

2017 Call for Applications

Application Deadline: March 29, 2017



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS) is a national leadership development program for full-time students working on a doctoral degree. The program seeks students from any academic discipline who are interested in translating their discipline-specific research into evidence-informed health policy.

We strongly encourage applications from students from diverse fields of study that are not health sciences. We seek applications from full-time students who are from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds whose racial, socioeconomic, ability, status, and personal factors allow them to bring unique and diverse perspectives to their research. Applicants must be entering the first or second year of their doctoral program at the time of enrollment in the program. While completing their doctoral program, *Health Policy Research Scholars*, participants will:

- Learn how to apply their discipline-based research training to health policy related work in new ways to meet the pressing needs of communities;
- Engage in interdisciplinary collaborations to create a healthier, more equitable future for all people; and
- Develop leadership skills to advance a Culture of Health that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recognizes that the increasing diversity in the country's population can best be served where research and researchers also reflect that diversity. We need diverse perspectives as our nation identifies key health policy questions and evaluates the impact of proposed policy solutions in our nation. The disproportionate burden of poor health (and the disproportionate exposure to environmental and socioeconomic conditions that lead to poor health) is borne by individuals disadvantaged because of their race or ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other factors. That is why increasing the number of doctoral scholars from disadvantaged backgrounds and populations underrepresented in doctoral programs is an essential step in building a Culture of Health.

BACKGROUND

As a country, we face critical challenges—challenges that demand new and different solutions, challenges that require us all to work together more than ever before. Babies born just two subway stops apart have life expectancies that vary widely. As a nation, we spend more for our health care than any other developed nation, yet the quality of our health care doesn't reflect that investment. Our population is increasingly diverse, yet inequities in health care and health persist.

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That's why the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to working and collaborating with all to build a Culture of Health to enable all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now and for generations to come. RWJF believes health should be a fundamental and guiding social value—and that America should become a nation in which promoting health is as important as treating illness.

The Foundation recognizes that we need a new kind of leader to build a Culture of Health. We need leaders who will be able to meet the challenges before us—leaders who refuse to be siloed, leaders who refuse to do things the way they have always been done, leaders from all walks of life who reflect the marvelous diversity of our nation. We have been investing in leadership from the Foundation's earliest days, and our current programs are built on the solid foundation laid by those programs.

Our four newest programs, which include the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program, as well as *Culture of Health Leaders*, *Clinical Scholars*, and *Interdisciplinary Research Leaders* are designed to equip just that kind of leader—leaders with the skills they need to create and sustain a Culture of Health. These programs aim to connect people across sectors as well as disciplines, capitalize on technology to promote collaboration and mentoring, and reach and support more people. We believe participation in these programs will lead to enriching and lifelong partnerships with other participants and the Foundation as we work together to build and strengthen healthy practices. We also believe alumni of these new programs will serve as valuable role models and mentors to future participants.

These programs are part of a broader spectrum of leadership programs that RWJF offers to leaders across sectors at varying stages of their careers. Our other leadership programs include:

- *Summer Health Professions Education Program* is a free summer enrichment program focused on improving access to information and resources for college students interested in the health professions.
- *State Health Leadership Initiative* aims to accelerate the leadership development of new state/territorial health officials as policymakers, administrators, and advocates for the health of the public.
- *Harold Amos Faculty Development Program* is designed to increase the number of faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who can achieve senior rank in academic medicine, dentistry, or nursing.
- *New Connections* aims to provide research grants, networking, and skill-building opportunities to early and mid-career scholars who are historically disadvantaged or from underrepresented communities and/or are the first in their family to receive a college degree.

Our goal is to help build the next generations of leaders—leaders who will collaborate across sectors to upend the status quo, address health disparities, and take bold steps to achieve greater equity in communities across the country.

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THE PROGRAM

The goal of *Health Policy Research Scholars* is to create a large cadre of diverse doctoral students from a wide variety of research-focused disciplines—students whose research, connections, and leadership will inform and influence policy toward a Culture of Health. Specifically, we aim to recruit doctoral students from a variety of field/disciplines (e.g., urban planning, political science, economics, ethnography, education, social work, sociology) who are training to be researchers. For the 2017 cohort, the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program will enroll up to 50 scholars interested in learning to translate their research into health policy and who are from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds. Examples of eligible individuals include, but are not limited to, first-generation college graduates, individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in doctoral programs, and individuals with disabilities. Scholars in this program—which is designed to enhance and enrich the doctoral program—will complete the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program concurrently with their doctoral program.

