

Equity-Focused Policy Research: Building Evidence on Income Supports for Families with Young Children

Frequently Asked Questions about this Funding Opportunity

Note: Answers to additional questions are discussed in the recording of the May 6 webinar on this funding opportunity, which is available on the Foundation's website.

Is the Foundation interested in proposals focused on income supports other than the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)?

Proposals focused on income supports other than the EITC and TANF may be submitted under this opportunity. Applicants should keep in mind the following guidelines regarding relevance to the research agenda:

- Proposed projects should feature research that illuminates the root causes of inequities in access and/or outcomes or sheds light on promising strategies for increasing equity
- Proposed projects should yield actionable information
- Proposed projects should focus on policies or programs targeted to low-income families with children
- Proposed projects should focus on policies or programs that directly increase the resources available to these households (but research on programs related to nutrition assistance, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), will be funded under a separate opportunity).

Is the Foundation interested in funding research on other types of supports, such as SNAP?

Yes, but equity-focused policy research on nutrition supports will be funded under a separate opportunity that the Foundation will release in the coming months.

Will this be an ongoing funding opportunity?

No.

Can we apply for grants under multiple funding opportunities related to the equity-focused policy research agenda?

Yes.

Can we propose a project that examines more than one policy area or links among policy areas?

Yes. A [synthesis brief](#) describing the research agenda provides examples of research questions that examine multiple policy areas.

When will the Foundation issue future calls for proposals in this area?

We expect future calls for proposals to be issued over the next several months.

How many applicants will be invited to submit a full application?

The number of applicants invited to submit a full application depends on the quality and number of applications received.

Can applicants submit multiple proposals?

Yes.

Is a full budget required for phase one of the application process?

No.

Are proposals that include qualitative work welcomed?

Yes.

Does the research agenda focus only on federal policy?

No. We welcome proposals related to federal, state, and local policy.

How many team members are you ideally looking for?

There is no ideal number of team members.

How will geography inform your evaluation criteria?

Geography will not inform our evaluation of proposals, unless it is relevant to the research proposed.

Are you looking for research projects that have ready-to-go partners, or is time for partner identification allowable?

Time for partner identification is allowable as long as the project can be completed within the timeframes specified in the CFP.

Can an organization be part of more than one response to this call for proposals?

Yes.

Would child support fall under your definition of income supports?

Yes.

At what point will memorandums of understanding between partnership members be needed?

During the full proposal phase.

How does RWJF define “young children”?

We define young children as those between ages 0 and 8. However, you do not necessarily need to limit the scope or thinking of your project by this definition. (That is, programs and policies that affect both younger and older children may be relevant to this opportunity.)

Is research on housing allowed?

Please see the guidance above regarding relevance to the research agenda.

Would RWJF allow projects to have outside or matching funds from other funders who want to support the research and could broaden the geographic reach?

Yes, you are welcome to propose a project that leverages outside matching funds.

Is institutional review board approval required prior to submitting a proposal?

No.

Are applications that propose conducting a meta-analysis acceptable under this funding opportunity?

Yes, as long as the analysis is focused on research questions that are relevant to this opportunity and will yield actionable findings.

Can applicants focus only on EITC or TANF, rather than both types of income supports?

Yes.

What indirect cost rate is allowable?

Please refer to “Use of Grant Funds” on page 7 of the CFP for guidance about allowable costs.

Is an institutional signature required or can the investigator submit an application directly online?

Investigators can submit the application directly online.

What is the correct font and page limit for the brief proposal narrative? Are footnotes included in the page limit?

There is no longer a page limit for the brief proposal narrative. Please use 11-point font and single spacing. References should be placed in footnotes.