

**Title 21 Vacancy Announcement**

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**  
**Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**  
**Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)**  
**Office of Strategic Programs (OSP)**

**Application Period:** August 17, 2022, to September 5, 2022

**Area of Consideration:** United States Citizenship is required. You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration.

**Position:** Operations Research Analyst, DSAS

**Series:** AD-1515

**Location(s):** Silver Spring, MD

**Salary:**

\$74,950 (Band A)

\$89,834 (Band B)

\$106,823 (Band C)

**Work Schedule:** Full Time

**Cures Band(s):** Band A/B/C

**Full Performance Band Level:** Band C

**Travel Requirements:** 5% or less

**Bargaining Unit:** Non-Bargaining Unit

**Relocation Expenses Reimbursement:** You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

**This position is being filled under a stream-lined hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of this authority.**

**Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here:**

[\*\*21st Century Cures Act Information\*\*](#)

## Introduction

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the regulatory, scientific, public health and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco and radiation emitting devices are safe, and effective.

The mission of Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) is to perform an essential public health task by making sure that safe and effective drugs are available to improve the health of people in the United States. CDER regulates over the counter and prescription drugs, including biological therapeutics and generic drugs.

The mission of the Decision Support and Analysis Staff is to serve as coordinator and focal point for Center to facilitate the advancement, operationalization, and use of structured benefit-risk assessment into regulatory, including but not limited to associated with user fee programs and other Center-led initiatives. This position is located in the Decision Support and Analysis Staff (DSAS), Office of Program and Strategic Analysis (OPSA) with the Office of Strategic Programs (OSP).

## Duties/Responsibilities

As an **Operations Research Analyst**, the incumbent will serve as a decision science analyst and expert, providing consultative services to the Center to support development and application of decision science tools, methods and approaches to support, structure, and effectively communicate the Center's drug regulatory decision-making. At the full performance level, the incumbent conceptualizes, designs, and conducts analytical projects or consultative services utilizing facilitative approaches coupled with appropriate qualitative and quantitative decision analysis tools and methods.

### Band A:

- Assists in aspects of a larger assignment assigned to a higher graded Operations Research Analyst. Responsible for roles on smaller assignment applying standard procedures. Applies creativity and originality in tailoring the standard procedures for given assignments.
- Supports the development and delivery of communications by developing drafts, delivering, and/or presenting an assigned portion (i.e., technical reports, presentations, etc.) to effectively present project approach, status, findings, and implications to the immediate supervisor and project executive sponsors and other stakeholders as needed.

### Band B:

- Designs and conducts decision science analyses using the most appropriate qualitative or quantitative technique for the specific regulatory decision-making need, which may include but is not limited to benefit risk assessment, decision framing, expert elicitation, multi-criteria decision analysis, tradeoff techniques, risk analysis, statistical analyses, simulation modeling, behavioral decision research, and stakeholder engagement.
- Develops and delivers communications (i.e., technical reports, presentations, etc.) to effectively present project approach, status, findings, and implications to the immediate supervisor, the project executive sponsor, and other stakeholders as needed.

Band C:

- Prepares and guides others by developing protocols and materials and conducts stakeholder elicitations and facilitations, incorporating and following the principles of decision sciences (e.g., decision theory, behavioral decision research, and elicitation methods). Conceptualizes, develops, and conducts internal CDER-wide training on topics related to decision sciences.
- Designs, conducts, reviews drafts, and guides others on the team, as well as coordinates and leads projects providing subject matter expertise and authoritative advice for decision science analyses using the most appropriate methodology and qualitative or quantitative techniques for the specific regulatory decision-making need, which may include, but is not limited to: benefit risk assessment, decision framing, expert elicitation, multi-criteria decision analysis, tradeoff techniques, risk analysis, statistical analyses, simulation modeling, behavioral decision research, and stakeholder engagement.

Supervisory Responsibilities: None

### Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- Employment is subject to the successful completion of a background investigation, verification of qualifications, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required documents, and any other job-related requirement before or after appointment.
- Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this announcement.
- Direct Deposit: You will be required to have all federal salary payments electronically deposited into a bank account with a financial institution of your choice.
- FDA participates in e-Verify: All new hires must complete the I-9 form; this information will be processed through e-Verify to determine your employment eligibility. If a discrepancy arises, you must take affirmative steps to resolve the matter.
- Males born after December 31, 1959 must be registered with the Selective Service.
- One year supervisory probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation/Security Clearance is required. All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time.