Home Institution Mentor

At the time of application, applicants must identify a faculty mentor (or a provisional mentor) at their home institution. The applicant's home institution is the doctoral degree granting institution. The applicants' home institution mentor will be asked to confirm serving in this role in a written agreement. The home institution mentor will:

- Be responsible for academic support and career guidance at the scholar's home institution, where the scholar is completing his or her respective doctoral program;
- Have periodic meetings with the scholar, and attend a Mentoring Institute and other meetings sponsored by the program;
- Be REQUIRED to participate in-person on October 13–15, 2017 at a Mentoring Institute meeting in Nashville, TN;
- Receive reimbursement for reasonable expenses to attend the Mentoring Institute; and,
- Receive a one-time honorarium for mentoring the scholar through the academic year.

Program Activities

Scholars will attend in-person and online learning seminars and courses, participate in research, attend research presentations, and contribute to publications—concurrently with their doctoral program. These activities are designed to support and enrich the doctoral program.

Examples of *Health Policy Research Scholars* activities are outlined below and subject to change:

Term	Health Policy Research Scholars Program Planned Activities
Fall 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentoring Institute (Required for mentors, in person, 10/13–15/2017)• Fall Institute (Required for students, in person, 10/13–17/2017)• Create individual development plan

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online course: Introduce scholars to public health, health equity, overview of public policy and the policy process
Spring 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online course: Expose scholars to the theories of public policy, how policy impacts health and an introduction to policy creation Winter Institute [Weekend in early 2018, in-person attendance required]
Summer 1 <i>Required in person approx. 3 weeks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer at Johns Hopkins University: Tools for policy communication Health Impact Assessment Interactions with health policy experts Leadership training
Fall 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online course: Policy analysis and synthesis, methods for evaluating the impact of policy on health
Spring 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online course (Level 2): Tools for translating research into policy and advocacy, implementation and dissemination research
Summer 2 <i>Required in person approx. 3 weeks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer at a partner site: Provide scholars health policy research experience at a partner site (e.g., UCLA, Mayo Clinic, the University of Michigan), and/or other selected research mentorship sites
Fall 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online seminar: Provide exposure to cutting-edge research related to translating research into policy to create a Culture of Health
Spring 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online seminar: Provide exposure to cutting-edge research related to translating research into policy to create a Culture of Health
Summer 3 <i>Required in person approx. 3 weeks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Policy Case Competition Interaction with national policymakers Media and communications training
Fall 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online seminar: Contemporary issues in health policy research Optional: Supervised, peer-led web meetings to provide a support group for dissertation completion and doctoral requirements
Spring 4	
Summer 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing institute retreat Optional summer in Ann Arbor, MI: Select scholars, based on research/dissertation, will be sponsored to take courses at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
Fall 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online seminar: Faculty-supervised, peer-led web meetings to provide a support group for dissertation completion
Summer 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional summer in Ann Arbor, MI: Scholars offered opportunity to take courses at the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Writing institute retreat Online seminar: Faculty-supervised, peer-led web meetings to provide a support group for dissertation completion

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Participants should anticipate spending up to one half-day per week during the academic year and from two to four weeks during summers in years 1 through 3 on program-related activities.

Scholars will also become members of the nationwide RWJF Leadership Network, a community of thousands of leaders committed to building a Culture of Health.

Program Goals

After *Health Policy Research Scholars* program completion, the scholar should:

- Have extensive knowledge of the multiple determinants of health.
- Be able to apply research and interdisciplinary collaboration skills to engage multiple sectors (e.g., policy, education, business, communities, institutions, and agencies) to effectively translate research findings that will inform health policies leading to health equity.
- Better understand strategies to leverage diverse interdisciplinary networks of researchers.
- Have the opportunity to establish meaningful and sustained relationships and collaborations with other RWJF change leaders and programs.
- Have the opportunity to contribute to research and a national dialogue on health policy and equity leading to a Culture of Health.

AWARD DETAILS

The *Health Policy Research Scholars* program will award stipends for up to 50 scholars for the 2017 cohort. Each scholar will receive an annual stipend of \$30,000 for up to four years. Participants may continue in the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program, without the annual stipend, for a fifth year, or until they complete their doctoral program, whichever occurs first. Scholars will also be eligible for dissertation grants of up to \$10,000 if the proposed dissertation is related to health policy research.

All participant stipends will be paid to the scholar's degree-granting institution ("home institution"). Home institutions must be based in the United States or its territories and be willing to receive the funds from RWJF. Home institutions should have the administrative and financial capacity and experience to accept the award and to be able to distribute funds in a manner consistent with the permitted use of funds described in this call for applications. The home institution will be responsible for signing a letter of agreement with RWJF and submitting annual financial and narrative reports to the Foundation.

