2026 Call for proposals

Learning from abroad to reimagine health knowledge systems for equity and wellbeing

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Applicant webinar

March 6, 2026

Webinar Nuts & Bolts

1) CFP Purpose, Focus, and Overview

2) Q&A

- To submit a question, use the Q&A function at the bottom of the screen in the webinar system to type your inquiry.
- Please avoid specific questions about your proposal.

Webinar is being recorded and will be shared

- A link to the entire presentation and the slide deck will be available in the Resources section of your MyRWJF application as well as on the CFP webpage.

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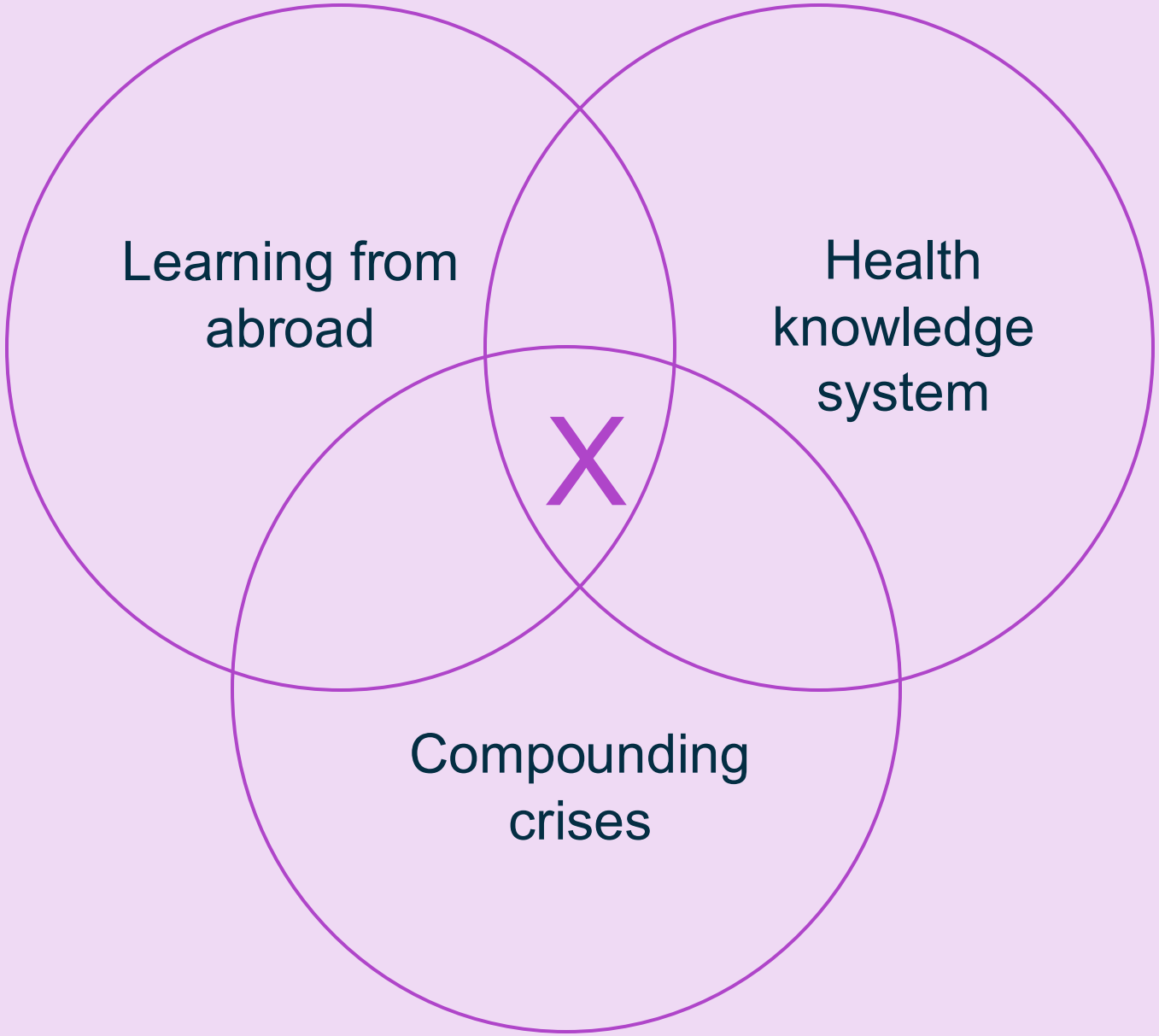
CFP Purpose

