

FAQs
Updated 3/29/2018

Resilience definitions

1. How are you defining resilience? Is this disaster focused or not?
 - a. The resilience definition is located on page 1, paragraph two of the funding opportunity: “the capacity of a dynamic system, such as a community, to anticipate and adapt successfully to challenges.” This call is not simply focused on disasters, but the range of stresses (acute and chronic) that communities face.

Partnership approaches, matching funds, and related

2. Do I need an existing partnership with a researcher or community organization to apply? Can I expand upon an existing partnership?
 - a. This project is focused on developing *new* partnerships to foster new solutions to problems and cultivate innovation. For **Phase 1**, research organizations and community organizations apply *separately* with their qualifications only, not a heavy focus on project ideas.
 - b. The applicant meeting in June, for those invited, will encourage discussion of project ideas and facilitate the development of new community-research partnerships, so that when people leave the meeting they can start to work on their Phase 2 project proposal. To submit a **Phase 2** proposal, community-research partnerships (developed at the applicant meeting in June) will be required.
3. Will RWJF match community applicants with research applicants?
 - a. No. One of the goals of the June applicants’ meeting is to facilitate the development of organic partnerships. Through the meeting, community applicants and research applicants selected in Phase 1 will have the opportunity to identify their own matches and partnerships.
4. Will you accept more than one application from a large university?
 - a. Yes, we will, assuming there are multiple branches and departments in that university.
5. Is there a matching fund requirement?
 - a. No there is not a matching fund requirement.
6. Would it be acceptable to propose a research team comprised of two research organizations?
 - a. For **Phase 1**, we are asking that research organizations to apply separately to allow them to focus on their unique qualifications. This can still be applicants from more than one department in a research organization.
 - b. For the **Phase 2** full proposal, a research team may be comprised of more than one research organization, if for example the applicant’s meeting in June suggests good pairing with a community organization.

Submitting the CFQ brief proposal

7. Is the Phase 1 application submitted by an individual or an organization? Should the Phase 1 application focus on organizational capacity, as well as individual skills/experience?
 - a. Applications must come from an organization. Phase 1 applicants must be either a community leader or team *applying from* a community-based organization or a researcher or research team *applying from* a research organization. Please comment on the individual and organizational capacity.
8. What should I put in the personal narrative section in the Phase 1 Call for Qualifications? What should my organization highlight?

- a. These qualifications are highlighted under Selection Criteria on page. 6 of the funding opportunity: “applicant organizations demonstrate their resources and capabilities in the following areas:
 - 1. All applicants: Experience working across systems and disciplines, experience managing diverse teams with differing values and priorities, experience negotiating power dynamic to make shared decisions in uncertain circumstances, experiencing handling conflict.
 - 2. Community leaders: Leadership position within the community or system they hope to influence, familiarity with community historical knowledge, experience innovating or experimenting with resilience policies or projects, understanding of the acute and/or chronic stress affecting their community, and formulation of a problem or challenge facing the community which is aligned with the goals of the Integrative Action for Resilience program. The problem or challenge should reference a key decision or question that if addressed, would make a difference in their community’s resilience.
 - 3. Researchers: Use of mixed research methods including proficiency with quantitative and qualitative methodologies (in particular question-driven methods and culturally responsive evaluation); demonstrated creativity in research; applied research working with community data sources; effective community-based partnerships in research through prior work; demonstrated understanding of how acute and chronic stress interacts; capacity to support translation and dissemination of research to inform decision-making among community-based organizations and policy-makers.”
- 9. Is this funding opportunity limited to mixed methods researchers?
 - a. No, this funding opportunity is not limited to any particular type of researcher. Community-based problems often demand mixed methods, and therefore, we have mentioned this as a capability that should be highlighted in the narrative. However, researchers who have successfully employed other methods to target community-based problems are encouraged to apply.
- 10. Is this funding opportunity targeted toward applicants at a certain career stage?
 - a. No, anyone who has the capabilities highlighted in the Selection Criteria is encouraged to apply.
- 11. Is this funding opportunity limited to public health or health policy researchers?
 - a. No. We define health broadly in the context of physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and social health. Building a culture of health requires cross-sector collaboration to improve well-being. We welcome researchers of all backgrounds to apply to this funding opportunity. In addition, we have defined resilience broadly, so research questions are not necessarily limited to those that focus on health outcomes.

