

# Documenting the safety and efficacy of medication abortion provision by nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants

## 2024 Request for proposals

### Purpose

Nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs), and physician assistants (PAs) are a critical cadre of clinicians providing abortion care. As a result of [decades-long efforts](#) to secure abortion care within their scope of practice, NPs, CNMs, and PAs drive the provision of medication abortion in many settings. However, recent [attacks](#) on medication abortion aim to curtail this well-established practice.

Most studies documented in the peer-reviewed literature have focused on the safety and efficacy of procedural abortion provision by NPs, CNMs, and PAs. Despite decades of clinical records, the widespread practice of medication abortion provision by NPs, CNMs, and PAs has continued without specific documentation in the literature.

To support the continued participation of all qualified clinicians in the provision of medication abortion care, the Society of Family Planning is offering the *Documenting the safety and efficacy of medication abortion provision by nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants* funding opportunity. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to generate evidence that documents the safety and efficacy of medication abortion care provided by these clinicians.



## Research focus

We invite research proposals that leverage existing records to document the safety and efficacy of medication abortion provided by NPs, CNMs, and/or PAs. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, proposed studies must focus on medication abortion using mifepristone and misoprostol. Proposed projects must use existing data (eg, medical, quality management, and/or human resources records) to retrospectively describe this care. If applicable and feasible, the proposed study should stratify results by clinician type (ie, NPs, CNMs, and/or PAs).

Given the evidence already in hand, studies on the general safety and efficacy of medication abortion or on the provision of procedural abortion by NPs, CNMs, and PAs are outside the scope of this funding opportunity. Proposed research must be positioned to produce empirical evidence that can be cited by a court or legislative or regulatory body. 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.

## Funds and duration

We invite proposals for research studies with budgets up to \$50,000 that can be completed within 12 months of award. We anticipate supporting up to four research projects via this funding opportunity. Funding is also available to cover processing fees associated with one open-access publication, provided the work is published within two years of grant completion.

## 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 on medication abortion provision in the US.

Application submission opens on

**May 1, 2024 and closes July 1, 2024**



## 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/3JvO4SO): <https://bit.ly/3JvO4SO>

### Methods (70%)

The Society seeks to fund methodologically sound and rigorous projects.

### Team (20%)

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.

### Impact (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are positioned to produce empirical evidence that can be cited by a court or legislative or regulatory body.

### 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 applicant is funded. The [application form is linked here](#), and on page 6.

### 2. Summary (250 words):

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

### 3. Proposal narrative (7-9 pages):

All proposals should include:

**Background:** Describe the issue and justify how the proposed research project will generate data that will produce empirical evidence that can be cited by a court or legislative or regulatory body.

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

**Methods:** Describe the research methods that will be used to answer the research question(s) at hand, with attention to: how safety and efficacy will be defined and measured, the number and types of records that will be examined, the time period spanned by the proposed data, and, if applicable, how covariates (eg, years of provider practice, volume of patients treated) will be defined and measured. The rationale for the proposed sample size must be justified and proposed subgroup analyses (eg, type of clinician), if applicable, must be clearly named. Please also describe and justify the proposed study site(s) and populations served.

**Timeline:** Describe the timeline for conducting research activities. Data collection and analysis must be feasible to complete within 12 months of receiving the award.

**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 how 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 has shaped 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.

**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.

**References:** Works cited should be listed as an appendix to the proposal; reference page is not included in the 7-9 pages of the proposal narrative.



## Proposal instructions (continued)

### 4. Budget and budget narrative:

Studies should be \$50,000 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 \$50,000 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 7-9 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 7-9 pages of the proposal narrative.

### 6. 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 7-9 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 7-9 pages of the proposal narrative.



## Required formatting


Please use a font size that is at least 11 points and 1.5 line spacing. Upload all materials as a single PDF file. All proposals must be submitted electronically through the [online application portal](#).

## Submission deadline

The deadline for proposals is **July 1, 2024 at 8:59 pm PT/11:59 pm ET**. Awards will be announced in late August 2024 and funds will be available for immediate use.

## Questions

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 an anonymous foundation.