Learning from abroad to produce health equity solutions inspired by other countries that have faced or are currently facing similar health equity challenges as we are in the US

Focus


Learning from abroad
Health knowledge system
X
Compounding crises

Learning from abroad

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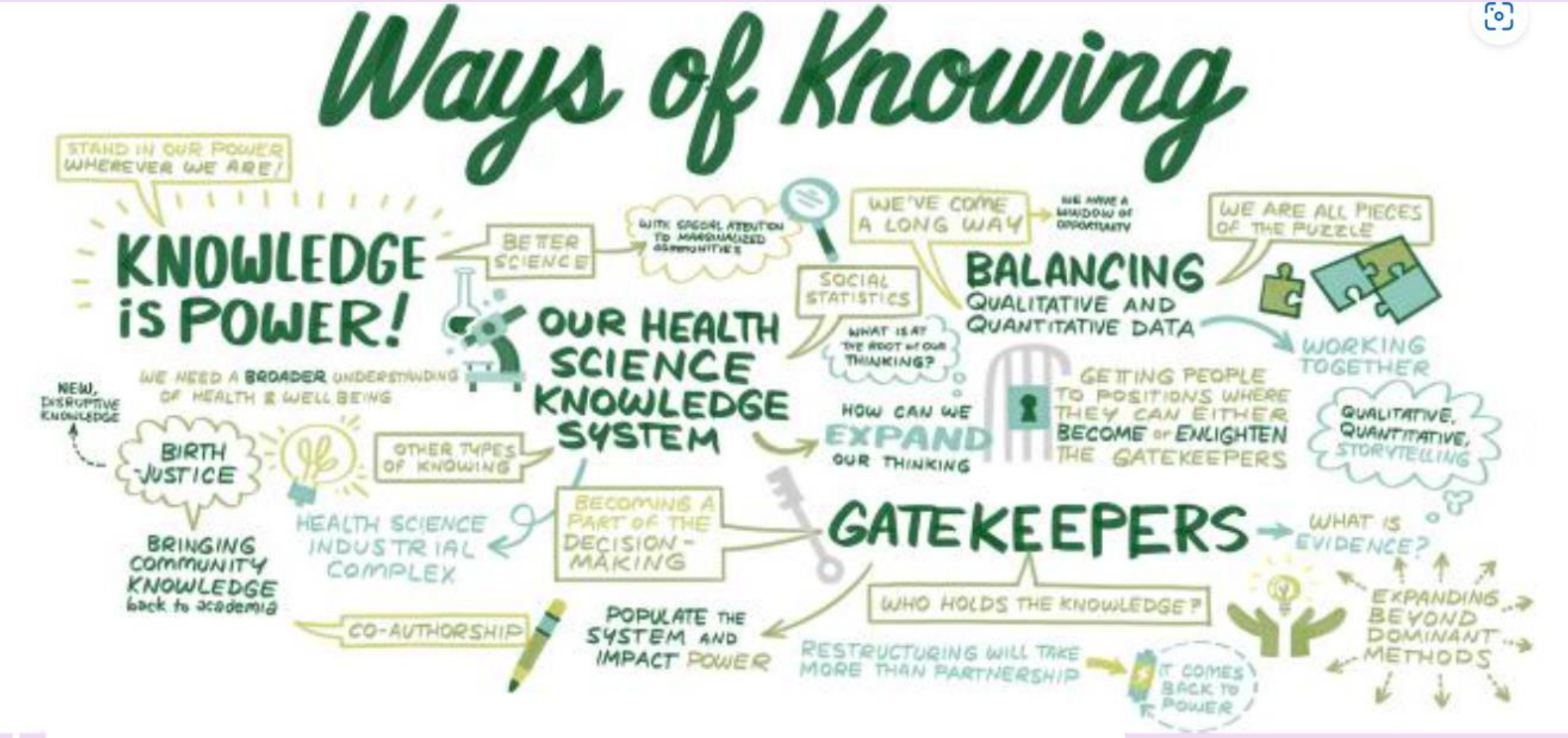
Health knowledge system



