



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute awarded 5-year \$125 million multiple task order contract from Veterans Health Administration to develop systems engineering solutions

The Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute at Northeastern University has been awarded a 5-year \$125 million multiple task order contract from the Veterans Health Administration to develop systems engineering solutions and provide workforce development across the national VA healthcare system. Professor James Benneyan, PhD, HSyE executive director, will lead the award as principal investigator and senior scientist. A national expert in healthcare systems engineering, Benneyan previously served as senior systems engineer at Harvard Community Health Plan, principal investigator of the New England Veterans Engineering Resource Center, and on several Institute of Medicine and National Academy of Engineering committees to define the broader role the field can play in improving healthcare systems.

“We are very excited by this partnership. As the largest integrated healthcare system in the U.S., the VA is an ideal organization to demonstrate the significant value that systems engineering methods can have on improving patient care, population health, timely access, effective treatment, safety, and overall cost,” said Dr. Benneyan. These methods are used more extensively and for much greater impact in other complex industries to improve their efficiency, reliability, productivity, quality, waits and delays, and safety – national healthcare priorities identified by the Institute of Medicine. The award sets up a contractual mechanism by which Northeastern and a select number of other universities can rapidly respond to targeted proposal requests to help the VA address a variety of system improvement, optimization, re-design, and educational needs it currently has or may face in the future as it undergoes various changes and challenges. While projects under this award will focus on VA needs, developed solutions also may have broader value across other U.S. healthcare systems.

The VA provides care for nearly 9 million Veterans through over 1,500 care sites across the U.S. and five territories. The mission of the Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute is to broadly improve healthcare through the integration of research, application, and workforce development in systems engineering methods. The Institute houses four federally-awarded healthcare systems engineering and patient safety centers, two coop and summer fellowship programs, and a post-doctoral development program, with core funding from the National Science Foundation, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Institutes of Health, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and dozens of health system partners.

For further information, please contact Sarah Benson, Events and Communications Coordinator in Northeastern University’s Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute, at s.benson@neu.edu or visit www.hsye.org.

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