REACH 2.0 Near Peer Program: Application Instructions and Information

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. Please review all sections carefully to ensure that your application is complete and meets the necessary criteria. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please refer to the **FAQ section** or contact the REACH team at REACH2.0@acaam.org.

Updated: March 31, 2025

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) or those intending to serve individuals with substance use disorder (SUD)**.

The primary goals of the program are to:

1. To increase the knowledge of mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) behavioral health professionals on issues related to prevention, treatment, and recovery support for vulnerable individuals with a mental health disorder or SUD.

2. To increase the overall number of culturally humble and responsive addiction specialists from backgrounds that represent the patients they serve in the AP and AM workforce for vulnerable populations.
3. To increase the number of culturally humble and responsive addiction specialists from backgrounds that represent the patients they serve in the AP and AM workforce who improve the quality of mental health and SUD prevention and treatment for vulnerable groups.

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. These **"Near Peers"** share recent, relatable experiences, fostering a supportive environment and enhancing mentees' personal and professional development. This model has been particularly effective in creating accessible, tailored mentorship connections while promoting inclusivity and the growth of diverse talent pipelines.

Primary Investigators/Collaborators

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

The American College of Addiction Medicine (fka American Board of Addiction Medicine)

- Carly Reisner, Executive Director
- Denisha Brown, Program Manager

Baylor School of Medicine
- Daryl Shorter, MD, Principal Investigator

New York University Grossman School of Medicine

- Ayana Jordan, MD, PhD, Principal Investigator

Yale School of Medicine

- Jeanette Tetrault, MD, Principal Investigator

Eligibility:

All applicants interested in the Near Program must have the following criteria:

- Medical degree (MD or DO)

- Subspeciality 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:
    - one-on-one virtual mentoring to one Scholar at least once per quarter
    - participate in monthly virtual cohort/network meetings
    - attend the Near Peer Training on April 24-25, 2025. (Travel stipends are provided)
    - Commit to virtually meeting with your Mentor at least once per quarter.

Near Peers will receive the following benefits:

- Mentoring from a career professional in Addiction Medicine or Addiction Psychiatry

- 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 while driving change within healthcare systems

- $17,000 annual stipend and travel reimbursement for approved travel (stipends provided through a SAMSHA grant to eligible participants)

Application Checklist/Attachments:

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

1. Complete Application Form (SurveyMonkey) including these four essay questions (each question must be 3000 characters or less): 3000 characters or less):

    - Please share with us why want to be a Near Peer Mentor?
    - How do you feel you can best contribute to the scholars in the REACH 2.0 program? What unique skills can you bring to this work?
    - What do you hope to gain from this experience?
    - Tell us the best part of your previous experience as a mentee.
2. CV/Biosketch

3. 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 Pl confirmation email from the REACH team to validate their recommendation.

Program Timeline:

- **Application Deadline:** April 30, 2025
- **Near Peer Candidate Interviews:** TBD
- **Program Start Date:** April 24, 2025
- **Mentor Matching:** April/May 2025
- **Near Peer Training:** April 24-25, 2025, located in Denver, Colorado (In-person, in conjunction with ASAM conference)

* **Please note** that potential interview dates and times are listed below. If invited for an interview, we kindly ask that you reserve 2-3 of the available time slots, as your flexibility will help us accommodate your schedule. Each interview will last approximately 30 minutes.

Interview dates and times: TBD