 Art by Reilly Branson on behalf of Ink Factory, https://evidenceforaction.org/blog-posts/learnings-ways-knowing-kickoff-event

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Compounding crises

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

ENDING ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION AND RESTORING MERIT-BASED OPPORTUNITY

The White House | January 21, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. Longstanding Federal civil-rights laws protect individual Americans from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. These civil-rights protections serve as a bedrock supporting equality of opportunity for all Americans. As President, I have a solemn duty to ensure that these laws are enforced for the benefit of all Americans.

Yet today, roughly 60 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, critical and

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Health Equity

As health data disappear from government websites, experts push back

By Karen Feldscher · February 5, 2025

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Trump's 'Board of Peace' and the multilateral order

Bruce Jones
February 3, 2026

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S. Withdrawal from the World Health Organization

Fact Sheet: U.S. Withdrawal from the World Health Organization

Fullfilling a Promise to America

On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14155 formally initiating the United States' withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). This decision was driven by profound failures in the WHO's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic originating in Wuhan, China; its persistent refusal to implement necessary reforms; and its lack of accountability, transparency, and independence. In fulfillment of this directive and following the required one-year notice period, the United

CDC Newsroom

EXPLORE THIS TOPIC | SEARCH

CDC Acts on Presidential Memorandum to Update Childhood Immunization Schedule

RELEASE

For immediate release: January 5, 2026

CDC Media Relations
(404) 639-3286
media@cdc.gov
https://www.cdc.gov/media/

WASHINGTON, D.C. — JANUARY 5, 2026 — Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services Jim O'Neill, in his role as Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), today signed a decision memorandum* PDF accepting recommendations from a comprehensive scientific assessment PDF of U.S. childhood immunization practices, following a directive from President Trump to review international best practices from peer, developed countries.

On December 5, 2025, via a Presidential Memorandum, President Trump directed the Secretary of HHS and the Acting Director of CDC to examine how peer, developed nations structure their childhood vaccination schedules and to evaluate the scientific evidence underlying those practices. He instructed them to update the U.S. childhood vaccine schedule if superior approaches exist abroad while preserving access to vaccine currently available to Americans.

After consulting with health ministries of peer nations, considering the assessment's

RELATED PAGES

Releases

United States Completes WHO Withdrawal

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Raw oysters linked to ongoing *Salmonella* outbreak; almost half of...

CDC Adopts Individual-Based Decision-Making for Hepatitis B...

The Guardia

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crisis | Middle East | Ukraine | US immigration | Soccer | Business | Environment | Tech | Science | Newsletters | The Filter | Wellness

This article is more than **1 month old**

ICE raids turn life into a daily terror for Minneapolis schoolkids: 'This is a generational trauma'

Program Overview

- CFP with two-phase application process
  Brief proposal --> Full proposal (by invitation)
- $5.5 million available total
- Up to 36 months
- Up to $500k per project
- Learning cohort model
- Two focus areas:

1. Knowledge generation and preservation
2. Knowledge activation

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1. Knowledge generation and preservation

Global approaches to:

- Producing, sharing and preserving knowledge, science and data for health equity and wellbeing, and/or
- Protecting ways of knowing and doing that are currently under attack
- E.g., Community-led, cross-border knowledge network and coalition building to share models across borders

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2. Knowledge activation

Global approaches to:

- Creative, narrative strategies to mobilize communities, reclaim erased histories, and strengthen collective identities
- E.g., creative expression and storytelling to reclaim erased histories, amplify silenced voices, and catalyze collective action