Scholars will work with their home institutions to determine how the grant funds will be used to support the participants' successful completion of the program, for example, living expenses, relevant conference/workshop registration fees, travel, and supplies. Grant funding is not intended to support the individual's tuition or indirect expenses of the home institutions. Travel expenses for all required program meetings and trainings will be paid directly by the national program center or RWJF.

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Students will only receive payments if they continue to be in good standing according to their home institution's criteria, maintain full-time student status, have a 3.0 grade point average (if the doctoral program uses grade point averages), and have satisfactory participation in program-related activities.

In the event that the scholar changes home institutions during the grant period, the stipend will follow the student to the new home institution if the scholar continues to meet the eligibility requirements and the new home institution meets the above requirements. In such a case, additional documentation will be required.

The grant opportunity outlined in this call for applications is contingent upon final funding confirmation from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for such grants.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The *Health Policy Research Scholars* program is open to full-time doctoral students from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds, entering the first or second year of their doctoral program (by September 2017), from any research-focused discipline. Students must be interested in learning to apply their discipline-based research to affect health policy research. Prior experience or knowledge in health policy is neither required nor expected. *Health Policy Research Scholars* is not intended for students pursuing a clinical doctorate without a research focus. Rather, the program is designed for doctoral students from any academic discipline (e.g., urban planning, political science, economics, ethnography, education, social work, sociology) in a research-focused program.

Examples of eligible individuals include, but are not limited to, first-generation college graduates, individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals from racial or ethnic groups that are underrepresented in doctoral programs, and individuals with disabilities.

Additional eligibility criteria include:

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or individuals granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the time of application.
- Applicants must be at least 21 years old as of September 1, 2017.
- Federal, state, tribal or local government employees who are not considered government officials¹ under Section 4946 of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible to apply.

¹ For these purposes, a government official is defined as any person who holds one of the following:

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- Applicants cannot be related by blood or marriage to any Officer² or Trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or be a descendant of its founder, Robert Wood Johnson.

SELECTION CRITERIA

RWJF, in collaboration with the *Health Policy Research Scholars* national program center, and national advisory committee will select scholars. The selection criteria will include:

- The eligibility criteria described above;
- A commitment to use discipline-based research training to affect health policy and leadership to improve population health;
- Commitment to leadership activities;
- Readiness to engage with different sectors (e.g., health, education, policy, business);
- Interest in and willingness to use interdisciplinary research approaches; and
- Evidence of support and commitment from home institution faculty member and/or department;
- Potential to contribute to the broader vision of building a Culture of Health.

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1. An elective public office in the executive or legislative branch of the Government of the United States.
 2. An office in the executive or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, appointment to which was made by the President.
 3. A position in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States—(A) which is listed in schedule C of rule VI of the Civil Service Rules; or (B) the compensation for which is equal to or greater than the lowest rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code.
 4. A position under the House of Representatives or the Senate of the United States held by an individual receiving gross compensation at an annual rate of \$15,000 or more.
 5. An elective or appointive public office in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the government of a State, tribe, possession of the United States, or political subdivision or other area of any of the foregoing, or of the District of Columbia, held by an individual receiving gross compensation at an annual rate of \$20,000 or more, and a significant part of whose activities include "the independent performance of policy-making functions."
 6. A position as personal or executive assistant or secretary to any of the foregoing, or
 7. A member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board.

² The Officers are the Chairman of the Board of Trustees; President and CEO; Chief of Staff; Executive Vice President; General Counsel; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; and Assistant Treasurer of the Foundation.

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Selection Process

Applicants will submit an initial application and be selected based on the eligibility criteria and review of supporting materials. A committee made up of representatives from the national program center, the national advisory committee, and RWJF staff members review each application based on the eligibility criteria. Semifinalists will be invited for online web conference interviews. After the semifinalist interviews are completed, the NAC and the national program center will make recommendations to RWJF, and RWJF will make the final decisions. Finalists will be required to provide additional “Supplemental Application” information, including a form completed by each individual’s home institution documenting that the organization is willing to fulfill the requirements as a home institution. Both home institution mentors and finalists will be required to sign an agreement with the HPRS national program center documenting their willingness to participate in HPRS program activities.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Consistent with RWJF values, this program embraces diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions, such as race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age and socioeconomic status. We strongly encourage applications in support of individual candidates who will help us expand the perspectives and experiences we bring to our work. We believe that the more we include diverse perspectives and experiences in our work, the more successful we will be as we strive together to build a Culture of Health.

HOW TO APPLY

You will submit one application through the RWJF online application and review system. Here’s how:

1. Review the materials you will need to apply (see “What you will need” below, for more details), and gather as much as you can ahead of time.
2. If you haven’t already done so, first register at MyRWJF: <http://my.rwjf.org>.
3. Then go to <http://www.rwjf.org/cfp/hprs2> and click on “apply online.”
4. From there, you’ll be able to follow the instructions and use the templates provided online.

