

Emerging Scholars in Family Planning

2025 Request for proposals

Purpose

As one of its core strategies, the Society of Family Planning seeks to convene a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and multidisciplinary community of all engaged in the science of abortion and contraception. Providing early-career research support to graduate-level trainees is an important step to actualize this strategy. To this end, we are offering the Emerging Scholars in Family Planning grant. The grant may be used to support a publishable scholarly research project, including those associated with a thesis or dissertation. The goal of the Emerging Scholars in Family Planning grant is to cultivate the next generation of scholars by supporting their work and welcoming them into the family planning research community.

This grant is designed to help trainees establish a family planning research portfolio. The grant deliverable is the completion of a publishable scholarly research project, including those associated with a thesis or dissertation.



Eligibility

Grants will be made to organizations on behalf of a named Principal Investigator (PI). A PI need not be a current Society member in order to apply. Grants are limited, without exception, to tax-exempt organizations.

These grants are open to scholars who:

- at the time of award are enrolled in a degree program at the master's- or doctorate-level, or in a clinical training program as a medical student, nursing student, or resident;
- are proposing a research project on a family planning topic based in the US; and
- reside in the US.

Funds and duration

The maximum grant award is \$7,500. Funds may be used to support expenses that are directly related to research (eg, statistical support, translation services, equipment, participant reimbursement, and travel directly associated with conducting research). Up to 20% of the requested award amount may be used as stipends to support time or to present findings at an academic conference. No indirect costs are permitted for this award. We encourage scholars to submit their work for presentation at a broad array of conferences.

The duration of the award period is 12 months. Funds will be available for immediate use, contingent on receipt of a signed award agreement and documentation of IRB approval or exemption for project activities.

Additional benefits

Networking

Complimentary registration, hotel, and travel to attend the 2025 and 2026 SFP Annual Meetings. Complimentary membership to the Society for the duration of the award period (2025-2026).

Mentorship

A \$3,000 stipend to support a mentorship contract (scope of work defined by the scholar) with a mentor from the Society community matched to the scholar on the basis of the research topic and/or methods, as well as support from Society staff to define this scope of work and administer the mentorship contract.

Career development

Funding to cover processing fees associated with one open-access publication, provided the work is published within two years of grant completion.

Application submission opens on

January 17, 2025 and closes May 20, 2025.

Review of applications

Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of Society members, mentors, representatives from partner organizations, past and current grant recipients, content experts, and others vested in supporting the next generation of family planning scholars. We anticipate supporting up to fifteen grantees via this funding opportunity.

Review criteria

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/ES25rev): <https://bit.ly/ES25rev>

Applicant (75%)

- Does the applicant demonstrate a commitment to family planning research?
- Does the applicant demonstrate the potential to benefit from the award?
- Does the applicant demonstrate the potential to contribute to a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and multidisciplinary community of family planning scholars?

Research project (25%)

- How does the research support the goal of advancing knowledge related to abortion and contraception? What is the need for this research/why is it important?
- Are the research questions aligned with the scope and purpose of the project?
- Are the proposed methods appropriate to answer the research questions in a rigorous and scientifically sound way?
- Is the study population well-justified and appropriate to answer the research questions?
- Has the applicant identified the target audience and do they have a feasible plan for the dissemination of findings? Will the target audience use or benefit from the findings of this work in a meaningful way?
- Does the applicant reflect thoughtfully on their positionality (eg, the social and political context that creates a person's identity in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability status) and its effect on the proposed project's design, feasibility, and impact?

Proposed research must be positioned to [generate empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes](#) in clinical practice, public policy, or health services delivery. Applicants should 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.



Proposal instructions

1. Online application form:

Includes contact and demographic information for the applicant, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the project is funded. The application form is linked [here](#), and on page 5.

2. Summary (250 words):

Provide a summary of your educational and professional background, along with a short description of the research project for which you are seeking support. This information will be used in the Society's newsletter and website and for other educational and promotional purposes should the applicant be funded.

3. Personal statement (2 pages):

Outline your academic training and professional goals and why becoming an Emerging Scholar in Family Planning is important to your professional development. Based on your background, life experience, and/or scholarship, describe how you see yourself contributing to a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and multidisciplinary community of family planning scholars now and in the future. The Society is particularly interested in building a cohort that elevates the skills and expertise of researchers who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) researchers from across the US, and researchers with diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

4. Proposal narrative (6 pages, not including timeline or citations):

Must include project title, abstract (no more 250 words), research questions, background, methods (including study limitations and potential pitfalls and how they will be addressed), study population, and a proposed project timeline. 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. Describe your positionality (eg, the social and political context that creates your identity in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability status) and its effect on the proposed project's design, feasibility, and impact. Please refer to these [recommendations](#) for information about positionality.

5. Mentoring needs (1 page):

Identify what type of mentoring support would be most beneficial to you taking into consideration your educational, professional, and personal growth. Consider skills, discipline, lived experience, and content expertise when envisioning a mentor. Information provided here will be used to match you with a mentor best suited to support you.

6. Budget and justification (2 pages):

A detailed budget is required along with a budget justification that describes how each item in the project budget relates to project activities. 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.

7. Curriculum vitae or resume of applicant (10 pages maximum)

8. Letter of recommendation (1 page):

Should include information on the applicant's commitment to family planning research, potential to benefit from the award, and the applicant's ability to conduct the proposed research. The letter of recommendation will be used by reviewers, in combination with other components of the application, to assess these factors. Further, the letter also serves as an indicator of support for the applicant and their project from their institution or an outside mentor. Instructions on how to submit will be provided via the online application submission portal.

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 Emerging Scholars in Family Planning [application portal](#).

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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