



Policies for Action

Policy and Law Research to Build a Culture of Health

Grants FAQs

About the Policies for Action Program

What is the Policies for Action Program?

Policies for Action (P4A) is a research program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) administered through the national coordinating center (NCC) at Temple University's Center for Health Law, Policy and Practice at the Beasley School of Law. The program funds research identifying policies, laws, and other regulatory tools in the public and private sectors that can support RWJF's mission to build a Culture of Health.

The NCC will work in collaboration with Research Hubs at the New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, the University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and the Urban Institute. Together, the collaboration among the four institutions brings expertise and experience in conducting research that matters at the local, state, and national policy levels, and exemplifies our aim of integrating health research and expertise from beyond the health tradition.

Policies for Action seeks experts from many different fields, including health care, public health, early childhood development, education, transportation, housing, architectural design, built environments, economics, and beyond. We want to better understand how policies affecting these sectors also impact health.

Ultimately, Policies for Action will build the evidence base in three distinct areas: (1) impact of policies and law on health and equity, (2) health as a consideration and/or consequence for decision-making across all sectors and policies, and (3) the influence of the Culture of Health on policies and the policymaking process.

Visit the [About Us](#) page for more information.

What are the Policies for Action Research Hubs, and what is their role?

Along with funding investigator-initiated research, Policies for Action functions through collaboration with its three Research Hubs. The hubs, at the University of Michigan, New York University, and the Urban Institute, conduct research within specific issue areas, such as housing, transportation, and financing and provide strategic support for the program and its grantees. The hubs bring expertise and experience in conducting research that matters at the local, state, and national policy levels.

While collaboration is not required of applicants, they are encouraged to review the research projects funded at the hubs to avoid duplication, and to consider expanding upon that work.

More *detailed descriptions* of the hubs' work can be found on the Policies for Action website, but generally, the Research Hub at New York University, led by Sherry Glied, PhD, draws heavily on centers of expertise in housing and transportation. The Research Hub at the University of Michigan, led by Paula Lantz, PhD, MS, and Peter Jacobson, JD, MPH, brings together expertise in law, economics, health services research, political science, social demography and operations research, and decision science. The Research Hub at the Urban Institute, led by Lisa Dubay, PhD, and Laudan Aron, MA, focuses on housing and food sector policies, state fiscal and income-related policies, and health care policies.

What is the Culture of Health Action Framework?

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) envisions an America where we all strive together to build a Culture of Health—a culture that enables all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives now and for generations to come.

RWJF has developed an Action Framework to encompass the principles underlying the vision for a *Culture of Health*. This Action Framework will guide the Foundation's grant making and strategic collaborations as it calls for new norms and expectations, knowledge and capacities, and practices and behaviors. The Action Framework will require a commitment to equity and multi-cultural perspectives and force hard choices about how to allocate limited resources in new ways.

With the Action Framework as a compass, RWJF will work alongside others to develop, implement and advance efforts to raise the health of everyone to the level that our great nation deserves.

Visit the [What is a Culture of Health?](#) page for more information.

Funding and Areas of Interest

How much funding is available per grant?

Approximately \$1.5 million will be awarded through this Call for Proposals (CFP). Each grant will award up to \$250,000 for a maximum funding period of 24 months.

Are there specific questions or areas we should address in our proposal?

We encourage all applicants to review the recording of the *February 16 webinar*, and to review our *research priorities*, the *RWJF Action Framework*, as well as the *projects* we've funded through our Research Hubs.

Generally, research funded under this Call for Proposals (CFP) should inform the significant gaps in our knowledge regarding what policies—including those outside of the health and health care sectors—can serve as levers to improve population health, well-being, and equity.

Is there a specific interest in a certain jurisdictional level? For example, are studies that focus on the local level more favorable than national-level studies?

No. Studies looking at all levels of government are of interest.

Are we expected to use the Culture of Health Action Framework as metrics in our research?