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Selection Criteria

Must haves:

- Learning from abroad + US impact
- Global-US partnerships (*tentative* for brief phase; *confirmed* for full phase)
- Action orientation
- Fit for either CFP focus area
- Community engagement
- Deep understanding of racism and other systems of oppression
- Systems change potential

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Eligibility Criteria

Must be "new" to RWJF = no awards since 1/1/21

Am I eligible if...?	
My organization received an award directly from RWJF? *(You were the grantee)*	No
My organization received a sub-grant/-contract from an institution funded directly from RWJF? *(You were not the grantee)*	Yes
I am a specific center/unit/department within a university/large organization that has received funding directly from RWJF since 1/1/21, BUT my specific/center/unit/department has not received funding directly	No
My grant started before 1/1/21, but was still active after that date	Yes
My organization received RWJF funding through a fiscal sponsor on or after 1/1/21	No
My organization served as a fiscal sponsor since 1/1/21	Depends

Note: CFP-specific eligibility criteria supersede any other standard RWJF eligibility criteria

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Eligibility Criteria (continued)

- Domestic or international grantees
- Projects must focus on improving health equity, wellbeing in the US
- Diverse backgrounds encouraged. RWJF will not select, exclude, or prioritize applicants based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or other protected characteristics

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Ineligible Projects

- Direct healthcare delivery or services, such as hospital or clinic charity care
- Direct services that work to meet basic needs, such as food or goods distribution
- Clinical interventions, including app-based interventions and diagnostic apps, and medicinal remedies or evaluations thereof.
- Clinical trials, biomedical, or bench science projects
- Theoretical research, or purely lab-based activities that are not linked to systems impact or practical applications
- Sustaining or expanding existing programs, such as extracurricular activities, recreational activities, community educational programs, medical pathways programs, and others
- Transportation services for healthcare clinics, hospitals, or other programs
- Capital projects, such as the renovation or purchasing of a facility or building

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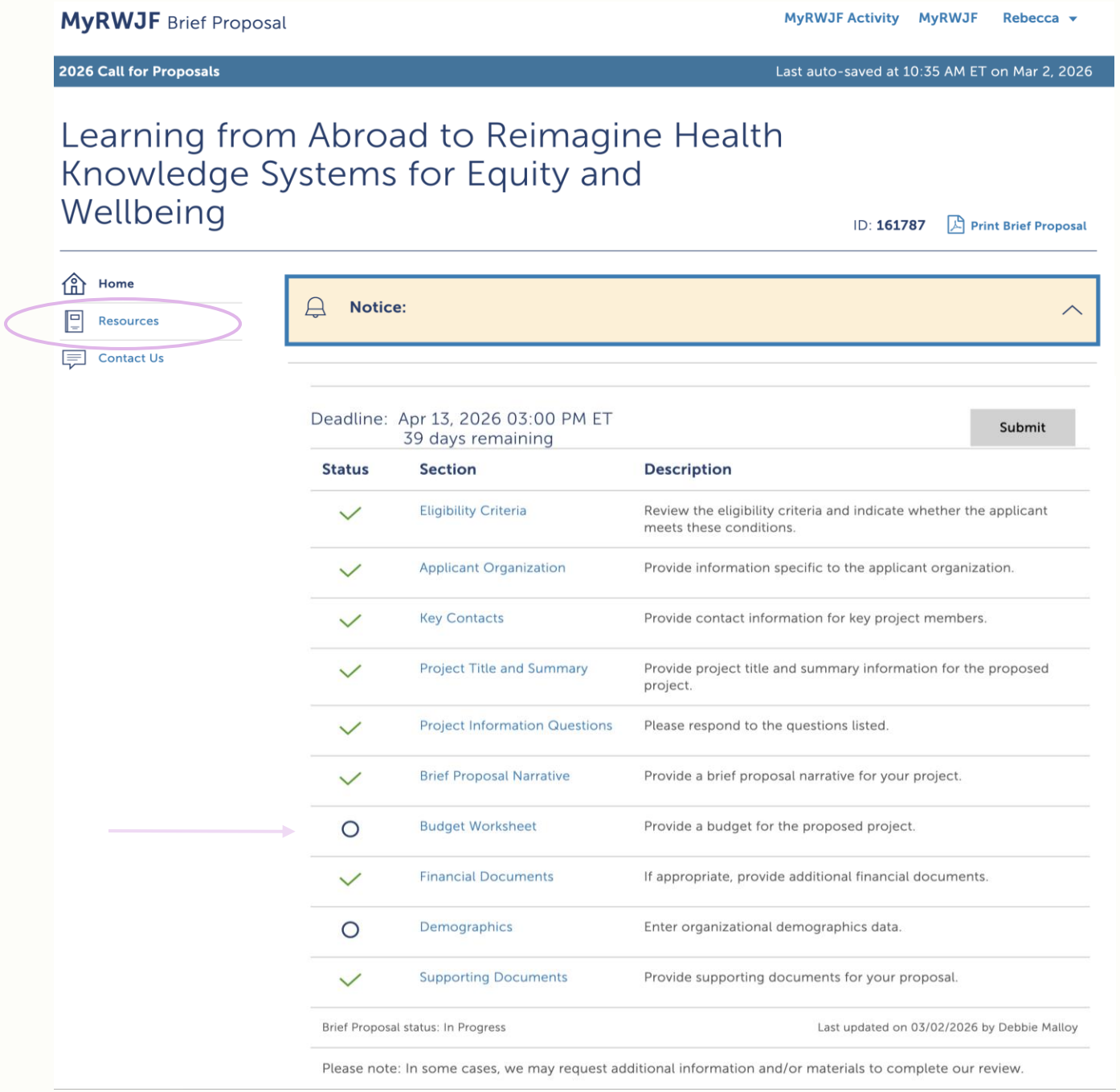
MyRWJF Application

