

Health Equity Scholars for Action 2021 Call for Proposals



Applicant Webinar
May 4, 2021

Agenda

- Introduction to RWJF
- HES4A background & program components
- Eligibility criteria
- Application and review processes
- Scholar expectations
- Q&A
- Additional resources



Speakers



Sheldon Oliver Watts, PhD, MPH
RWJF Program Officer



Martina Todaro, MPA
RWJF Research Associate



Brian C. Quinn, PhD
RWJF Associate Vice President
Research-Evaluation-Learning



Jill Marsteller, PhD, MPP
Professor, Johns Hopkins University

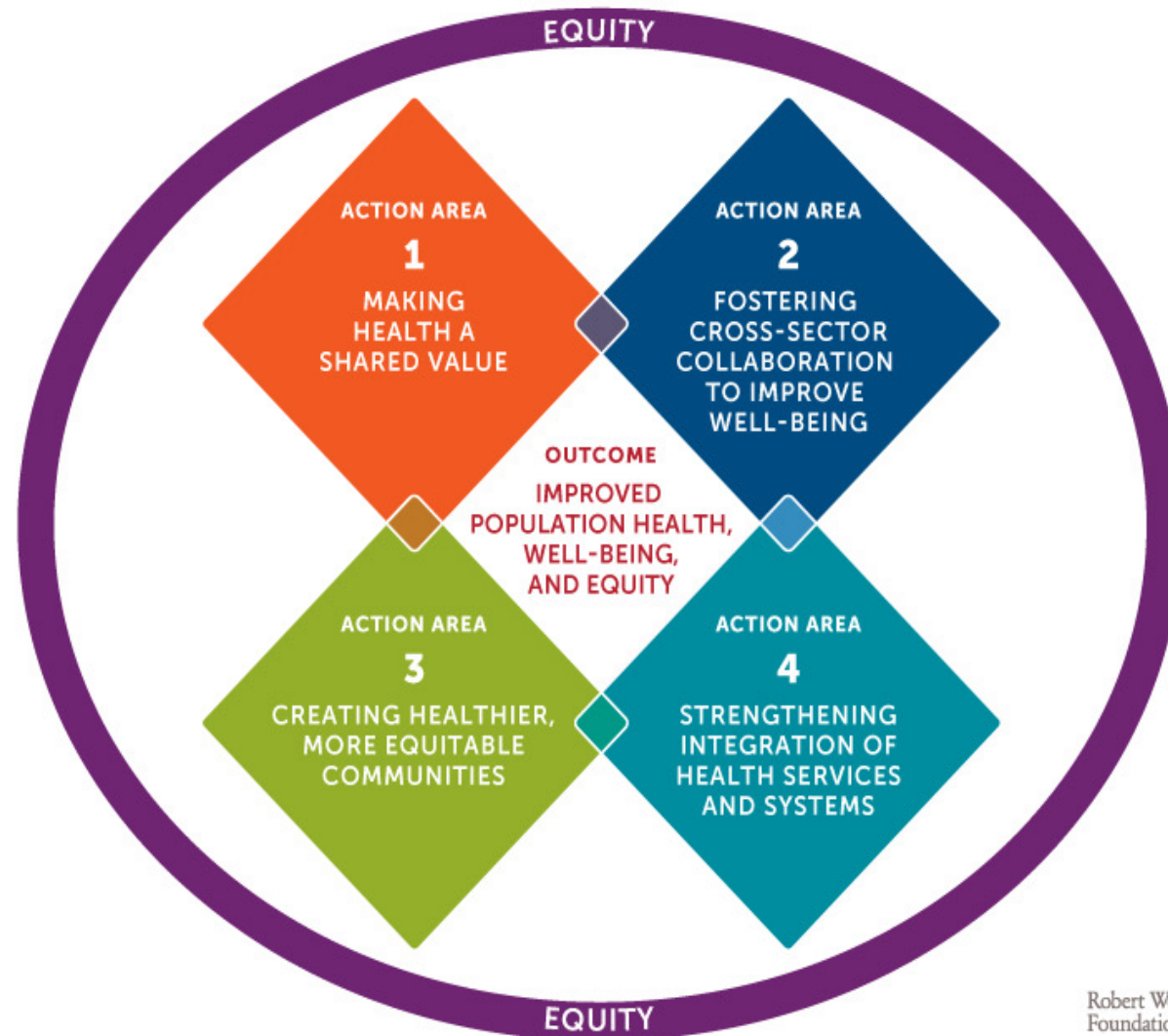


Introduction to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



*We seek bold and lasting change rooted
in the best available evidence, analysis,
and science, openly debated.*