No, but we encourage applicants to consider the Action Framework as a guide for understanding how their work may fit into the Foundation's initiative to build a Culture of Health. The Culture of Health Action Framework is drawn from rigorous research and analysis of the systematic problems holding back our country from a level of health it could achieve. It is intended to focus efforts and mobilize an integrated course of action.

Would RWJF be receptive to research that focuses on policies and outcomes in other countries?

Yes, provided those outcomes and policies could be relevant to building a Culture of Health in the United States.

May I submit a proposal that is also being considered for funding by other organizations (government funding agency, foundation, etc.)?

Yes, applicants may submit a proposal that is being considered by other organizations. If your proposal is selected by RWJF and other funding organizations you will be required to report this to RWJF and adjust or expand the activities and budget as appropriate so there is no duplication of funding. You are allowed to expand your project's scope of work with funding from other sources, as long as you complete the project that RWJF funded you to conduct.

Eligibility

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

Methods and designs include, but are not limited to natural experiments, randomized controlled trials, micro-simulation studies, and/or linkage and analysis of existing data sources on health and social service systems, along with targeted qualitative research approaches. Of particular interest are studies that exploit existing data sources, such as electronic health and social service records, other public records, restricted-access government data, social media data, and commercial transaction data or marketing data.

What types of data will be required for eligibility and grant deliverables?

Full proposals will be evaluated on factors including the strength of the proposed methodology; the appropriateness and availability of the proposed data sources; and whether the expected results or outcomes are clearly stated, measurable, and achievable within the allotted time frame.

What types of organizations are eligible to apply for funding?

Applicants must be either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code.

What kinds of investigators should apply?

We welcome applications from all investigators, and the following are especially encouraged to apply:

- Interdisciplinary or cross-sector research teams that include partnerships with the community.
- Investigators from a variety of areas and disciplines, including but not limited to architecture, business, community planning, data scientists, economics, epidemiology, health policy, medicine, public health, social work, sociology, urban planning, and system engineers.
- First-time applicants to RWJF.

Consistent with RWJF values, Policies for Action embraces diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions, such as race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age and socioeconomic status. We strongly encourage applications in support of individual candidates who will help us expand the perspectives and experiences we bring to our work. We believe that the more we include diverse perspectives and experiences in our work, the more successful we will be as we strive together to build a Culture of Health, enabling all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now, and for generations to come.

May I apply for this opportunity even if I am currently funded by RWJF, or have been an RWJF grantee in the past?

Yes, applicants who have been grantees, or who currently have other active RWJF grants may apply.

May a US-based organization subcontract with an international organization?

The primary applicant must be from an organization based in the United States or its territories, and the results of the proposed study must further the Foundation's mission of improving the health and health care of all Americans. It is acceptable for investigators to be non-U.S. citizens, as long as the organization receiving the grant award is based in the United States. While applicants may submit proposals that include a proposed subcontract relationship with an organization that is based outside of the United States or its territories, such proposals will be subject to heightened scrutiny and a preference will be given to proposals that do not involve the payment of grant funds to organizations based outside of the United States or its territories.

Can an organization submit more than one LOI to this call for proposals?

Yes. Each LOI submitted must be for a distinct project.

How should I know whether to apply for this CFP or another opportunity?

To learn more about current and upcoming RWJF funding opportunities, and whether they might be of interest to you or your organization, visit the Foundation's *Funding Opportunities* page.

Policies for Action is one of three pillar programs in RWJF's *\$25 million effort* to fund innovative research on policies, laws, system interventions, and community dynamics that improve health and well-being.

The Evidence for Action (E4A) program, led by a team at the University of California, San Francisco, is supporting creative, rigorous research on the impact of innovative programs, policies, and partnerships on health and well-being, and on novel approaches to measuring these outcomes. [Click here](#) to learn about E4A's rolling application process.

The Systems for Action (S4A) program, led by a team at the University of Kentucky, aims to discover and apply new evidence about ways of aligning the delivery and financing systems that support a Culture of Health. S4A's initial CFP is no longer open; [click here](#) to learn about future opportunities.

