

# Changemakers in Family Planning

## 2026 Request for proposals

### Purpose

Institutionalized racism, past and present, is a barrier to the full participation of people of color in science. This systematic maldistribution of resources, power, and opportunity negatively affects scholars of color who enter the academic sphere and the research produced. The science of family planning is no exception; the underrepresentation of people of color inhibits the generation of research on abortion and contraception.

As a core strategy, the Society of Family Planning is seeking to convene a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and multidisciplinary community of all engaged in the science of abortion and contraception. Underlying this strategy is the knowledge that the full participation of scholars of color is essential to pursuing the ambitious vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science. This knowledge is further echoed in the Society's [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vision statement](#).

A dedicated effort is needed to actively support scholars of color focused on abortion and contraception. To this end, we are offering the Changemakers in Family Planning grant, with the goal of responding to institutionalized racism in the science of family planning by providing dedicated support to scholars of color.



## Award benefits

The aim of the Changemakers in Family Planning grant is to respond to institutionalized racism in the field of family planning by providing dedicated support for awardees to expand research skills and expertise. Awardees will have the opportunity to spend 18 months honing research skills and interests. The expected deliverable at the end of the award period is the completion of career development activities. Awardees will not be expected to conduct original research as part of this grant; rather, awardees will be granted support related to research interests, skills development, mentorship, and networking. Specific support includes:

### Salary support and professional development

Salary support with a total cap of \$60,000 for the 18-month award period with the condition that protected time supported by the award must exceed 10% effort. Indirect costs are permitted up to 20% of the amount requested for salary support, but the sum of both salary support and indirect costs may not exceed the total cap of \$60,000 for the 18-month award period.

Up to \$10,000 to pay expenses directly related to participation in research skills development opportunities (eg, program fees, travel expenses).

### Mentorship

\$6,000 to support mentorship contracts (scope of work defined by the mentee) with two mentors (\$3,000 each), one scholar-identified (background in family planning not required) and one matched to the scholar by Society staff. In addition, Society staff will provide support to define these scopes of work and administer the mentorship contracts.

### Networking

- Complimentary membership to the Society for two years during the award period (September 2026-2028).
- Complimentary registration, hotel, and travel to attend the 2026 and 2027 SFP Annual Meetings.
- Connections with the cohort of scholars who receive the grant this year, in addition to grantee-only activities designed to build connections within and across cohorts.

The award period is eighteen months:  
**September 1, 2026 through March 1, 2028.**

## Eligibility

Grants are 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:

- self-identify as a person of color;
- have completed a terminal degree program within ten years of submitting an application\*;
- have never served as a PI for a family planning research project with a budget of \$250,000 or greater, or have never served as a PI for family planning research;
- reside in the US and plan to pursue a research career focused on US research (including territories of the US).

Scholars who are in training (eg, residency, post doc, fellowship) during the award period are not eligible to apply.

\*Given the interdisciplinary nature of the research community studying abortion and contraception and the different training pathways implicit in that, we offer the time since degree as a guideline rather than a rule. If you feel the spirit of the award aligns with your current career trajectory, and you are beyond this time period, please be in touch.

## Review of applications

Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of members and partners of the Society who bring content and mentorship expertise, have a vested interest in family planning research, and who self-identify as people of color. We anticipate supporting up to eight grantees via this funding opportunity.



## Review Criteria

All proposals that are eligible for the funding opportunity will be reviewed according to the following criteria. A summary of review feedback will be provided to applicants. For more information about the review process, please see the [proposal review guide](https://bit.ly/4jp9an8): <https://bit.ly/4jp9an8>.

### Proposed body of research (35%)

- Is the applicant's proposed body of research aligned with the vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science?
- Does the applicant have a clear vision for the body of research they are seeking to develop?

### Positionality (20%)

- Does the applicant thoughtfully reflect on how their race and ethnicity, and other relevant identities and lived experiences, influence the conceptualization, feasibility, and impact of their proposed body of research?

### Expertise (20%)

- Does the applicant have the necessary skills, background, perspectives, and/or lived experience to successfully carry out the proposed body of research?

### Career development plans (25%)

- Does the applicant present a clear and thoughtful career development plan that is aligned with the body of research they are seeking to develop?

Application submission opens on

January 13, 2026 **and closes** May 12, 2026



## Proposal instructions

### 1. Online application form:

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

### 2. Summary (250 words):

Provide a brief summary of your educational and professional background, along with a short description of the body of research you are seeking to develop. This information may be used in our newsletter, website, and other educational and promotional purposes should the application be funded.

### 3. Statement of research (4 pages):

All applications should include:

**Body of research:** Describe the body of research you are seeking to develop, including the key questions and research methods you hope to explore. Share how this body of research supports the vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science.

**Positionality:** Describe how your racial and ethnic identities, alongside other relevant identities and lived experiences, influence your proposed body of research. Explain how these identities and experiences shape the conceptualization, feasibility, and impact of your proposed body of research. Please refer to these [recommendations](#) for information about positionality.

**Expertise:** Describe your expertise, specifying the skills, backgrounds, perspectives, and/or lived experiences that you bring to the proposed body of research.

### 4. Draft career development plan (1 page):

Share initial ideas. This plan will be further developed post-award. Chart a path to your future success by addressing the following questions, sequentially narrowing down from big picture to specifics:

- What are your career goals related to leading an independent body of family planning research?
- What skills do you need to achieve these career goals and how will they help you progress to the next stage of your research career?
- What activities will you engage in to attain those skills?



## Proposal instructions, continued

### **5. Mentoring needs (1 page):**

First, describe your primary mentor (if you have one) and name the specific ways that individual supports your career development or you envision them supporting your career development. Please note that if it proves challenging to identify an existing mentor, the Society can match you with a primary mentor. Second, identify what type of mentoring support would be most beneficial to you in a secondary mentor specializing in family planning and any specific mentors with whom you are interested in working. 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 (1 page):**

Provide a budget that details the cost of salary support and any indirect costs. The budget total cap is \$60,000 for the 18-month award period. The total sum of salary support, indirect, and fringe costs may not exceed this cap. Please note that costs associated with the career development opportunities described in the career development plan and stipends for mentors will be funded directly by the Society and will not be disbursed to the institution as part of the award.

### **7. Curriculum vitae of applicant (10 pages maximum)**

### **8. Guaranteed protection of time form (1 page, instructions on how to submit will be provided via the online submission portal):**

This form must be submitted by your employer or academic department to assure that time will be protected for the period of the proposed award, if accepted.

### **9. Letter of recommendation (1 page, instructions on how to submit will be provided via the online submission portal):**

The letter of recommendation should speak to the applicant's skills, background, perspectives, and/or lived experience and readiness to lead their proposed body of research. It should also address any specific mentorship, resources, and protected time available to support the applicant's research and career development.



## 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 **May 12, 2026 at 8:59 pm PT/11:59 pm ET**. Awards will be announced in August.

## Questions

The Society welcomes the opportunity to clarify or assist with any application components. Please contact [Grants@SocietyFP.org](mailto:Grants@SocietyFP.org).

## Resources

The Society's [Research Practice Supports](#), which provide concrete and actionable recommendations to family planning researchers around challenging areas of research practice, are available as resources for applicants developing their proposals. Applicants are encouraged to review them if relevant to their topic or study design.

*Note that this funding mechanism is complementary to existing Society funding mechanisms. Applicants who have received other career development grants or supports from the Society are strongly encouraged to apply.*

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