- Must complete all required questions and all sections in order to submit
- Read all instructions for specific details on required information
- System communications come from myrwjf@rwjf.org; add to your safe sender list



Tips for success

Do's	Don’ts
Be specific	Speak generally to the core activities, community engagement approach, outcomes, etc.
Be cohesive (problem statement > activities > outcomes > impact)	Reuse the CFP language without supporting information
Propose a genuine partnership with an international organization, mutually beneficial	Unevenly distribute resources, responsibility, and decision-making power
Ground your proposed project in the current sociopolitical context and RWJF's priorities per the CFP	Suggest issues/matters that are unrelated to the situation/health knowledge system described in the CFP
Make sure your project work is about systems-level change	Focus on individual behavior or knowledge change, or stop at outputs
Include detailed implications for US practitioners/community	Be exclusively focused on impacts abroad

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Timeline

CFP launch
March 2, 2026

Brief proposals phase
March 2-April 13, 3pm ET

Full proposals phase (invitation only)
May 28-July 9

Grants start date
November 15 (US grantees)
Q1 2027 (non-US grantees)

Tips for submission

RWJF will NOT accept late proposals. To avoid a late proposal, please note:

- We recommend that you familiarize yourself with our A&R System early on.
- We will not accept proposals submitted at 3 pm in another time zone. The system will allow you to keep working after 3 pm ET, but it will not save any work after this time.
- Reach out to us at Global2026@rwjf.org for assistance with the MyRWJF system.
- *If you're outside of the US* and encounter access issues, please contact us at your earliest convenience.
- The person starting the application can invite other contributors. RWJF cannot forward the application link to others on behalf of the person who started the application.

Note: We cannot guarantee a timely response for issues that arise on the deadline date, so please plan accordingly. See Applicant Deadline Policy in the online system.

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Questions & Help

Global2026@rwjf.org

Please review:

- RWJF website
- CFP
- Project specific FAQs documents (updated weekly)
- Webinar recording
- RWJF Lobbying and Advocacy Guidelines
- Budget preparation guidelines

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Please use the Q&A button in your Zoom toolbar to submit a question.

Q&A

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Thank You!

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