

2021 SFP NIH Navigation Cohort

Overview

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the nation's medical research agency and a critical source of funding for health-related science, including family planning. However, according to NIH RePORTER, of the over \$331 billion in NIH funding awarded between 2009 and 2018, only 0.3% was related to family planning.

Feedback from Society of Family Planning (SFP) members has highlighted our community's need for guidance navigating the NIH application process and mentorship from family planning researchers with success writing NIH proposals. To this end, we are offering the **2021 SFP NIH Navigation Cohort**, a proposal development program for SFP members actively developing an R or K award application focused on a family planning topic in the US. The goal of the program is to support SFP members to develop NIH proposals and to strengthen the important scientific exchange between family planning researchers and the NIH.

Program

This writing-intensive program, led by [Vanessa Dalton](#), [Cynthia Gomez](#), and [David Turok](#), is designed to help participants refine and enhance their proposals in a peer-review setting. The program is intended to complement participants' other sources of NIH support, such as institutional grant writing workshops, by providing participants with a unique opportunity to receive feedback on their proposals from subject matter experts.

Participants will take part in 17 sessions over a six-month period focused on key components of the NIH application. Participants will share drafts of sections of the application in advance of each session and then come together to receive critical feedback from peers and program leaders, with the expectation of submitting their final proposal for NIH funding consideration. The program will culminate in a mock review. The cohort will be capped at eight participants in order to maximize opportunities for feedback and dialogue.

We invite members to [express interest](#) in joining the SFP NIH Navigation Cohort by May 3, 2021.

Express interest in joining
by **May 3, 2021**

Eligibility and selection process

The program is open to individuals that:

- Are current SFP members;
- Are developing an R or K award application focused on a family planning topic in the US (including US territories); and
- Can commit to full participation in the program as detailed below:
 - Session 1: Introduction - June 2
 - Session 2: Navigating the institution - June 9
 - Session 3: Specific Aims - June 16
 - Session 4: Specific Aims - June 30
 - Session 5: Identifying mentors - July 7
 - Session 6: Biosketch - July 14
 - Session 7: Specific Aims - July 28
 - Session 8*: Career Development Activities - August 11
 - Session 9: Approach - August 25
 - Session 10*: Candidate Background and Career Goals - September 8
 - Session 11: Approach - September 22
 - Session 12: Significance and Innovation - October 6
 - Session 13: Letters of support, budget, dissemination plan - October 20
 - Session 14: Open topic - November 3
 - Session 15: Mock study section R awards - December 1
 - Session 16: Mock study section K awards - December 8
 - Session 17: Response to reviewer feedback - December 15

**Sessions only required for participants writing K awards*

All sessions will be held via Zoom from 4:00-6:00 pm ET.



Applicants will be selected by SFP staff, in consultation with program leaders, based on the following:

- Applicant's enthusiasm about participating in program;
- Applicant's potential to benefit from program;
- Potential of program to provide support that is distinct from other proposal development support available to applicant;
- Applicant's readiness to participate in program, including prior grant writing experience and having research ideas that are developed enough to allow for proposal writing during the program; and
- Applicant's readiness to lead the proposed project based on background and experience

In addition, as part of SFP's commitment to building and supporting an inclusive, multidisciplinary, and diverse community of family planning scholars, SFP is particularly interested in building a cohort that includes researchers who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), researchers from across the US, and researchers with diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

Questions? Contact Grants@SocietyFP.org