

Changemakers in Family Planning

2021 Request for proposals

Purpose

Institutionalized racism, past and present, is a barrier to the full participation of people of color in science. This systematic maldistribution of resources, power, and opportunity negatively affects scholars of color who enter the academic sphere and the research produced. The science of family planning is no exception; the underrepresentation of people of color inhibits the generation of research on abortion and contraception.

As a core strategy, the Society of Family Planning Research Fund (SFPRF) is seeking to build and support an inclusive, multidisciplinary, skilled, and well-connected community with a shared focus on family planning. Underlying this strategy is the knowledge that the full participation of scholars of color is essential to pursuing the ambitious vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science.

A dedicated effort is needed to actively support scholars of color focused on abortion and contraception. To this end, we are offering the Changemakers in Family Planning grant, with the goal of responding to institutionalized racism in the science of family planning by providing dedicated support to scholars of color.



Award benefits

The aim of the Changemakers in Family Planning grant is to respond to institutionalized racism in the field of family planning by providing dedicated support for awardees to expand research skills and expertise. Awardees will have the opportunity to spend 18 months honing research skills and interests. Expected deliverables at the end of the award period are the development of a full proposal for future research and completion of career development activities. Awardees will not be expected to conduct original research as part of this grant; rather, awardees will be granted support related to research interests, skills development, mentorship, and networking. Specific support includes:

Research

Up to 20% salary support with a cap of \$40,000 per year (total cap of \$60,000 for the 18-month award period)* to develop a proposal for a pilot or small research project ready for submission to SFPRF or other funding agencies. Indirect costs are permitted up to 20% of the amount requested for salary support.

Up to \$10,000 to pay expenses directly related to participation in research skills development opportunities (eg, program fees, travel expenses).

Mentorship

\$6,000 to support mentorship contracts (scope of work defined by the mentee) with two mentors (\$3,000 each), one scholar-identified (background in family planning not required) and one matched to the scholar by SFPRF, as well as support from SFPRF staff to define these scopes of work and administer the mentorship contracts.

Networking

Complimentary membership to the Society of Family Planning (SFP) for two years during the award period (September 2021-2023).

Complimentary registration to the 2021 SFP Virtual Annual Meeting and registration, hotel, and travel to attend the 2022 SFP Annual Meeting.

Connections with the cohort of scholars who receive the grant this year, in addition to grantee-only activities designed to build connections within and across cohorts.

Private networking events designed to introduce scholars to leaders in the field and potential funding sources for future research.

**Scholars who already have protected time for career development are not eligible to receive an additional 20% of their time protected, but are eligible for all other aspects of the award.*

The award period is eighteen months:

September 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023

Eligibility

Grants are made to organizations on behalf of a named Principal Investigator. A Principal Investigator need not be a current SFP member in order to apply. Organizations receiving grants are limited, without exception, to nonprofit entities with tax-exempt status, such as academic institutions, research organizations, and community-based organizations.

These grants are open to scholars who*:

- self-identify as a person of color;
- have completed a terminal degree program** within ten years of submitting an application;
- have received less than \$250,000 to conduct family planning research as a Principal Investigator or have never served as a Principal Investigator for family planning research;
- reside in the US and plan to pursue a research career focused on US research (including territories of the US).

**Graduates who have received research training after their terminal degree (such as through a fellowship or post doc) are eligible to apply. However, they will need to clearly demonstrate how this particular award will provide new benefits that they have not previously received.*

***Scholars who are currently in training (eg, residency, post doc, fellowship) are not eligible.*

Review of applications

Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of members and partners of SFP who bring content and mentorship expertise, have a vested interest in family planning research, and who self-identify as people of color. The number of awards and total amount of funding is dictated by the funder investment at the time of award.



Review Criteria

All proposals that are eligible for the funding opportunity will be reviewed according to [the following criteria](#). Please keep these in mind as you prepare your application materials.

