REACH 2.0 Scholar: Application Instructions and Information

Program Year 2027-2028

This guide provides detailed information about the **REACH 2.0 Program** and is intended to assist you in completing your application. It includes important details about eligibility, program benefits, and required materials. Before applying, please review this guide for eligibility requirements and application instructions to make sure your application is complete and meets the necessary criteria. Questions? contact the REACH team at reach2program@acaam.org or visit our website at reach2program.org.

REACH 2.0 Program Overview:

The **REACH 2.0 program** provides mentorship and leadership development to medical students, residents, and fellows in **Addiction Medicine (AM)** and **Addiction Psychiatry (AP)**.

Mission

REACH 2.0 develops the next generation of addiction leaders through immersive training and mentorship, equipping the REACH community to improve the care of individuals facing the greatest barriers.

Goals

1.To develop participants' knowledge and skills in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals affected by substance use and learn to navigate the complex systemic barriers patients encounter to care access and retention.

2.To increase the overall number of addiction specialists equipped to deliver patient-centered care across various communities, care settings, and patterns of healthcare engagement.

3. To improve the quality, consistency, and effectiveness of substance use prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through demonstrated changes in clinical practice.

Program Timeline:

- **Application Deadline:** November 13, 2026; 5:00 PM CST
- **Application Review:** November 20, 2026 – January 25, 2027
- **Scholar Selection Announcement:** January 29, 2027 – February 9, 2027
- **Program Period:** July 2027- June 2028

- **Welcome Intensive Workshop (In-Person):** July 22, 2027- July 25, 2027 (travel stipend provided), location: Albuquerque, NM

The **REACH 2.0 Program** is an immersive training experience for medical students, resident, and fellows from backgrounds that represent the various patients they serve and are interested in becoming leaders in addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry. Funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) for a total of 5 years, REACH 2.0 provides training and mentorship to 20 Scholars and 20 Near Peers every year.

Each year is known as a separate cohort. Scholars in yearly cohorts are paired with both a REACH 2.0 Senior Mentor and a Near Peer Mentor. The Senior Mentor, with many years of experience in Addiction Medicine (AM) or Addiction Psychiatry (AP), plays a conventional mentorship role. The Near Peer Mentor is a physician who has previously participated in the REACH Program or a similar mentorship program and is slightly further along in their academic or professional journey than the REACH 2.0 Scholar.

Both the Near Peer and Senior Mentor provide guidance, support, coaching, sponsorship, and mentorship, each bringing their unique experiences. Near Peer mentors offer a relatable perspective, having more recently navigated similar challenges and experiences. These relationships foster collaboration, shared learning, and mutual encouragement, creating an environment that is both accessible and inspiring for the scholar.

Primary Investigators/Collaborators

REACH 2.0 Program is offered by a consortium made up of the following:

The American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (FKA American Board of Addiction Medicine)

Carly Reisner, Program Director

Johnine Bennett, Program Manager

Daryl Shorter, MD, Director of Mentorship, TBD

Ayana Jordan, MD, PhD, Medical Director, New York University Grossman School of Medicine

Jeanette Tetrault, MD, Associate Medical Director, Yale School of Medicine

Eligibility:

All applicants interested in the REACH 2.0 Program must have the following criteria:

- Individuals committed to improving care access and retention for populations facing the greatest barriers to treatment.
- In training medical student, resident, or fellow as of July 1, 2027 and enrolled through June 2028
- A U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Willing to **commit** to:
    - Attend and actively participate in 2 virtual webinars per month .
    - Attend the 4- day in person Welcome Intensive Workshop in July 2027 (travel stipend provided).
    - Attend at least one professional conference related to substance use disorder (SUD) during the program year (funding provided via stipend).
    - Commit to meeting with your assigned Near Peer and Senior Mentor at least once every 3 months (4 times a year each).
    - Submit quarterly reports on program/project activities.
    - Participate in program evaluation activities (including pre- and post-training surveys, mid-year/exit surveys, and qualitative interviews). All responses are confidential and only used for program improvement and dissemination. For reporting purposes responses are provided in aggregate.
    - Complete a Scholarly Project and present on the project.

Scholars will receive the following benefits:

- Intensive mentoring from a Near Peer and a Senior Mentor, plus connection to a nationwide network of addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry practitioners committed to caring for individuals with SUD and advancing change within healthcare systems.
- Increased knowledge and skills related to clinical care and leadership in the treatment of individuals with substance use disorder.

- Up to $40,000 annual stipend and travel reimbursement for approved travel (stipends provided through a SAMSHA grant to eligible participants)

Application Instructions

1. Before You Apply

- Confirm You Meet Eligibility Requirements: Before applying, please make sure you meet all eligibility requirements, as described in these guidelines. Applicants who do not meet these requirements will not qualify to participate in the program.

