

REACH 2.0 Near Peer: 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 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
- **Near Peer Applicant 15-Minute Interview (Invitation Only):** November 30, 2026-January 22, 2027

-
- **Near Peer Selection Announcement:** January 29, 2027 – February 9, 2027
- **Program Period:** April 2027- May 2028
 - **Near Peer Training (In-Person):** 2-day Near Peer Training, April 4–5, 2027, in Minneapolis, MN, in conjunction with ASAM. Travel stipends are provided.
- **Monthly Webinars Begin:** May 2027
- **Matched with Scholar and Begin Regular Meetings:** July 2027

REACH 2.0 Program builds on the previous REACH model (2019 - 2025) by including a **Near Peer** component. The **Near Peer Model** is an innovative mentorship approach designed to bridge the gap between experienced mentors and mentees by incorporating individuals who are slightly more advanced in their careers as mentors. Individuals who are selected to participate as "**Near Peers**" share recent, relatable experiences, fostering a supportive environment and enhancing mentees' personal and professional development.

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 Director, Yale School of Medicine

Eligibility:

All applicants interested in the Near Peer Program must meet the following criteria:

- Medical degree (MD or DO)
- Subspecialty or practicing in Addiction Medicine, Addiction Psychiatry, or working primarily with populations with SUD
- Alumni of the REACH Program or similar mentoring program within that last 5 years

- Willing to **commit** to:
 - Attend the 2-day Near Peer Training, held April 4–5, 2027, in Minneapolis, MN, in conjunction with ASAM. Travel stipends are provided.
 - Commit to meeting with your Mentee virtually at least once per quarter.
 - Serve as the scholar's first line of support on their scholarly project — helping them think through timeline, milestones, and what local resources or connections might be needed.
 - Participate in monthly virtual Near Peer cohort meetings
 - Submit quarterly reports on program related 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. For reporting purposes responses are provided in aggregate.

Near Peers will receive the following benefits:

Building Mentoring and Leadership skills

Inspiration to the up-and-coming workforce of addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry practitioners

- Network with practitioners from around the U.S. caring for individuals with SUD.
- Up to \$17,000 annual stipend and travel reimbursement for Near Peer training (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 13, 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_Letter of Recommendation 1. 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

1. CV or Biosketch
2. Recommendation letter
 - Please include a brief letter of recommendation from a current or recent supervisor, peer collaborator, or interdisciplinary team member. The recommender should describe your skills and experiences that will support your success as a Near Peer Mentor. Please ensure that the letter is signed by your recommender and that you provide their email address in the application. Please note that the recommender will receive a confirmation email from the REACH team to validate their recommendation.

Application Questions

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

1. Please share with us why you want to be a Near Peer.
2. What is your view or philosophy on mentorship? Please discuss what you believe a good mentor possesses or describe a meaningful mentorship relationship you have had and what made it great.