Other upcoming funding opportunities that may be of interest to your organization include the Healthy Eating Research national program, which supports research on environmental and policy strategies that have strong potential to promote healthy eating among children, and the Policy-Relevant Insurance Studies effort. Visit the [Funding Opportunities](#) page to access the most up-to-date information on these and other opportunities.

If I am not chosen for this funding opportunity, will I still be eligible for other RWJF grant opportunities?

Yes, interested applicants may apply for other RWJF grants.

Crafting and Submitting the Letter of Intent (LOI)

What elements should a successful LOI include?

All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent that includes:

1. A concept narrative of up to two pages describing the study.
2. Biosketches for key personnel.

Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system.

How should I estimate my budget?

A full, detailed budget is not necessary at the LOI stage in the application process. You should request the amount of funding you will need to complete your proposed research project. In the case of multi-year proposals, budget requests should reflect the entire grant period (up to 24 months), as opposed to an annual amount. When entering the budget request at the LOI stage, round up to the nearest hundred as opposed to estimating to the exact dollar amount.

What are the direct and indirect rates?

Budget requests should be inclusive of both direct and indirect costs. The Foundation's approved rate for indirect costs is 12% of all project costs (Personnel, Other Direct Costs, and Purchased

Services). However, if the Purchased Services category equals more than 33% of the total of Personnel, Other Direct Costs and Purchased Services, RWJF allows 12% indirect on Personnel and Other Direct Costs, and 4% on Purchased Services. Keep in mind that personnel funding that leaves the Lead Applicant Organization is considered “Purchased Services.”

Does the \$250,000 maximum award include indirect costs?

Yes, a budget request should not exceed \$250,000, and should include all direct and indirect costs.

What is the application process?

There are two stages in the application process:

1. Letter of Intent (due March 15, 2016, by 3 p.m. ET)
2. Full proposal (if invited)

How do I submit my Letter of Intent?

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent through the RWJF Online System. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/p4a and use the "Apply Online" link for this solicitation. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at MyRWJF at <http://my.rwjf.org> before you begin the application process.

Who should I contact with questions regarding my Letter of Intent?

You may contact the national coordinating center via email at policies4action@temple.edu or call 215-204-2134.

Are there formatting requirements for the Letter of Intent?

Yes. Please refer to the template at My.RWJF.org. All LOIs should be no more than two pages single-spaced with standard font and size (Arial, 11 pt. is suggested).

May a proposal list multiple principal investigators?

Yes, there may be up to two Principal Investigators for a proposed research project. Both must be eligible to serve as Principal Investigators, according to the rules presented in the Call for Proposals. One must be called the “Principal Investigator” and must be from the lead organization, and the other must be called the “co-Principal Investigator” and must either be from the lead organization or from another eligible organization.

Should the LOI address dissemination and translation of the final research?

Yes, Policies for Action is interested in “actionable” research that can be used to impact a Culture of Health. To that end, we’re interested in understanding how your team will work to actively disseminate and translate your research for audiences who may use it.

Selection Process

Who will review my Letter of Intent?

LOIs will be reviewed by the National Advisory Committee, please see the www.policiesforaction.org for more information and brief bios of the committee, and other expert reviewers, as needed. All funding decisions are made by RWJF staff and leadership.

How will my Letter of Intent be evaluated?

Letters of intent will be evaluated on the basis of:

Importance and policy relevance of the question to be addressed.

Fit with the topics described in this solicitation and the Culture of Health Action Framework.

Importance of the potential contribution to our understanding of a Culture of Health and how to achieve the intended outcome of improved population health, well-being, and equity.

Feasibility.

How will I know if I have been selected to move on to the full proposal phase?

Applicants will be notified by May 4, 2016 as to whether or not they have been invited to submit to the full proposal.

What is the anticipated start date for the award?

Grants will begin on September 15, 2016.

Will we receive specific comments on our proposal after a decision is made?

Applicants are welcome to contact the national coordinating center with specific questions about their proposal, but feedback will not otherwise be given.

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