

Emerging Scholars in Family Planning

2026 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.

Research focus

The Society invites research proposals focused on abortion and/or contraception in the US. Proposals must be positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, public policy, health services delivery, and/or other structures that advance just and equitable abortion and contraception. In addition, recognizing that institutionalized racism, both past and present, has hindered the full participation of people of color in science and medicine, the Society aims to support the full range of individuals advancing the science and medicine of abortion and contraception, in alignment with our [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vision](#). We actively seek to fund scholars who reflect on the relationship between their identities and lived experiences and the proposed project.



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. We anticipate supporting up to fifteen grantees via this funding opportunity.

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 2026 and 2027 SFP Annual Meetings. Complimentary membership to the Society for the duration of the award period (2026-2027).

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 13, 2026 and closes May 12, 2026.

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 proposals with the greatest potential impact. The funder of these awards may also be involved in the selection process, helping ensure that the research funded by the Society is one of many strategic components working together to strengthen the family planning sector.

Review criteria

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/49jr9Xc): <https://bit.ly/49jr9Xc>.

Research project (40%)

- Is the proposed project positioned to generate evidence that will lead to changes in clinical practice, public policy, health services delivery, and/or other structures that advance just and equitable abortion and contraception? What is the need for this research and why is it important?
- Are the research questions aligned with the project's scope and purpose?
- 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 disseminating the findings? Will the target audience use or benefit from the findings in a meaningful way?

Positionality (20%)

- Does the applicant thoughtfully reflect on how their race and ethnicity, and other relevant identities and lived experiences, influence the proposed project's design, feasibility, and impact?

Expertise (20%)

- Do the applicant's skills, background, perspectives, and/or lived experience provide a sound foundation for carrying out the proposed research while continuing their development as a trainee?

Future contributions (20%)

- Does the applicant articulate a compelling vision for their contributions to the field of abortion and contraception science, and how this funding opportunity is important to realizing that vision?



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 6.

2. Summary (250 words):

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

3. Proposal narrative (7 pages):

All proposals should include:

Background: Describe the issue and explain how the proposed research project will produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, public policy, health services delivery, and/or other structures that advance just and equitable abortion and contraception.

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.

Use of research results: Narrate the intended 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.

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

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

Expertise: Describe your expertise, specifying the skills, background, perspectives, and/or lived experience that you bring to the proposed research.

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

Proposal instructions (continued)

4. Future contributions (1 page):

Describe your long-term vision for your career contributions to the field of abortion and contraception research. Explain how this funding opportunity will support you in achieving that vision.

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):

The maximum grant award is \$7,500. A detailed budget is required along with a budget justification that describes how each item in the project budget relates to project activities. 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). No more than 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. The Society considers facilities and administrative costs (F&A) to be indirect costs, and these are prohibited from being budgeted as direct costs (including but not limited to: facilities costs, institutional insurance, IT or "network recharge fees"). 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):

The letter of recommendation should speak to the applicant's skills, background, perspectives, and/or lived experience and readiness to lead the proposed project. It should also address any specific mentorship or resources available to support the applicant's project and career development. Instructions for submitting will be provided via the online application portal.

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.



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 and funds will be available for use with proof of IRB approval or exemption.

Questions

The Society welcomes the opportunity to clarify or assist with any application components. Please contact 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.

This funding opportunity is made possible with the generous support of an anonymous foundation.