CULTURE OF HEALTH ACTION FRAMEWORK





HES4A Background & Program Components



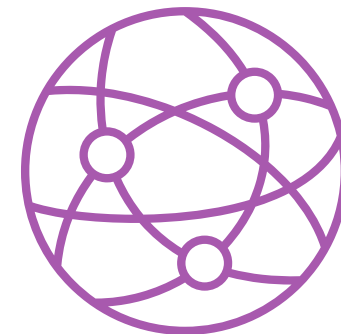
Health Equity Scholars for Action

The primary goal of HES4A is to support the **career development** and **academic advancement** of researchers from historically underrepresented backgrounds who are conducting health equity research.

Purpose of the 2021 Call for Proposals

To select HES4A's inaugural cohort of scholars who will receive grants that will help them:

- Acquire independent research funding;
- Advance their careers through mentorship opportunities; and
- Connect with a community of support.



Research

Scholars will conduct research projects focused on health equity that reflect the spirit of one or more of RWJF's Research-Evaluation-Learning (REL) signature research programs:



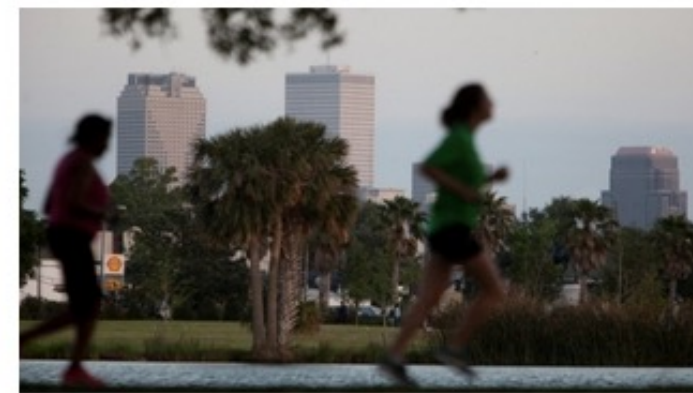
Evidence for Action

Evidence for Action (E4A) funds research examining the impact of policies, programs and partnerships on health, well-being, and equity.



Policies for Action

Policies for Action (P4A) funds research that identifies policies, laws, and other regulatory tools that can be leveraged to build a Culture of Health.



Systems for Action

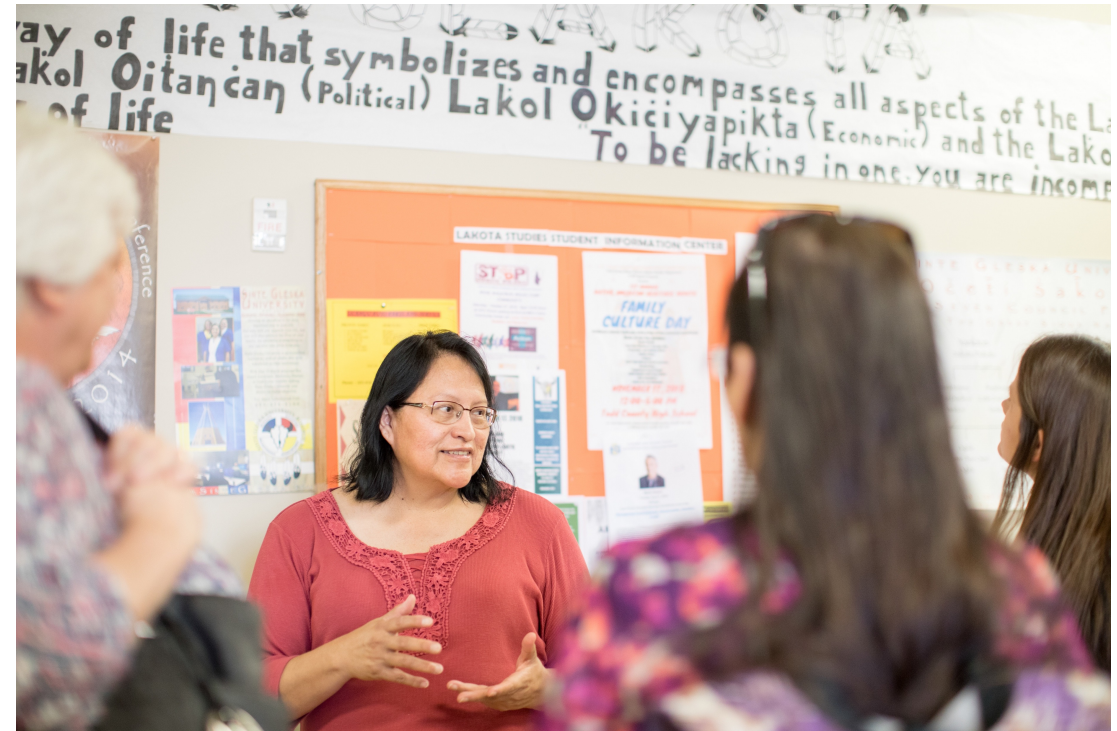
Systems for Action (S4A) funds research to discover and help apply new evidence on ways of aligning America's systems of health care delivery and financing.

