch itself. The highest-scoring team will be recognized and awarded the 2024 SIRC Cup during the SIRC Awards Ceremony.

Teams

Teams should include at least three and no more than five team members. Each team must include at least one member active within the implementation practice space, at least one member - but no more than two - active in the implementation research space, and at least one trainee (students, post-baccalaureate staff, and post-docs). Teams cannot consist of members who are all based at the same institution or organization. Though encouraged, team members do not have to be current members of SIRC. Winners will, however, receive a 1-year SIRC membership for 2025!

Case Study

An implementation practice- and research-informed case study has been developed by the 2024 SIRC Cup Co-Chairs. The case study, involving a community coalition aiming to support all children, youth, and families in fictional Oak County, will be distributed to participating teams following the team registration period.

Criteria

Presentations will be judged on seven criteria:

- 1) Innovation of the overall approach
- 2) Integration of implementation (including implementation support) and evaluation components
- 3) Potential for the contribution of new knowledge to the field
- 4) Responsiveness to presenting needs and context in the case study, including attention to health equity
- 5) Quality of the pitch
- 6) Quality of responses to judge/audience questions
- 7) Connection with the SIRC annual meeting theme, *Strategic Synergy: Implementation Research, Practice, and Policy for Impact*.

Application and Acceptance Process

Step 1. Submit Team Application and Verify Eligibility

- To apply, one person from each team should complete [this Google Form](#)
- In the form, you will be asked to provide each team member's name, email address, current position, primary institutional affiliation, and primary professional identification (i.e., active practitioner, active researcher, trainee). You will also be asked to specify a team name and designate a team captain, who will be the primary corresponding member for communication with the 2024 SIRC Cup Co-Chairs.

Applications are due by **Friday, April 26th**. Teams who complete the application form in Step 1 will be informed by email on or before **Friday, May 3rd** regarding their eligibility to continue in the competition.

Step 2. Develop Proposal

- Teams have until the end of the day **Friday, June 14th** to submit their 2-page proposal. Proposals will be assessed on:

- explicit description and integration of:
 - community implementation strategies,
 - implementation support strategies,
 - evaluation approach;
- responsiveness to the presenting needs and context within the case study, including attention to health equity; and
- attention to current implementation science literature and approaches.

Step 3. Present at SIRC

- Finalists will be notified of their acceptance by the **week of July 15th**. A maximum of four teams will be accepted to present during the SIRC conference, and the other teams may be offered the opportunity to present their work as a poster during the conference, should sufficient space be available.

Questions can be sent to:

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