



ALIGNING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH

Health Care + Public Health + Social Services

Frequently Asked Questions

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Please note that updates to the document will be provided periodically and indicated with the date the question and answer was added.

Date Added: November 12, 2019

- Q: How should we demonstrate "meaningful engagement" with stakeholders?
A: Meaningful engagement with stakeholders can be demonstrated in multiple ways, including, but not limited to, community members being members of the research team and compensating community members an appropriate amount for their time. A resource that may be helpful to applicants is the [Engagement Resource page](#) from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.
- Q: Will child victims of sex trafficking be considered an eligible population?
A: The CFP does not specify eligible study populations.
- Q: Will the recording be available to everyone after the call?
A: The webinar recording is available in the application portal under the Resources tab, Applicant Web Conference, and can also be accessed directly [here](#). There is also a transcript available which can be accessed [here](#).
- Q: When you say "sample size", do you mean the size of the population affected, the number of systems/communities being studied, the number of organizations to be aligned, or all of the above?
A: Sample size refers to the research study sample size.
- Q: Can funding cover hiring research staff to build capacity to do the research?
A: Yes.
- Q: Can this grant opportunity be used to fund the design, development, implementation, or ongoing support of a cross-sector alignment initiative?
A: No, grant program funds are not to be utilized for the work of aligning sectors. The grant program funds are to be utilized to study cross-sector alignment.
- Q: A number of questions addressed appropriateness of potential research topics.
A: We cannot comment on appropriateness of research topics and direct you to the sample research questions beginning on page three of the CFP.
- Q: Is there a preference for a specific type of geographic area -- urban, rural, suburban?
A: No.
- Q: To be clear, what are considered "internal factors," and "external factors" in the theory of change?
A: Internal factors include such things as organizational capacity and readiness. External factors include such things as timely opportunities or policy changes that create a sense of urgency.

- Q: You referred to rigor to include large sample sizes however in qualitative methods often used to inform the scaling up of interventions and approaches do not tend to be larger sized samples. Will this be an issue in considering the application?
- A: Proposed sample sizes should be clearly justified within the methods section.
- Q: Does 'stakeholder' include representatives from organizations that participate in the data-sharing component?
- A: Yes.
- Q: How is this CFP different from the one that just closed on November 6?
- A: Systems for Action and Aligning Systems for Health are complimentary research programs. Aligning Systems for Health focuses on illuminating and testing the cross-sector alignment theory of change.
- Q: Can you please define "local stakeholders" for national organizations.
- A: Stakeholders of national organizations might include those working within and with national organizations or their state and local affiliates.
- Q: Can organizations submit multiple applications, if appropriate?
- A: Yes.
- Q: What is the type of research required/desired? What guidance can be provided regarding gaps in the research?
- A: Please reference the sample research questions beginning on page three of the CFP.
- Q: Does the 6-page limit in the brief proposal include references?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Are references expected as part of the narrative to showcase need, previous research, etc?
- A: No.
- Q: The theory of change may be implying that there's an order to the four. Is that the case?
- A: No.
- Q: Do child welfare, early intervention (Part C), school (Part B) and/or early care and education count as "social sector"?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Is the research intended to be focused on existing collaborations?
- A: Generally, yes.

Q: Would an organization that only provides mental health care qualify as a Health Care Provider?

A: Yes.

Q: Must interested applicants already have identified system contacts for examination of current relationships with those systems?

A: No. Phase one proposals will be assessed using the selection criteria outlined on pages five and six of the CFP.

Q: Can you imagine a scenario where a provider of direct services partners with a researcher to submit an application?

A: Yes.

Q: Will you be looking for the grantees to develop a "toolbox" regarding their research findings to pay forward to use in other systems?

A: There are a number of acceptable dissemination activities and products, toolboxes being one of them.

Q: Does the PI or co-PI need to be employed by the applicant organization, or can they be with a contracted partner organization/institution?

A: Applications require an applicant organization, and if awarded, the organization will receive grant funds. The principal investigator (PI) is the person with the responsibility for overseeing the project. This person will be the primary recipient of all key Foundation correspondence: copy of award notice, post-award financial and monitoring, and grant closure.

