

Understanding people's experiences with remote provision of medication abortion

2024 Request for proposals

Purpose

Remote provision of medication abortion¹ – a safe and effective method of abortion care – rapidly expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued to grow in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision and the introduction of shield laws. Today, [20% of all abortions](#) in the US are provided remotely via a wide range of service delivery structures.

In order to deepen our understanding of people's experiences with this model of care in the current context and ensure that their experiences are centered, the Society of Family Planning is offering the *Understanding people's experiences with remote provision of medication abortion* funding opportunity. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to generate evidence that can be used to support the provision and delivery of person-centered abortion care.

¹ Also commonly referred to as telemedicine, telemed, telehealth, and TMAB, among other terms. For purposes of this funding opportunity, we refer to these terms collectively as the remote provision of medication abortion.

The deadline for proposals is January 15 at 8:59 pm PT/11:59 pm ET. Awards will be announced in March 2025 and funds will be available for immediate use.



Research focus

We invite research proposals focused on understanding the experiences of people who have accessed medication abortion remotely in the current healthcare landscape; for purposes of this funding opportunity, this is defined as the remote dispensing of mifepristone and/or misoprostol by a health professional functioning within their licensed scope of practice. Proposals are welcome to explore questions related but not limited to:

- How do people's experiences align with their expectations, needs, preferences, and/or values?
- How does social location shape people's experiences, with specific attention to racial and ethnic identity?
- How does cost shape people's experiences?
- How do state and/or federal policies shape people's experiences?
- How do different service delivery modalities shape people's experiences?

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 with abortion. Further, given the range of ways in which medication abortion can be delivered remotely (eg, synchronous or asynchronous communication, hybrid or direct-to-patient models, level of clinician interaction, process for receiving medications, management of follow up care), proposals must bring specificity to the service delivery structure(s) included in their research. Finally, cost of care and relevant state and/or federal policies must be explicitly addressed even if not the focus of the proposal.

Proposed research must be positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support person-centered abortion care. Teams must be attentive to the Society's [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vision Statement](#) throughout the research process. If proposed research uses data related to race and racism, projects must name and analyze the pathways through which structural racism affects people's care experiences and be attentive to [recommendations](#) for working with these data.

Please note that projects exploring remote provision of medication abortion from the perspective of hypothetical abortion seekers, clinicians, or institutions will not be supported via this funding opportunity. Further, due to the [evidence](#) already in hand, studies on safety and efficacy will not be supported.



Funds and duration

We invite proposals for research studies with budgets up to \$500,000 that can be completed within 24 months of award. Please note that we seek to fund studies with a range of budgets within the budget maximum: concretely, we anticipate supporting up to three projects with larger budgets (eg, up to \$500,000) and up to six projects with smaller budgets (eg, up to \$100,000), such as pilot studies, secondary data analysis, or qualitative studies.

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. During the award period, the Society will provide grantees with technical assistance around data security and risk mitigation.

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 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 eligible 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/3TKIPE): <https://bit.ly/3TKIPE>

Application submission opens on

October 10, 2024 and closes **January 15, 2024**



Review process (continued)

Methods (30%)

The Society seeks to fund methodologically sound and rigorous projects.

Relevance (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects focused on the experiences of people who have received medication abortion via remote dispensing in the current healthcare landscape.

Impact (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support person-centered abortion care.

Study population (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that include a clear justification for a specific population focus and a thoughtful explanation of how social location shapes that population's experience with abortion care.

Service delivery structure (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that bring specificity to the range of ways in which medication abortion can be delivered remotely.

Feasibility (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that have thoughtfully addressed the feasibility of the proposed project.

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

Budget (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects up to \$500,000 that are feasible to complete within 24 months of receiving the award.

Proposal instructions

1. Online application form:

Includes contact and demographic information for the PI, and contact information for the institution, study team, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the project is funded. The [application form is linked here](#), and on page 7.

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 (8-10 pages):

All proposals should include:

Background: Describe the issue and justify how the proposed research project will produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support person-centered abortion care.

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).

Study population: Describe the specific study population. The study population must align with the research question(s) and be specifically defined and justified with attention to how social location shapes that population's experience with abortion care. 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.

Service delivery structure: Describe with precision the range of ways in which medication abortion can be delivered remotely in your project, with specific attention to clinical workflows and how they might shape people's experiences of care. If applicable, describe how remote provision of medication abortion will be defined in your study.

Feasibility: Discuss the feasibility of the proposed research and the strategies you will use to facilitate recruitment.

Timeline: Describe the timeline for conducting research activities. Data collection and analysis must be feasible to complete within 24 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

Proposal instructions (continued)

(eg, the social and political context that creates your identity in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability status) of the team shapes the proposed project's design, feasibility, and impact. Please refer to these [recommendations](#) for information about positionality. 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 8-10 pages of the proposal narrative

4. Budget and budget narrative:

The budget maximum for this award is \$500,000. 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. 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 8-10 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 8-10 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 8-10 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 8-10 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 January 15, 2025 at 8:59 pm PT/11:59 pm ET. Awards will be announced in March 2025 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.



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