

Research grants for Complex Family Planning Fellows

Context

The Society of Family Planning is the academic home for subspecialists in Complex Family Planning (CFP). Fellows in CFP play an important role in family planning research as they emerge from the fellowship experience with subspecialty status. Subspecialists who continue as academic clinicians hold the potential to leverage the resources of academic medicine in service of family planning research primed for impact. Additionally, all subspecialists are uniquely positioned to advance the delivery of clinical care based on the best available evidence.

As one of its core strategies, the Society of Family Planning Research Fund (SFPRF) is seeking to build and support an inclusive, multidisciplinary, skilled, and well-connected community of emerging scholars with a shared focus on family planning. Providing early career research support to fellows in complex family planning is also an important step to actualizing this broader strategy. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to facilitate the establishment of academic research credentials in family planning via the development of an independent research portfolio. Concretely, this funding opportunity seeks to advance the field of Complex Family Planning by supporting CFP fellows in their clinical or translational research endeavors during fellowship. Grant deliverables include the completion of a publishable scholarly research project.

Research focus

SFPRF invites proposals centered on improving clinical effectiveness, safety, and quality of abortion and contraception care. Subspecialists have unique skills and qualifications to care for women with complex and chronic medical conditions and women in vulnerable and underserved populations. 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. SFPRF seeks to fund rigorous research primed for impact.

Projects that leverage the unique strengths of the academic medicine setting and of subspecialist researchers are strongly encouraged. When developing a research project, fellows should reference the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Thesis Preparation Guidelines for all ABOG Subspecialties and seek to align the proposed project with the resources and oversight available at the training site.

Eligibility

Grants will be made to organizations on behalf of a named Principal Investigator. A Principal Investigator need not be a current Society of Family Planning (SFP) member in order to apply. Grants are limited, without exception, to academic institutions with non-profit or tax-exempt status.

These grants are open to scholars who:

- Are a CFP fellow in good standing at a CFP fellowship program site;
- Are in their first year of CFP fellowship at the time of application; and
- Are proposing a research project related to abortion and contraception care based in the US

Funds

The maximum grant award is \$15,000. Grants will be made to organizations on behalf of a named Principal Investigator. Funds may be used to support expenses that are directly related to the research project (eg, statistical support, translation services, equipment, participant reimbursement, and travel directly associated with conducting research). No indirect costs are permitted for this award.

Additional costs beyond the need of the specific project are not permitted, nor are costs associated with dissemination (eg, conference travel to present findings, publication costs). Sample budgets are available for reference.

Duration

The award period is a maximum of 24 months, with the conclusion of the award period no later than June 30, 2022.

Submission

Projects are submitted via a two-step process. First, applicants submit a structured abstract for review. The structured abstract is a brief overview of the proposed research project, and provides an early opportunity to check for alignment between the proposed project and the purpose of the funding and to receive peer-review feedback. Second, applicants submit a proposal.

Key dates in the submission process are:

- September 1, 2020: Deadline for submitting structured abstracts.
- December 1, 2020: Deadline for submitting proposals.

Instruction for submission are as follows:

Structured abstract instructions

1. Online application form:

- a. Includes contact and demographic information of the fellow;
- b. Parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management

2. A brief summary (maximum 500 words) of the proposed project: This information may be used in our newsletter, website, and other educational and promotional purposes should the application be funded.

The summary should be in the form of a structured abstract and include:

- a. Background: Brief description of the overall context for the research issue proposed. Information provided should be relevant to the research question
- b. Objectives: Clearly stated specific research objectives, the hypothesis and the overall research question.
- c. Design and Methods: Description of the basic study design, including information about study groups, population of interest, measures, data collection and primary outcomes. Description of the data to be collected and what statistical procedures will be used in order to answer the hypothesis and research question.
- d. Potential impact: What are the expected impact and benefits of the research?
- e. References

Submission

Proposal Instructions

- 1. A brief summary (250 words) of the proposed project**, if changed from previously submitted. This information may be used in our newsletter, website, and other educational and promotional purposes should the application be funded.
- 2. Proposal narrative (10 pages):**
 - a.** Background: Describe the issue and justify how the proposed research project will contribute to clinical practice, public policy, or health services delivery related to abortion and contraception now and in the future.
 - b.** Research question(s): Include the clearly stated specific research objectives, the hypothesis, and the overall research question.
 - c.** Methods: Description of the basic study design, including information about data collection and primary outcomes. Description of the data to be collected and what statistical procedures will be used in order to answer the hypothesis and research question.
 - 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 by end of June 2022.
 - f.** Use of research results: Describe the intended 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.
 - g.** References: Works cited should be listed as an appendix to the proposal; reference page is not included in the 10 pages of the proposal narrative.
- 3. Budget (1 page):** Studies should be \$15,000 or less. Budget documents should be included as an appendix and are not included in the up to 10 pages of the proposal narrative.
- 4. Curriculum vitae (CV) or resume of applicant.**

Required formatting for both documents: 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.

Review process and criteria

Note that funding for this opportunity is not competitive; all eligible applicants with approved research projects will receive the award. In this context, the aim of the review process is threefold: to enhance the rigor of the proposed research project; to build fellows' capacity to incorporate peer-review feedback; and to prepare fellows to participate in the iterative development processes associated with the production of research primed for impact.

Structured abstracts and proposals will be reviewed by researchers who bring content expertise and have a vested interest in family planning research. Each structured abstract will be evaluated by two reviewers. Each proposal will be evaluated by the two reviewers who provided feedback on the structured abstract.

Reviewers will make recommendations for enhancing the rigor of the proposed research project as needed. Fellows are encouraged to work with Program Directors to integrate these recommendations into the proposal. Reviewer recommendations will not supersede the Program Directors' oversight of the research experience. Program Directors' are ultimately responsible for ensuring the fellows' research meets subspecialty requirements.

All awards are approved by the funder of this RFP.

Review criteria

Each application is assessed on the following review considerations. A copy of the review guide can be found [here](#).

- How does the research support the goal of advancing knowledge related to abortion and contraception? What is the need for this research/what gap will this work fill?
- Are the study design and proposed methods well suited to answer the research questions in a rigorous and scientifically sound way?
- Is the selection of participant characteristics (by age, location, race, and ethnic background, etc.) justified?
- Will the research participants be representative of the population of interest?
- Has the applicant identified the target audience and do they have a feasible plan for the dissemination of findings? Will the target audience use or benefit from the findings of this work in a meaningful way?