Q: Can we include criminal justice, along with health care, public health, and social services?

A: Sectors are defined on pages nine and 10 of the CFP.

Q: Can you elaborate on the definition of healthcare in the cross sector theory model? does that include payors/health insurance?

A: Sectors are defined on pages nine and 10 of the CFP.

Q: Are payors eligible to apply with community partners/public health partners?

A: Yes.

Q: Are IRB costs incurred solely related to the proposed study eligible for funding?

A: IRB costs are typically included in the indirect costs of academic institutions. In order to support non-traditional research partnerships, independent IRB costs are allowable.

Q: How do you envision secondary data analysis as a component of proposals?

A: Secondary data analysis is allowable.

- Q: Are University Systems/Campuses considered part of social services and/or public health?
A: Yes.
- Q: Can we focus on a specific health issue than a broad health issues, maternal health, for example?
A: Yes.
- Q: In testing the cross sector approach and what works, does that include both evaluation of individual health outcomes and the broader systems change measurements as part of this research?
A: It may, yes.
- Q: Under the social services sector, what about aging support services? It is not included within the list.
A: Yes, aging support services would be included in the social services sector.
- Q: How many proposals will be selected to participate in Phase 2?
A: We anticipate reviewing 20-30 proposals.
- Q: Is this grant limited to projects deployed within the state of Georgia?
A: No.
- Q: Is Action Research accepted?
A: Yes.
- Q: Are works in progress eligible?
A: Yes.
- Q: Can you talk about tribal health as it relates to the spirit of this call for proposals?
A: The inclusion of tribal health is supported.
- Q: Will GHPC or RWJF facilitate some opportunities to connect program participants and researcher/evaluator?
A: At this time, GHPC is not in a position to connect program participants and researchers.
- Q: Would work with families in a collaborative community center that includes an infant toddler lab school be considered Social Services?
A: Per the definition of social services on page nine of the CFP, the social services sector includes the organizations, programs and services that work to address fundamental human needs and promote social well-being.

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Q: What is allowed as part of the indirect costs?

A: Please note that a detailed budget is not required at this stage, but will be requested during phase two of the application process. Indirect costs are overhead expenses of the applicant organization that are not directly incurred in support of the project. These are operational expenses of the applicant organization that are shared among projects and/or functions. Examples include executive oversight, accounting, grants management, legal expenses, utilities, and facility maintenance.

The Foundation's approved rate is 12% of all RWJF costs (Personnel, Other Direct Costs, and Consultants/Contractors) associated with the project. However, if the Consultants/Contractors category equals more than 33% of the total of Personnel, Other Direct Costs and Consultants/Contractors, RWJF allows 12% indirect on Personnel and Other Direct Costs, and 4% on Consultants/Contractors.

We recognize that the calculated indirect cost rates for some grantees may exceed the maximum allowed by the Foundation. However, the Foundation is a charitable entity and is not committed to matching the indirect cost rates the U.S. government or other entities accept.

Q: Would incentives provided to test what is needed for partner (CBO) participation be an allowable expense?

A: Yes, however there are no specific guidelines on this topic. This would be considered based on the project when GHPC reviews the budget, and we may ask for clarification if the amount does not seem reasonable.

Q: The applicant organization must be based in the United States or its territories, does this restriction apply to a possible subcontract with a partner organization?

A: No, it would be permissible for a lead applicant organization to subcontract with an organization that is based outside of the United States or its territories.

Q: The CFP states that preference will be given to teams that include early career professionals and community members as partner researchers. How do you define early career professionals?

A: In alignment with other RWJF funding opportunities and the National Institutes of Health Early Stage Investigator opportunities, we would consider individuals with fewer than 10 years of experience in the field of research to be considered early career professionals.

Q: Do you anticipate this CFP being opened again in the future?

A: We cannot say for certain at this time if there will be additional funding cycles for this grant program in the future.

Q: Is a Ph.D. student allowed to submit a proposal as the principal investigator?

A.: Yes, Ph.D. students are permitted to serve as the principal investigator. Please note that applications require an applicant organization, and if awarded, the organization will receive grant funds.