

Documenting the effectiveness, safety, and acceptability of ulipristal acetate and misoprostol for medication abortion

2026 Request for proposals

Purpose

[63% of all abortions](#) in the formal US healthcare system rely on medications to end a pregnancy, most commonly mifepristone and misoprostol, a regimen that an overwhelming body of research has found to be [safe and effective](#). However, ongoing legal, regulatory, and legislative activity—including *Louisiana v. FDA*—threatens to disrupt this care. As challenges to mifepristone access create volatility in the abortion care landscape, there is an urgent need to study alternative regimens to ensure the continued availability of medication abortion through diverse service delivery models, including telehealth. One such alternative regimen is medication abortion using ulipristal acetate (UPA) and misoprostol.

One such alternative regimen is medication abortion using UPA and misoprostol, which recent [proof-of-concept data](#) suggest is effective, safe, and acceptable. UPA, a selective progesterone receptor modulator with a chemical structure similar to mifepristone, is currently used globally for emergency contraception and uterine fibroids. Building on this early evidence, the Society of Family Planning is offering the *Documenting the effectiveness, safety, and acceptability of ulipristal acetate and misoprostol for medication abortion* funding opportunity, with the aim of generating data to support evidence-informed and person-centered medication abortion care.

The deadline for proposals is June 22, 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.



Research focus

The Society seeks to fund projects that evaluate the effectiveness, safety, and acceptability of UPA with misoprostol for medication abortion. We welcome a range of study designs, including both interventional and observational approaches, and a range of settings where medication abortion is dispensed (eg, telehealth, in-person clinic, and pharmacy). Proposals must provide specificity regarding the study design and setting, addressing the feasibility of data collection, the generalizability of findings, and how, if at all, existing state laws restricting medication abortion influence the study design.

Study teams must provide a detailed description of how they will define and measure effectiveness, safety, and acceptability, narrating alignment with standardized definitions (eg, MARE, STAR, PAIRS, FDA), and provide a clear rationale for the timing of assessing effectiveness to minimize measurement error. Proposals may include additional outcomes or data collection efforts, provided that these are feasible within the study's resources.

Study teams must give careful attention to enrollment and follow-up procedures, justifying the timing of follow-up and describing their approach to minimizing attrition. Recognizing that follow-up may present barriers to study participants, study teams must outline a remuneration plan that directly addresses and mitigates these challenges.

Proposals must be positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to influencing clinical practice, public policy, and/or health services delivery. 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 teams that reflect on the relationship between their identities and lived experiences and the proposed project.



Funds and duration

We invite proposals for research studies with budgets up to \$150,000 that can be completed within 12 months. We anticipate supporting up to two research projects via this funding opportunity. 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.

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 process, helping ensure that the research funded by the Society is one of many strategic components working together to strengthen the family planning sector.



Application submission opens on
May 12, 2026
and closes June 22, 2026



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/4njRdbF): <https://bit.ly/4njRdbF>

Study design (20%)

The Society seeks to fund projects with a methodologically sound and rigorous study design.

Setting (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects with a well-justified study setting that addresses the feasibility of data collection.

Outcomes (20%)

The Society seeks to fund projects with a well-justified plan for measuring effectiveness, safety, and acceptability.

Enrollment and follow-up procedures (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects with well-justified enrollment and follow-up procedures.

Participant remuneration (5%)

The Society seeks to fund projects with a thoughtful remuneration plan that addresses barriers to follow-up.

Impact (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to influencing clinical practice, public policy, and/or health services delivery.

Team positionality (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that demonstrate thoughtful reflection on how team members' race and ethnicity, and other relevant identities and lived experiences, influence the project.

Team expertise (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects led by teams with the necessary skills, backgrounds, perspectives, and/or lived experiences to successfully carry out the project.

Budget (5%)

The Society seeks to fund projects up to \$150,000 that can be completed within 12 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, as well as for other educational and promotional purposes, should the application be funded.

3. Proposal narrative (10-12 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, or health services delivery.

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), with attention to the requirements outlined in the “Research focus” section of this funding opportunity.

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 collection and analysis must be feasible to complete within 12 months of receiving the award.

Team positionality: Describe how team members’ 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.

Team expertise: Describe team members’ expertise, specifying their skills, backgrounds, perspectives, and/or lived experiences as they relate to the project.

References: Works cited should be listed as an appendix to the proposal; the reference page is not included in the 10-12 pages of the proposal narrative.

Proposal instructions (continued)

4. Budget and budget narrative:

The budget maximum for this award is \$150,000. The budget narrative must provide sufficient detail to assess feasibility and suitability during the peer review process and to justify the requested resources' relevance 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, participant incentives), activities related to the use of and dissemination of research results, and similar costs directly supporting research activities. Indirect costs are permitted at no more than 20% of the total direct costs. 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"). Indirect costs, whether requested as a flat percentage or not, may not exceed 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 10-12 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. These documents must be included as an appendix and are not included in the 10-12 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. Documentation should also be included for subcontracts with tax-exempt organizations that exceed 20% of the budget. These documents are not included in the 10-12 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 **June 22, 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.



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