Applicant (40%)

- Does the applicant demonstrate commitment to and passion for family planning research?
- Does the applicant bring unique expertise, skills, and personal experience that would enrich the field of family planning research? SFPRF is particularly interested in applicants who are housed at institutions with limited track records of supporting family planning research, work in geographic areas underrepresented in SFP's current membership, and represent diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

Proposed body of research (30%)

- Does the applicant have a clear vision for the body of research they are seeking to develop?
- Is the applicant's proposed body of research aligned with the vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science?
- Is the applicant well-positioned to develop and lead the proposed body of research? Does the applicant present a clear and thoughtful career development plan that is aligned with the body of research they are seeking to develop?

Impact of award (30%)

- Considering the applicant's research career stage and previous or current career development support, will receipt of this award significantly impact the development of the applicant's research career?
- Does the applicant present a clear and thoughtful career development plan?



Application submission opens on
April 5, 2021 and closes **June 7, 2021**



Proposal instructions

1. Online application form:

Includes contact and demographic information for the PI, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the applicant is funded.

2. **Summary (250 words):**

Provide a brief summary of your educational and professional background, along with a short description of the body of research you are seeking to develop. This information may be used in our newsletter, website, and other educational and promotional purposes should the application be funded.

3. **Statement of research (3 pages):**

Describe the body of research you are seeking to develop, including the key questions and research methods you hope to explore. Explain the unique expertise, skills, and personal experience you bring to this area of research and to the SFP community. Share how this body of research and your leadership of it supports the vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science.

4. **Potential impact of award (1 page):**

Speak concretely and specifically to how this award will support your career development at this particular stage in your research trajectory and is distinct from previous or current career development support. Explain why becoming an SFPRF Changemaker in Family Planning is important to developing an independent research portfolio in family planning.

5. **Draft career development plan (1 page):**

Share initial ideas. This plan will be further developed post-award. Chart a path to your future success by addressing the following questions, sequentially narrowing down from big picture to specifics:

- a. What are your career goals related to leading an independent body of family planning research?
- b. What skills do you need to achieve these career goals and how will they help you progress to the next stage of your research career?
- c. What activities will you engage in to attain those skills?
- d. What past financial support focused on career development have you received? If you have received previous support, how, if at all, does this award differ and/or build upon previous award(s)?

Proposal instructions, continued

6. Mentoring needs (1 page):

First, describe your primary mentor (if you have one) and name the specific ways that individual supports your career development or you envision them supporting your career development. Please note that if it proves a challenge to identify an existing mentor, SFPRF is able to match you with a primary mentor. Second, identify what type of mentoring support would be most beneficial to you in a secondary mentor specializing in family planning and any specific mentors with whom you are interested in working. Consider skills, discipline, and content expertise when envisioning a mentor. Information provided here will be used to match you with a mentor best suited to support you.

7. Budget (1 page):

Provide a budget that details the cost of up to 20% salary support and any indirect costs. The budget cap is \$40,000 per year (total cap of \$60,000 for the 18-month award period). The total sum of salary support, indirect and fringe costs may not exceed this cap. Please note that costs associated with the career development opportunities described in the career development plan and stipends for mentors will be funded directly by SFPRF and will not be disbursed to the institution as part of the award.

8. Curriculum vitae of applicant (10 pages maximum)

9. Guaranteed protection of time form (1 page, instructions on how to submit will be provided via the online submission portal):

This form must be submitted by your employer or academic department to assure that up to 20% of your time will be protected for the entire period of the proposed award, if accepted.

10. Letter of recommendation (1 page, instructions on how to submit will be provided via the online submission portal):

The letter should describe the qualities and attributes of the applicant, including applicant's perseverance in pursuing goals, need for additional training and support, and potential to become an independent researcher and leader in the field. Additional information that may help the reviewers evaluate the merit of the applicant may also be provided.

Required formatting:

Font size must be at least 11 points, and 1.5 line spacing must be used. Please upload 3-8 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.

Note that this funding mechanism is complementary to existing SFPRF funding mechanisms. Specifically, eligible awardees of Emerging Scholars in Family Planning grants are strongly encouraged to apply to this RFP. Additionally, awardees of 2020 Changemakers in Family Planning grants are encouraged to apply for funding as part of future SFPRF funding mechanisms. A Principal Investigator need not be a current SFP member in order to apply.