June applicant meeting, for Phase 2 invitees

- 12. What happens at the applicant meeting in June?
 - a. Details about the applicant meeting are provided under the second bullet on page 3 of the funding opportunity: “During this meeting, applicants will participate in a series of structured and unstructured discussions to establish a new community-researcher partnership. The meeting will begin with an introduction to the Integrative Action for Resilience program, including motivation and objectives. During the meeting, community leaders and researchers will have the opportunity to share their background and interests in group format, challenges facing their communities (community leaders),

and ideas for resilience. Applicants will also have time to network in one-on-one interactions. By the end of the meeting we hope that community leaders and researchers are able to establish partnerships needed to apply for the Phase 2 RFP.”

13. Will RWJF cover the travel costs associated with the meeting?
 - a. Yes
14. Where and when will the applicant meeting be held?
 - a. The applicant meeting will be held in Princeton, NJ on June 7th and 8th.
15. How many organizational reps can attend?
 - a. Up to two attendees from each organization
16. What happens if I don't match with someone at the applicants meeting, assuming I am invited?
 - a. We will select enough organizations to enable matching. However, you are under no obligation to continue with the effort, if you do not find a match suitable to your interests.
17. What percentage of those submissions to Phase 1 will be invited to the June meeting?
 - a. This depends on the number of submission we receive. We hope to invite no less than 10 research and 10 community organizations.
18. Are the partner organizations invited to Phase 2 only those that attend the applicant meeting?
 - a. Yes, only those organizations (researcher and community) that are invited and attend the applicant meeting will be eligible for Phase 2.

Eligibility to apply

19. Do I have to be a US citizen to apply?
 - a. No, but applicant organizations have to be US-based.
20. Would someone who is currently in an RWJF leadership program be eligible to apply?
 - a. Yes
21. If I have previously applied for another RWJF funding opportunity, am I still eligible to apply to this one?
 - a. Yes
22. What kinds of organizations qualify as community partners?
 - a. Applicant organizations must be either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations or nonfunctionally integrated Type III supporting organizations. The definition of community organization is intentionally broad. Example community organizations include, but are not limited to, nonprofit, service provider (e.g., hospital), governmental (e.g., state and local agencies), and faith-based organizations. For-profit institutions are not eligible to apply for this funding opportunity as a community partner.

Research focus for Phase 2

23. Are there specific target locations where the Foundation would like this research to occur in? Are urban areas preferred? Will partners need to be based in the same location?
 - a. No, there are no preferred geographic locations for the research. We hope to engage with a diverse pool of applicants and project ideas. Partners will not need to be co-located.
24. Can you provide an example of “leadership development” that would be of interest for this call?
 - a. Example research questions that would be of interest in for this focus area include, but are not limited to:

1. What key leadership competencies translate to better community resilience (e.g., community outreach and engagement, asset identification, community self-sufficiency)?
 2. How can leaders best be trained to make decisions in uncertain circumstances that are a) informed by many disciplinary perspectives at once; and b) account for both chronic and acute stresses in the community?
 3. What command and communications structures support leaders to make decisions that promote resilience in uncertain circumstances?
25. Should the research focus on stressors in individuals or communities? Does the research need to focus on BOTH acute and chronic stressors?
- a. The research focus should reflect the needs of the community that the community-based organization serves. In many cases, acute and chronic stressors interact, and the research proposal should demonstrate an awareness of how this intersection can impact the community's resilience. The focus should be driven by the community-identified problem and focus on those stressors (both acute and chronic) that are deemed most consequential.