- Review the Application Guide : We encourage all applicants to review the Application Guide before beginning the application to ensure a smooth and informed submission process.

- Attend an Information Session: October 6, 2026 @ 7pm EST, there will be one live session, with a recording available on our website afterward for anyone who couldn't attend or wants to rewatch. Click Here Link to Watch Recording.

2. Completing Your Application

- Save Your Application Code**:** You may complete your application across multiple sessions. If you need to stop and finish later, click "Save & Return Later" a unique Return Code will appear on screen. Write it down and keep it in a safe place; you will need this code, along with the survey link emailed to you, to resume where you left off. If you forget or lose your code, do not start a new application — contact REACH staff at reach2program@acaam.org to retrieve it.

- Follow File Naming Requirements: Title all documents using the following format: Last Name_First Name_Document Title. For example: Johnson_Keisha_Statement of Participation. Please use this naming format for every document you upload with your application.

- Review Your Application: Before submitting, take a moment to review all your information to ensure everything is accurate and complete.

3. Submitting Your Application

- Submit Once Complete: Once you are satisfied with your application, click Submit to finalize your submission.

Application Attachments

The following materials must be complete and attached to your application:

1. **CV or Biosketch**
   Include a CV or biosketch that highlights relevant academic coursework, publications, clinical experiences, awards, or other accomplishments demonstrating your engagement with SUD care and system-level improvements.

2. **Two Letters of Recommendation**

   Include **two** letters of recommendation from a current or recent supervisor, peer collaborator, or interdisciplinary team member. The letters of recommendations must include a recommender to speak to the applicant's clinical skills, commitment to serving vulnerable groups, and/or experience providing substance use disorder (SUD) services. Note we may reach out to your recommender via email to verify the letter of recommendation or ask additional questions.

3. **Statement of Participation**

   A Statement of Participation must be submitted by your Program Director, Fellowship Director, or Dean of Students. This letter must come from the designated official (Program Director, Fellowship Director, or Dean of Students) at the institution with which you will be affiliated as of the program's start date, July 1, 2027. The letter confirms permission for the applicant to fully participate in all program components, including the Welcome Intensive Workshop, check-in meetings, health and wellness sessions, monthly webinars, and evaluations.
   If you won't know your placement by the November 13 deadline, you can submit a placeholder statement instead of a Statement of Participation. Copy and paste the text below, add your name and the programs you've applied to, then sign and date it. Upload it in the application portal in place of the Statement of Participation.

   > *I, [Full Name], understand that a Statement of Participation from my Program Director, Fellowship Director, or Dean of Students is required for full acceptance into the REACH 2.0 Program as a Scholar. If I am selected, my acceptance will be provisional until the REACH 2.0 Program receives my Statement of Participation.*
   > **Programs I have applied to:**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

4. **Description of Intended Scholarly Project (must be a maximum of 1 page)**

   Include a proposal presenting a focused, well-considered Scholarly Project concept aimed at improving care for individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs), grounded in one or more of the following REACH 2.0 program goals:

   1. To develop participants' knowledge and skills in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals affected by substance use and learn to navigate the complex systemic barriers patients encounter to care access and retention.
   2. To increase the overall number of addiction specialists equipped to deliver patient-centered care across various communities, care settings, and patterns of healthcare engagement.
   3. To improve the quality, consistency, and effectiveness of substance use prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through demonstrated changes in clinical practice.

The table below outlines what your proposal should address:

Component	What to Address
Project Aim	What issue or challenge are you addressing? Why does this problem matter for patients with SUD? What is the gap in care, knowledge, or practice you are targeting?
Target Population	Who will benefit from your project? Describe the population, community, or clinical context, and the barriers to care this population faces.
Anticipated Impact	What change or outcome do you hope to achieve? How does your project connect to improving care quality, access, or consistency for individuals with SUD — and what are the broader implications for healthcare systems and the field of addiction medicine?
Preliminary Methodology	What data will you collect, or what intervention will you design? Your project may be research, educational intervention, or quality improvement (QI) focused. What resources, partners, or settings will you need? What are your early thoughts on feasibility and potential challenges?

<u>Application Questions</u>

The questions below are the essay questions you will encounter on the application. Each answer must be 3,000 characters or less.

1. How has your personal experience informed your decision to pursue a career in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry?
2. Describe your interest in becoming a REACH 2.0 Scholar and what you hope to achieve by participating in the program.
3. Describe your experience providing substance use disorder diagnosis, treatment, or prevention services for patients from vulnerable populations. If you do not have experience at this level of training, explain what you hope to learn.
4. Describe your career goals and how they align with the REACH 2.0 program's goals.