

# Traveling to abortion care, post- *Dobbs*

## 2023 Request for proposals

### Purpose

Since the *Dobbs v Jackson’s Women’s Health Organization* ruling, abortion has been banned or severely restricted in many states. Anecdotal evidence, [geospatial analyses](#) of the abortion landscape, and [emerging research](#) suggests that traveling out of state for abortion care in the post- *Dobbs* period is a different experience, despite people navigating many of the same hardships as they did pre-*Dobbs*. In addition to it being necessary for some people to travel greater distances to obtain abortion care, a wide-variety of actors—healthcare providers, abortion funding and practical support organizations, state and city governments, and others—have changed the level and types of support available for people traveling out of state. Further, while not yet clarified by case law, the specter of legal risk for people seeking abortion care out of state looms.

In order to deepen our understanding of people’s experiences traveling out of state for abortion care, the Society of Family Planning is offering the *Traveling to abortion care, post-Dobbs* request for proposals. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to generate evidence that can be used to support people’s access to and experience of out-of-state abortion care in the post-*Dobbs* environment. The deadline for proposals is January 10, 2024 at 8:59 pm PT/11:59 pm ET. Awards will be announced in early 2024 and funds will be available for immediate use.

## Research focus

We invite research proposals that explore people's preferences for and experiences of traveling out of state for in-person abortion care in the post-*Dobbs* environment. For purposes of this funding opportunity, "in-person" abortion care is defined as any care (medication or procedural abortion) that requires physically entering a health care center.

Proposals addressing the following topics are of particular interest, although proposals addressing other topics are also welcome:

- How does social location shape people's experiences traveling out of state for abortion care?
- What are people's experiences interacting with abortion funding entities at the national and community levels, practical support organizations, and other structures that are in place to facilitate out-of-state travel?
- How do people make the decision to travel out of state or seek alternatives?
- How, if at all, do state laws influence people's decisions to seek care outside the state where they live?
- How, if at all, are those with complex health and/or social needs considering, seeking, or receiving abortion care outside the state where they live?
- How, if at all, are the needs for and limitations around sharing medical records shaping access to care?
- How, if at all, do challenges providing care for people out of state impact those seeking abortion care?

Central to this funding opportunity is the understanding that access to abortion is not equitable and people's social locations (eg, race, ethnicity, religion, social class, gender, age, health, and geography) shape their abortion experiences. As such, proposed research must specifically define and justify the population the research is focused on and bring attention to how social location shapes that population's experience around abortion. Additionally, we encourage research proposals that build on existing literature on people's experiences traveling to abortion care prior to the *Dobbs* ruling and explicitly outline how, if at all, geographical barriers, access to facilities, financial constraints, legal issues, stigmatization and privacy concerns, transportation and time stressors, and health concerns are hypothesized to be different in the post-*Dobbs* context.

Proposed research must be positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical care, public policy, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support people traveling out of state for in-person abortion care. Teams must be attentive to the Society's [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vision Statement](#) and how they can be part of bringing that vision to life in their work.

Application submission opens on

**October 18** and closes **January 10, 2024.**

Awards will be announced in early 2024 and funds will be available for immediate use.

## Funds and duration

We invite proposals for research studies with budgets up to \$250,000 (including direct and indirect costs) that can be completed within 18 months of award. Funding is also available to cover processing fees associated with two open-access publications, provided the work is published within two years of grant completion. We anticipate supporting up to seven research projects via this funding opportunity.

Given the relatively larger size of awards, we encourage teams to propose deep work on any given research question; consider the use of mixed methods, thoughtful partnerships with groups that are supporting access to abortion for people seeking care out of state, and/or robust qualitative work, as is aligned with the research questions.

## Eligibility

Grants will be made to organizations on behalf of a named principal investigator (PI). Grants are limited, without exception, to tax-exempt organizations. Applicants do not need to be members of the Society. Funding is limited to projects focused in the US.

## 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 these awards 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. For more information about the review process, please see the proposal review guide: <https://bit.ly/t2crg>.

### Methods (40%)

The Society seeks to fund methodologically sound and rigorous projects.

### Impact (30%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are positioned to generate empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical care, public policy, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support people traveling out of state for in-person abortion care.

### Study population (15%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that focus on study populations that are aligned with the proposed research questions.

### Team (15%)

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 elevate the expertise and skills of Black and Indigenous researchers and researchers of color.

*Additional review considerations (not scored)*

Reviewers are also asked to provide feedback on the reasonableness of the proposed budget and period of support; however, these factors are not scored.

## Proposal instructions

### 1. Online application form:

Includes contact and demographic information for the PI, up to two key team members, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the project is funded

### 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. Proposal narrative (8 to 10 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 care, public policy, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support people traveling out of state for in-person abortion care.

**b. Research question(s):** Include the question(s) that will be answered through the proposed project.

**c. Methods:** Describe the research methods that will be used to answer the research question(s) at hand.

**d. Study population:** Describe the specific 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.

**e. Timeline:** Describe the timeline for conducting research activities. Data collection and analysis must be feasible to complete within 18 months of receiving the award.

**f. 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.

**g. 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. Note that the Society prioritizes study teams that elevate the expertise and skills of Black and Indigenous researchers and researchers of color.

**h. References:** Works cited should be listed as an appendix to the proposal; reference page is not included in the 8 to 10 pages of the proposal narrative.

#### 4. Budget and budget narrative:

Studies should be \$250,000 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. Additional secured or requested funds for the proposed project must be named, if applicable. Direct project costs include personnel, research expenses (eg, equipment, supplies, travel, materials), activities related to use of research results, and other related costs. Indirect costs are permitted at no more than 20% of total direct costs and must be included under the \$250,000 award maximum. 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 8 to 10 pages of the proposal narrative.

#### 5. Team information:

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 8 to 10 pages of the proposal narrative.

#### 6. Agency/institution's federal 501(c)(3) status determination letter or proof of 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 8 to 10 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 8 to 10 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).

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