## Qualifications

To be placed into a Cures position, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific, Technical, and Professional Fields
2. Qualified and Outstanding Candidates
  - a. **Qualified** applies to all candidates for Cures appointments. The FDA OTS will use the basic requirements defined in the [OPM Qualification Standards](#) as a baseline for comparing experience levels and other candidate attributes for relevant positions.
  - b. **Outstanding** candidates can be defined by existing outstanding work experience, outstanding performance rating, or both.

To qualify for this Title 21 Cures position, the candidate(s) must meet the following required qualifications. *Please note: Additional education and experience listed that is not indicated as required is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the "desired" criteria will not be excluded from consideration for this position.*

### **Education Requirement: Operations Research Series, AD-1515**

Degree: in operations research; or at least 24 semester hours in a combination of operations research, mathematics, probability, statistics, mathematical logic, science, or subject-matter courses requiring substantial competence in college-level mathematics or statistics. At least 3 of the 24 semester hours must have been in calculus.

Possess a graduate level or higher degree in a technical or scientific field from an accredited institution of higher learning. For more information please see: [OPM Occupational Series Qualification Requirements](#)

### Desired Professional Experience:

- Demonstrated ability applying some principles, concepts, tools, and methodology related to operations research, change management, operational improvements, value-stream analysis, and strategic analysis.
- Ability to facilitate groups ranging from small groups with few stakeholders to large groups with multiple different stakeholders with diverse viewpoints.
- Demonstrated ability in identifying and collecting relevant information for a targeted issue/problem including both qualitative and quantitative information with some exposure to gathering qualitative data via interviews and focus groups.
- Ability to work independently and also as a contributing, collaborative team member

## Education Transcripts

**SUBMITTING YOUR TRANSCRIPTS:** Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. A transcript is required to verify educational achievement. Pay careful attention to the Qualifications and Education sections to identify

vacancies where a transcript is required. Even if you hold a similar position or are a current FDA employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

**FOREIGN EDUCATION:** If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show that the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. For more information about this requirement, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).

## Security Clearance Requirements

Background Investigation/Security Clearance Requirements: Non-Sensitive/High Risk if not previously completed, a background security investigation will be required for all appointees. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements may be grounds for an appropriate personnel action. In addition, if hired, a background security investigation or supplemental investigation may be required later.

Applicants are also advised that all information concerning qualification is subject to investigation. False representation may be grounds for non-selection and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

## Vaccination Requirements

To ensure compliance with an applicable preliminary nationwide injunction, which may be supplemented, modified, or vacated, depending on the course of ongoing litigation, the Federal Government will take no action to implement or enforce the COVID-19 vaccination requirement pursuant to Executive Order 14043 on Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees. Therefore, to the extent a federal job announcement includes the requirement that applicants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 14043, that requirement does not currently apply. Federal agencies may request information regarding the vaccination status of selected applicants for the purposes of implementing other workplace safety protocols, such as protocols related to masking, physical distancing, testing, travel, and quarantine.

## Ethics Clearance Requirements

This position may require financial disclosure reporting and will be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation. If you are hired, you may be required to divest of certain financial interests. You are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting any job offers. For more information please visit the FDA Ethics web page: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

## **Equal Employment Opportunity**

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy the United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor. [Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) for federal employees & job applicants](#)

## **Reasonable Accommodation**

Reasonable Accommodation Policy Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Learn more about [disability employment and reasonable accommodations](#) or [how to contact an agency](#).

## **E-Verify**

The Food and Drug Administration participates in the USCIS Electronic Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-Verify). E-Verify helps employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

## **How to Apply**

Submit resume or curriculum vitae with cover letter by **September 5, 2022**, to:  
[Brad.Goins@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Brad.Goins@fda.hhs.gov). Candidate resumes may be shared with hiring official within CDER with a similar job vacancy. Candidates can opt out of this process by annotating resume with "do not share". **Please reference Job Reference ID: T-22-890-A**

## How I Will Be Evaluated

Candidates may be evaluated based on an interview, review of requested work samples, writing samples, most recent performance evaluation(s), professional references, results of an oral presentation or work-related test. Failure to comply with any of the additional assessment requirements will result in removal from further consideration.

## Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact [Brad.Goins@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Brad.Goins@fda.hhs.gov).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke free environment.

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