Types of Research

Research should build evidence on how specific interventions (i.e., policies, systems, programs, or practices) can inform action to impact population health, well-being, and equity.

For example:

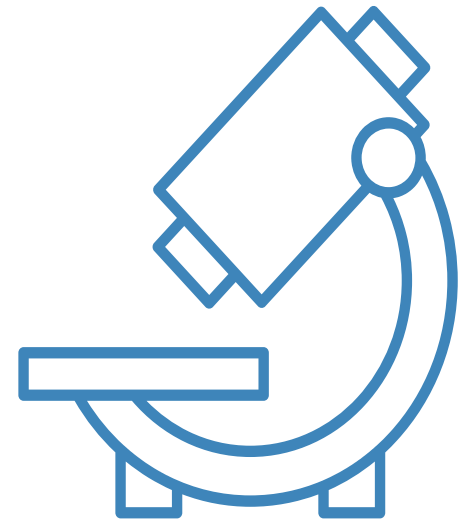
- Program or policy evaluations
- Randomized trials
- Natural experiments
- Network or systems analyses
- Exploratory science



Types of Research

Research that is NOT a good fit includes:

- Descriptive studies that seek to document the extent of a problem or condition without evaluating a solution;
- Literature reviews and needs assessments;
- Development and validation of screening tools;
- Basic biomedical inquiry, drug therapy or device research, and animal or plant science.



Mentorship



Each scholar will be matched with:

- **A technical mentor**
 - The primary mentor and research advisor
 - Provides research-related technical assistance
- **A career coach**
 - A leader in the scholar's field
 - Serves as a role model, guide and sponsor to promote career advancement

Optionally, scholars are encouraged to involve:

- **A home institution advisor**
 - Promotes the scholar's success within the home institution.

Community of Support

- Health Equity Research Learning Collaborative (HER-LC) is a forthcoming initiative that will provide:
 - Opportunities for networking and professional development
 - Training and capacity building
- Events and activities organized by RWJF and signature research program offices (E4A, P4A, S4A)





HES4A Awards

- **Grants will be for \$250,000 each**

Funds will cover up to 70 percent of the scholar's salary for two years (capped at \$75,000 per year), with the remainder of the award to be used for research and other related expenses.

Examples

- If salary is \$90,000, 70% will be covered by grant (\$63,000 each year).
 - If salary is \$110,000, \$75,000 will be covered by grant, even though it is less than 70% of the salary.
- **Up to 15 grants will be awarded**
- **Grants will be for 24 months**



Eligibility Criteria



Who's eligible to apply?

Applicants must belong to at least ONE systematically marginalized group that has historically been underrepresented in research disciplines.

For example:

- Ethnically and racially minoritized groups underrepresented in research disciplines
- First-generation college graduates
- People for whom English is not a native language
- People from low-income communities
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- Individuals with disabilities

These examples are meant to be illustrative, not exclusive.



