

Contraceptive service delivery: Capturing innovations responsive to COVID-19

Context

The public health crisis created by COVID-19 has disrupted and strained the healthcare delivery system. At this unprecedented moment, people still need contraceptive care. New clinical practices have been rapidly developed, implemented, and scaled in order to continue to meet these needs during the pandemic. Documenting and interrogating these innovations and their implications for patients, providers, service delivery sites, and systems of care is critical. Doing so holds the potential to create the strong evidence base needed to reduce barriers to contraceptive care now and in a future where COVID-19 is contained.

In an effort to spur research focused on the shifts in contraceptive service delivery associated with COVID-19, the Society of Family Planning Research Fund (SFPRF) is offering the Contraceptive service delivery: Capturing innovations responsive to COVID-19 request for proposals (RFP).

SFPRF invites proposals centered on the question of: “What can be learned from the shifts in service delivery responsive to COVID-19 that can advance the delivery of evidence-based clinical care now and in the future?”

Research focus

SFPRF invites proposals centered on the question of: “What can be learned from the shifts in service delivery responsive to COVID-19 that can advance the delivery of evidence-based clinical care now and in the future?”

SFPRF will prioritize funding rigorously designed projects investigating the safety, efficacy, acceptability, quality, and impact of innovative contraceptive service delivery models. Projects leveraging the “natural experiment” conditions created by COVID-19 (eg, widespread reliance on from-a-distance clinical protocols compared to in-person care delivery, variations in state, local, or institutional policies related to innovations in service delivery) are encouraged. Recognizing the importance of a timely response to the current landscape and the need for rapid learning, SFPRF will prioritize funding projects that are ready for immediate implementation. All proposed research must be positioned to generate empirical evidence with a clear and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, public policy, or health services delivery.

Funds and duration

SFPRF invites proposals for research studies with budgets from \$5,000 to \$25,000 that can be completed within one year of award. Data collection and analysis must be feasible to complete within 12 months of receiving the award. Investigators are encouraged to leverage existing infrastructure and research efforts, if possible. Investigators of funded projects will also receive access to a learning community facilitated by SFPRF.

Eligibility

This RFP is open to any individual working in a 501(c)(3) organization. Grants will be made to organizations on behalf of a named principal investigator (PI). Grants are limited, without exception, to tax-exempt organizations. Applicants do not need to be members of SFP.

Review process

All proposals will undergo rapid [peer review](#). The goal of peer review is to make recommendations for enhancing the research proposal and to identify the projects with the greatest potential impact. Funders will also be involved in the selection of grants; this ensures that the research funded through SFPRF is one of many strategic components working together to strengthen the family planning sector.

Proposal instructions

- 1. Online application form:** Includes contact and demographic information for the PI, as well as information about the PI's institution and those parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the project is funded.
- 2. Summary (250 words):** Provide a brief summary of the proposed project. This information may be used in SFPRF materials, such as our website, email list, and other educational and promotional purposes should the application be funded.
- 3. Proposal narrative (5 to 7 pages):** All proposals should include:
 - a. Background:** Describe the issue and justify how the proposed research project will generate data that will produce empirical evidence with a clear and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, public policy, or health services delivery now and in the future.
 - b. Research question(s):** Include the question(s) which will be answered through the proposed project.
 - c. Methods:** Describe the research methods that will be used to answer the research question(s) at hand.
 - d. Study population:** Describe the specific study population. The study population must align with the research question(s). Sample size should be based on power calculations or other appropriate methods as determined by the study approach; sample size should account for subgroup analyses as appropriate.
 - e. Timeline:** Describe the timeline for conducting research activities. Data collection and analysis must be feasible to complete within 12 months of receiving the award.
 - f. Use of research results:** Narrate the target audience(s) with whom you plan to share your research findings, the actions you would like them to take in response to your findings, and the desired outcomes. SFPRF will fund research that is attentive to partner engagement, robust dissemination activities, and the translation of knowledge into policy and practice.
 - g. Next phase of research:** Concisely forecast what results of the proposed study would necessitate additional research investment and what results would suggest further research is not needed. For a scenario where additional investment is needed, briefly describe what that investment might look like in terms of study design and potential significance.
 - h. Team composition:** Team composition will depend on the research question(s). SFPRF seeks multidisciplinary teams, including non-researcher stakeholders, as appropriate. Please briefly describe how individual members bring complementary and diverse skill sets and represent a range of backgrounds and perspectives.
 - i. References:** Works cited should be listed as an appendix to the proposal; reference page is not included in the 5 to 7 pages of the proposal narrative.

4. Budget (1 page): Studies should be \$25,000 or less. Direct project costs include personnel, research expenses (eg, equipment, supplies, travel, materials), activities related to use of research results, and other related costs. Indirect costs are permitted at no more than 20% of total direct costs. For subcontracts and sub-awards, the budget itself may include up to 20% indirect cost charges, but the subcontract total may not be included in the main budget when calculating the overall indirect cost charges. Budget documents should be included as an appendix and are not included in the 5 to 7 pages of the proposal narrative.

5. Biosketches or professional resumés of team members: NIH-style biosketches are encouraged for all established scientists. Professional resumés are encouraged for those whose careers have not focused on research. Team members can submit the format that works best for the individuals on the team, however, submitted biosketches or resumés should not exceed 10 pages in length. These documents must be included as an appendix and are not included in the 5 to 7 pages of the proposal narrative.

6. Agency/institution's federal 501(c)(3) status determination letter or proof of tax-exempt status: Must be included as an appendix and is not included in the 5 to 7 pages of the proposal narrative. Documentation should also be included for subcontracts with 501(c)(3) organizations that exceed 20% of the budget.

Required formatting: Font size must be at least 11 points and 1.5 line spacing must be used. Please upload as a single PDF file. All grant applications must be submitted electronically through the [online application portal](#).

SFPRF welcomes the opportunity to provide clarification around or assistance with any components of the application. Please contact Grants@SocietyFP.org.

Application submission opens on
May 13, 2020 and closes **June 9, 2020**.

Awards will be announced in early July and funds will be available for immediate use.

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