Be sure to log in and familiarize yourself with the online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. Program staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late proposals.

What you will need to apply: Along with your online application, you will be required to upload:

1. a maximum of a four-page curriculum vitae (CV)

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2. Two letters of support from faculty at your undergraduate or graduate school are required. We strongly recommended that one of the letters of support be written by the home institution faculty mentor.
3. All undergraduate and graduate transcripts
4. Mentor curriculum vitae (CV)

If you have any questions about the application process, please email RWJF_HPRS@jhu.edu. Be sure to include your full name and phone number. We will make every effort to respond to all inquiries within 24 hours.

We encourage interested applicants to participate in an optional applicant webinar scheduled for February 16, 2017 (12–1p.m. ET). You must register in advance at <https://gwu.webex.com/gwu/onstage/g.php?MTID=e96cbbaa6bdac03a0a679cc7de65c6f45>. The webinar will be recorded and made available to those who are not able to participate.

EVALUATION

The main purpose of evaluation at RWJF is learning rather than accountability. An independent research group selected and funded by RWJF will conduct an evaluation of the program. RWJF intends for this initiative to contribute to national efforts to promote a Culture of Health. As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, scholars must participate in the evaluation, which may include assisting with necessary data collection to accomplish the evaluation objectives.

MONITORING

RWJF, with the assistance of the national program center, monitors the participant's efforts and stewardship of funds to assure accountability. Home institutions, in conjunction with participants, will be required to submit annual narrative and financial reports. Submission of required reports; full-time enrollment in a doctoral program; the individual's satisfactory participation in program activities and progress toward the program's goals; and good standing in the individual's doctoral program with a grade point average of at least 3.0 (when applicable) are prerequisites to receiving funding after the initial program year.

APPLICANT SURVEY PROCESS

To help us measure the effectiveness of RWJF grantmaking and improve the grant application experience, we will survey all applicants under this call for applications. Shortly after the application deadline, the applicant will be contacted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI), an independent research firm, and asked to complete a brief, online survey about the proposal process and applicant characteristics. This voluntary questionnaire will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Responses provided to PSRAI will not impact the funding decision for the proposals in any way.

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PSRAI will protect the confidentiality of the responses. RWJF will not receive any data that links a name with the survey responses.

If you have any questions about the survey or the use of the data, please email applicantfeedback@rwjf.org.

PROGRAM DIRECTION

Direction and technical assistance for this program are provided by Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University, which serve as the national program center, located at:

Health Policy Research Scholars

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Candler Building

111 Market Place, Suite 900

Baltimore, MD 21202

Phone: (410) 223-1746

Fax: (410) 223-1747

Email: RWJF_HPRS@jhu.edu

Website: <http://healthpolicyresearch-scholars.org/>

Responsible staff members at the national program center are:

- Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD, George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University, *program director*
- Harolyn Belcher, MD, MHS, Johns Hopkins University, *program co-director*
- Lydia Isaac, PhD, MSc, George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University, *deputy director*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Denise E. Herrera, PhD, MCHES, *program officer*
- Andrea Daitz, MA, *program associate*
- Maddalena Moreira, *program financial analyst*

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KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

January 6, 2017 (11 a.m. – Noon ET)

Webinar for potential applicants of all four leadership programs; register at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/ughacbi5yqtv&eom>

February 16, 2017 (12–1pm ET)

Webinar for interested applicants for the *Health Policy Research Scholars* program. Register at: <https://gww.webex.com/gww/onstage/g.php?MTID=e96cbbaa6bdac03a0a679cc7de65c6f45>

March 29, 2017 (3 p.m. ET)

Deadline for receipt of full applications.*

May 10–31, 2017

Semifinalist applicant interviews.

Mid-June 2017

Finalists notified of funding recommendations.

July 12, 2017

Deadline for receipt of finalist supplemental applications.*

September 1, 2017

Program begins. Stipend funding initiated for program participants.

October 13–15, 2017

Mentoring Institute, Nashville, TN.

For home institution mentors. In-person participation required.

October 13-17, 2017

Fall Leadership Institute, Nashville, TN.

For scholars. In-person participation required.

* All proposals for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/hprs2 and use the Apply Online link. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at <http://my.rwjf.org> before you begin the application process. All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with the online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. Staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. In fairness to all applicants, late submissions will not be accepted.

ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working with others to build a national Culture of Health, enabling everyone in America to

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live longer, healthier lives. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

Sign up to receive email alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at <http://www.rwjf.org/manage-your-subscriptions.html>.

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