

Emerging Scholars in Family Planning

Purpose

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 graduate-level trainees is an important step to actualizing this strategy.

To this end, we are offering the Emerging Scholars in Family Planning grant. The grant may be used to support a publishable scholarly research project, including those associated with a thesis or dissertation. The proposed project activities should be completed within one year of award.

The goal of the Emerging Scholars in Family Planning grant is to cultivate the next generation of scholars by supporting their work and welcoming them into the family planning research community.

This grant is designed to help trainees establish a family planning research portfolio. Grant deliverables include the completion of a publishable scholarly research project, including those associated with a thesis or dissertation.

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, research organizations, and community-based organizations with nonprofit or tax-exempt status.

These grants are open to scholars who:

- at the time of award are enrolled in a degree program at the master's- or doctorate-level, or in clinical study as a medical student, nursing student, or resident;
- are proposing a research project on a family planning topic based in the US;
- and reside in the US.

Funds

The maximum grant award is \$7,500. Funds may be used to support expenses that are directly related to research (eg, statistical support, translation services, equipment, participant reimbursement, and travel directly associated with conducting research). Up to 20% of the requested award amount may be used as stipends to support time or to present findings at an academic conference. No indirect costs are permitted for this award. We encourage scholars to submit their work for presentation at a broad array of conferences.

In addition, grant recipients will receive the following:

Networking

Complimentary registration to attend the 2021 SFP virtual Annual Meeting, and registration, hotel, and travel to attend the 2022 SFP Annual Meeting. Complimentary membership to SFP for the years of the award period (2021-2022).

Mentorship

A \$3,000 stipend to support a mentorship contract (scope of work defined by the scholar) with a mentor from the SFP community matched to the scholar on the basis of the research topic and/or methods, as well as support from SFPRF staff to define this scope of work and administer the mentorship contract.

Career Development

Funding to cover processing fees associated with open-access publication, provided the work is published within two years of grant completion.

The award period is twelve months:

October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

However, funds will be available and the project may start as early as August 15, 2021 upon receipt of IRB approval and signed grant agreement.

Review of applications

Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of SFP members, mentors, representatives from partner organizations, past and current grant recipients, content experts, and others vested in supporting the next generation of family planning scholars. The number of awards and total amount of funding is dictated by the funder investment at the time of award.

Review criteria

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

Applicant (75%)

- Does the applicant demonstrate a commitment to family planning research?
- Does the applicant demonstrate the potential to benefit from the award?
- Does the applicant demonstrate the potential to contribute to an inclusive, multidisciplinary, and diverse community of family planning scholars?

Proposed research project (25%)

- 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 sample of 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?

Proposal instructions

Application components

1. **Online application form**: Includes contact and demographic information for the applicant, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the project is funded.
2. **Summary (250 words)**: Provide a summary of your educational and professional background, along with a short description of the research project for which you are seeking support. This information will be used in SFPRF's newsletter and website and for other educational and promotional purposes should the applicant be funded.
3. **Personal statement (2 pages)**: Outline your academic training and professional goals and why becoming an SFPRF Emerging Scholar is important to your professional development. Based on your background, life experience, and/or scholarship, describe how you see yourself contributing to an inclusive, multidisciplinary, and diverse community of family planning scholars now and in the future. SFP is particularly interested in building a cohort that includes researchers who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) researchers from across the US, and researchers with diverse disciplinary backgrounds.
4. **Proposal narrative (6 pages, not including timeline or citations)**: Must include project title, abstract (no more 250 words), specific aims, background and significance, and research design and methods (including study limitations and potential pitfalls and how they will be addressed). Describe your **theory of change**, including 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.
5. **Mentoring needs (1 page)**: Identify what type of mentoring support would be most beneficial to you taking into consideration your educational, professional, and personal growth. Consider skills, discipline, and content expertise when visioning a mentor. Information provided here will be used to match you with a mentor best suited to support you.
6. **Budget and justification (2 pages)**: A detailed budget is required along with a budget justification that describes how each item in the project budget relates to project activities. If the project has received additional funding, describe the source of any additional funds.
7. **Curriculum vitae (CV) or resume of applicant**
8. **Letter of recommendation (1 page, instructions on how to submit will be provided via the online submission portal)**: The should include information on the applicant's commitment to family planning research, potential to benefit from the award, and the applicant's ability to conduct the proposed research.

Required formatting: Font size must be at least 11 points, and 1.5 line spacing must be used. Please upload 3-7 as a single PDF file.

All grant applications must be submitted electronically through the online [Emerging Scholars 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
April 5, 2021 and closes **June 7, 2021**