Who's eligible to apply?

In addition, applicants must also meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Have completed a doctoral degree within the past 5 years (*graduation date between May 1, 2016 and June 16, 2021*);
- Be a junior faculty member with a full-time position that could lead to tenure, or be poised to be in such a position;
- Have a home institution that agrees to administer the grant;
- Have never served as a PI on a post-doctoral grant greater than \$10,000;
- Have not received *major* support from other post-graduate research or training programs;
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or DACA recipient.



Application & Review Process

Application Process

Apply at *my.RWJF.org*.

This is a 2-stage application process:

Stage 1: Letter of intent (LOI)

- Eligibility questions
- Brief statement of impact
- Two-page research narrative
- Applicant CV/resume/biosketch

Stage 2: Full proposal (invited applicants only)

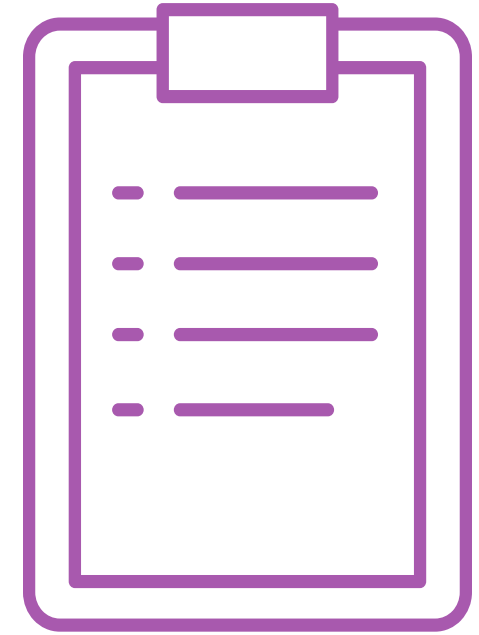
- Detailed research narrative, budget, and timeline
- Other supporting materials
- Web-based interviews with semi-finalists

**LOIs are due June
16, 2021 at 3 p.m. ET
*Late proposals will
not be accepted***

Review Process

Who Will Review My Proposal?

- RWJF program officers and staff
- Alumni from RWJF New Connections program
- E4A, P4A, and S4A program representatives
- Other expert reviewers as needed



Process:

1. All LOIs that meet eligibility criteria will be read by at least 2 reviewers.
2. Reviewers will score LOIs based on selection criteria.
3. You will be notified on July 21, 2021 if you are invited to submit a full proposal.
4. If invited, you will receive further instructions and resources for preparing your full proposal.



Elements of a Competitive Proposal

At the LOI stage, reviewers will be looking for...

- **Potential for HES4A to impact your career**
... As described in your statement of impact
- **Relevance of the research to REL aims**
... As described in the Rationale section of your letter of intent narrative
- **Feasibility of the research**
... Or the extent to which you have a reasonable plan to access data, study settings, other necessary conditions.

Scholar Expectations

- Active participation in activities offered through HER-LC and other RWJF program offices (E4A, P4A, S4A)
- Regular meetings with mentor and coach
- Periodic progress checks with RWJF
- Attendance at annual scholar convenings





Questions?

Additional Applicant Resources

Visit <https://www.rwjf.org/cfp/hes4a> for:

- The CFP in English and Spanish
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in English and Spanish – regularly updated
- Archived recording of this webinar
- Guide to preparing your LOI narrative

Join us for Zoom-based office hours*:

For questions about HES4A:

- Tues, May 11 @ 3 – 4 PM Eastern
- Mon, May 17 @ 12 – 1 PM Eastern
- Thurs, May 27 @ 2 – 3 PM Eastern

For technical assistance with the application portal:

- Wed, May 12 @ 3 – 4 PM Eastern
- Wed, May 19 @ 3 – 4 PM Eastern

*Join the office hours by going to “Programmatic and Technical Office Hours,” within the “Resources” section of the Application and Review system.

Contact Us



Website: www.rwjf.org/cfp/HES4A



Email: HES4A@rwjf.org



Phone: [+1 609-627-5846](tel:+16096275846)



Apply: my.RWJF.org

Thank you!

