

Contraceptive equity in telehealth

A partnership with Bayer Women's Health Care

2021 Request for proposals

Context

The public health crisis created by COVID-19 has both disrupted contraceptive service delivery and demonstrated that radical shifts in the delivery of care are possible. Telehealth has become a critical component of the US contraceptive service delivery landscape and is positioned as an enduring care modality with the potential to expand contraceptive access. However, little is known about how telehealth, as implemented at US health care institutions via specific policies, practices, and workflows, impacts peoples' contraceptive experiences. Further research is needed on how, telehealth, as implemented at the institutional level, supports or undermines the values of person-centered contraceptive care and equitable contraceptive access.

In an effort to generate this evidence, the Society of Family Planning Research Fund (the Society) is offering the [Contraceptive equity in telehealth: A partnership with Bayer Women's Health Care](#) request for proposals (RFP). This funding opportunity is open to board-certified obstetrician/gynecologists (Ob-Gyns) who are recent graduates of or current fellows at Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited complex family planning subspecialist training programs. The deadline for proposals is January 7, 2022. Awards will be announced in February 2022 and funds will be available for immediate use.



Research focus

The Society invites proposals focused on how, if at all, telehealth, as implemented at the institutional level, is positioned to support person-centered care and equitable access to contraception.

We invite proposals that generate new evidence related to the following questions:

- How does the implementation of telehealth at the institutional level impact contraceptive access?
- What institutional-level barriers do people experience accessing contraceptive care via telehealth?
- What institutional-level facilitators support people in accessing contraceptive care via telehealth?
- What institutional factors are associated with the provision of [person-centered](#) contraceptive care via telehealth?
- What institutional factors are associated with the provision of equitable contraceptive care via telehealth?

Central to this funding opportunity is the understanding that not all people have equitable access to contraception. People's social locations (eg, race, ethnicity, religion, social class, gender, age, health, geography) are powerful determinants of contraceptive access. As such, proposals must clearly articulate how equity is conceptualized within the context of the proposed research and specifically define and justify the population the research is focused on.

Proposed research must be positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, institutional policy, or health services delivery. Teams should be attentive to the Society's [diversity, equity, and inclusion vision statement](#) and should seek to uphold [equity-informed principles for contraceptive access research](#) throughout the research process.

Funds and duration

The Society invites proposals for research studies with budgets up to \$25,000 that can be completed within 18 months of award. We anticipate supporting five research projects via this funding opportunity. In addition to research funding, grantees will have access to funds to support the communication of research findings to target audiences, available upon request during the grant period.

Application submission opens on **November 3, 2021** and closes **January 7, 2022**. Awards will be announced in February 2022 and funds will be available for immediate use.

Eligibility

Grants will be made to organizations on behalf of a named principal investigator (PI). Grants are limited, without exception, to tax-exempt organizations.

PIs must be Ob-Gyns who are 1) graduates of complex family planning subspecialist training programs who have completed training in the last three years (those completing Fellowship in 2019, 2020, or 2021) or 2) current fellows at ACGME-accredited complex family planning sites. Applicants do not need to be members of the Society of Family Planning.

Funding is limited to projects focused on US institutions and populations.

Review process

All proposals will undergo peer review using [specific criteria](#). The goal of peer review is to make recommendations for enhancing the research proposal and to identify the projects with the greatest potential impact. The funder of this RFP may also be involved in the selection of grants; this helps ensure that the research funded through the Society is one of many strategic components working together to strengthen the family planning sector. All proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

Methods (45%)

The Society seeks to fund methodologically sound and rigorous projects with specifically defined study populations that are aligned with the research question(s).

Impact (25%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are positioned to generate empirical evidence with a clear and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, institutional policy, or health services delivery.

Equity (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are informed by the [equity principles](#) developed by the [Coalition to Expand Contraceptive Access](#).

Team (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects where the team composition is an asset to the project, including teams that bring together individuals with diverse skill sets, backgrounds, and perspectives. The Society also prioritizes study teams that leverage the expertise and skills of Black and Indigenous researchers and researchers of color.

Budget (5%)

The Society seeks to fund projects with budgets that are fully justified and appropriate in relation to the proposed project.

Timeline (5%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are feasible to complete within 18 months of receiving the award.

Proposal instructions

1. Online application form:

Includes contact and demographic information for the PI, as well as contact information for the institution and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the project is funded. Also includes the submission of a PI photo to be used in award announcements, promotions, and publications. Photographs will not be shared with application reviewers or used in any part of the decision-making process.

2. Summary (250 words):

Provide a brief summary of the proposed project. This information may be used in our newsletter, website, and other educational and promotional purposes should the application be funded.

3. Study team:

List key team members, including contact and demographic information.

4. Proposal narrative (7 to 9 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, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, institutional policy, or health services delivery now and in the future.
- b. **Research question(s):** Include the question(s) that will be answered through the proposed project. Describe how you are conceptualizing equity in your project and to which aspects of the contraceptive experience you are applying that framework.
- c. **Methods:** Describe the research methods that will be used to answer the research question(s) at hand and the study population. The study population must align with the research question(s) and be specifically defined and justified. 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.
- d. **Timeline:** Describe the timeline for conducting research activities. Data collection and analysis must be feasible to complete within 18 months of receiving the award.
- e. **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.
- f. **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.
- g. **Equity principles:** Describe your plans for upholding [equity-informed principles](#) throughout the research project.

Proposal instructions, continued

- h. **Team composition:** Team composition must be an asset to the project, including teams that bring together individuals with diverse skill sets, backgrounds, and perspectives relevant to the proposed project. Elaborate on the expertise and skills of the individuals composing your study team. Describe the positionality (eg, the social and political context that creates your identity in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability status) of the team and its effect on the proposed project's design, feasibility, and impact. Given the size of awards, the Society expects small teams and welcomes the naming of informal collaborators as well as those included in the study budget. Note that the Society prioritizes study teams that leverage the expertise and skills of Black and Indigenous researchers and researchers of color.
- i. **References:** Works cited should be listed as an appendix to the proposal; reference page is not included in the 7 to 9 pages of the proposal narrative.

5. Budget and budget narrative:

Studies should be \$25,000 or less. The budget narrative must provide sufficient detail to assess feasibility and suitability in the peer review process and must justify the relevance of requested resources to the project's success. Combining additional secured funds with requested funds for the proposed project is permissible, but additional funds must be named clearly in the budget, if applicable. Direct project costs include personnel, research expenses (eg, equipment, supplies, travel, materials), activities related to the 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 the 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 7 to 9 pages of the proposal narrative.

6. Study team:

NIH-style biosketches are encouraged for all established scientists. Professional resumes 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, each submitted biosketch or resume should not exceed 10 pages in length. These documents must be included as an appendix and are not included in the 7 to 9 pages of the proposal narrative.

7. Tax exempt status:

Proof of the agency/institution's tax-exempt status determination letter must be included as an appendix and is not included in the 7 to 9 pages of the proposal narrative. Documentation should also be included for subcontracts with tax-exempt organizations that exceed 20% of the budget. These documents must be included as an appendix and are not included in the 7 to 9 pages of the proposal narrative.



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](#).

The Society welcomes the opportunity to provide clarification around or assistance with any components of the application. Please contact [**Grants@SocietyFP.org**](mailto:Grants@SocietyFP.org).



This funding opportunity is made possible with the generous support of **Bayer Women's Health Care**.