

# 2022 Call for Proposals

Brief Proposal Deadline: May 16, 2022 (3 p.m. ET)

Full Proposal Deadline (by invitation only): August 8, 2022 (3 p.m. ET)



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## Food and Health Research Using the Consumer Food Data System Co-sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the USDA, Economic Research Service

### BACKGROUND

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recognizes that the health of our nation depends upon the health and well-being of our children and families. The premise of much of RWJF's work is that all families—no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they make—should have the resources they need to foster healthy development from their children's earliest years. To contribute to research, evaluation, and learning for its focus areas, including healthy children and families, RWJF supports grants and grant programs.

In recent years, RWJF has widened its focus on childhood obesity to consider broader questions about nutritional adequacy and upstream factors affecting food supply and availability. This has increased our focus on nutritional assistance and broader indicators of food quality and availability. Additionally, it has increased our awareness of the importance of finding ways to overcome structural barriers to equitable access to food. For these reasons, RWJF is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Economic Research Service (ERS) to support an opportunity to make their valuable data on food and nutrition available to researchers. By doing so, we hope to support research that supports our goals of creating equitable access to nutritious food.

ERS is an agency within the USDA that anticipates trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America, and conducts high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision-making. ERS has acquired several food-related data assets that together comprise the Consumer Food Data System (CFDS). The CFDS is a nationally recognized program predicated on a [2005 National Research Council Consensus Study Report](#). The CFDS builds a comprehensive, integrated data system to support research on relevant and timely evidence that informs the USDA, Congress, and the public about the food sector—from farm gate to fork—and about key national issues regarding food and health such as food insecurity, obesity, diet quality, and nutrition assistance programs. CFDS data and sources include: survey data and survey supplements sponsored by ERS; proprietary data (commercial data) acquired by ERS; government administrative data, including micro-level data from state agencies that administer the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and various integrated and linked data sources. Data assets in the CFDS include some that are restricted use and others that are public use.

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## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

RWJF and ERS are announcing a call for proposals (CFP) for researchers who will use one or more restricted-use data assets in the USDA's Consumer Food Data System (CFDS). We seek to develop a cohort of CFDS researchers from a diversity of academic disciplines and institutions who will produce policy-relevant research on food policy, food retail markets, consumer behaviors related to food purchases and diet, and USDA nutrition assistance programs. We encourage applications from researchers who have not previously received external funding. Awards for selected proposals are intended to encourage researchers from a range of backgrounds to: (a) develop new research projects that feature restricted-use CFDS assets; or (b) incorporate restricted-use CFDS data assets into ongoing (pre-existing) research projects. See [Appendix A](#) for a detailed description of the CFDS and available data assets. Additional information on the CFDS data assets is available at [www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition](http://www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition).

Researchers who respond to this CFP are required to submit proposals for research that will use at least one of the restricted-use data assets listed in Appendix A. In addition, researchers are encouraged to use any of the public-use CFDS data assets listed in Appendix A in combination with restricted-use CFDS data asset(s). Note that the available restricted-use data assets include eight data assets that are accessed through the Coleridge Initiative's [Administrative Data Research Facility \(ADRF\)](#) (i.e., via secure, remote access), and three data assets that are accessed through [Federal Statistical Research Data Centers \(FSRDCs\)](#) (i.e., on-site at an FSRDC; remote access is not an option). Note that Appendix A shows which data assets are accessed through the ADRF versus FSRDCs. **Researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through FSRDCs are subject to additional application requirements, including a separate application to the Census Bureau for data access.**

- See [Appendix B](#) for proposal instructions and requirements for projects that will require access through FSRDCs.
- See [Appendix C](#) for proposal instructions and requirements for projects that will require access through the ADRF.

Proposals may focus on issues related to the intersection between food and health, for example, as they relate to consumers, retailers, nutrition assistance programs, and public policy. Proposals of particular interest involve changing markets, the food retail environment, social and racial equity, nutrition security, food security, diet quality, obesity, food access, and the COVID-19 pandemic. RWJF anticipates making approximately 12 to 15 awards of up to \$100,000 each and will provide additional funds that are needed to access data through FSRDCs (see Appendix B for more information). Grant periods will extend from the date of award (anticipated to be in November 2022 for many grantees) to February 2025.

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## Key Resources

Several key resources that researchers should familiarize themselves with while preparing their proposal:

**Appendix A:** Information on the CFDS data assets, including contact information for ERS data experts. *Researchers are encouraged to directly email the listed ERS contact with any specific questions about the available data assets.*

**Appendix B:** Instructions and requirements for researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through FSRDCs.

**Appendix C:** Instructions and requirements for researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through the ADRF.

**CFDS CFP website:** Pre-recorded presentations about the CFDS data assets; variable lists for SNAP and WIC administrative data; and contact information for ERS data experts is on the CFDS website: [www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition](http://www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition)

## EXPECTATIONS FOR GRANTEES

RWJF and ERS highly value peer learning, as well as dissemination of research to inform policy and other decision-making. The following are expectations of all funded grantees:

- **Pre-register:** Pre-register the study—including research questions, hypotheses, main variables, and analysis plan—on Open Science Framework (OSF) at the start of the grant period.
- **Progress reports:** Participate in periodic progress check-ins throughout the grant period with program staff and submit reports to RWJF annually.
- **Review of statistical results:** All statistical results (e.g., means, variances, regression coefficient) derived from restricted-use data are subject to disclosure review before they can be shared (even in nonpublished forms, such as emails with people who are not approved for access).
- **Review of output:** All manuscripts, presentations, and other materials that derive results from restricted-use data are required to adhere to disclosure avoidance guidelines and are subject to disclosure risk review prior to public release and publication. Depending on the restricted-use data source(s) used by a particular project, the manuscript may also be subject to review by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), State SNAP and WIC agencies, and purveyors of proprietary data.
- **Conferences:** There will be periodic convenings of funded projects, including a kickoff workshop (virtual, Fall 2022), an interim conference (virtual, Fall 2023), and a final conference (in person, early 2025). Grantees are expected to attend all convenings and should budget for travel expenses as needed (see Use of Grant Funds below).

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- *Dissemination:* Findings should be published or disseminated, regardless of whether they are positive, negative, or null. When publishing in peer-reviewed journals, ensure open access (see below). In addition, the work supported by the awards may be considered for publication in a special issue of a journal (to be selected later).
- *Budget and timeline:* Include stakeholder engagement, conferences, meetings, and other forms of dissemination in the project budget and timeline.
- *Additional requirements:* Additional requirements apply to those who apply to use FSRDC asset(s) versus ADRF asset(s). See [Appendix B](#) and [Appendix C](#) for these additional details.

## TOTAL AWARDS

- The total award will be up to \$100,000 per project. Multiple researchers are allowed on a project, dividing the award.
  - Funding for FSRDC data access fees will also be provided.
  - ADRF data access fees have already been covered by ERS prior to this CFP.
- Approximately 12 to 15 projects will receive awards.
- The duration of awards will be up to 27 months, from November 2022 to February 2025.
  - Awards for researchers who need to apply for and receive Special Sworn Status (SSS; see [Appendix B](#)) will be shorter (approximately 24 months) to allow for this process; receipt of SSS is a requirement for these awards to be finalized.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Researchers applying for funding from this CFP are required to submit proposals making use of one (or more) of the restricted-use data assets listed in the USDA's Consumer Food Data System (CFDS; see [Appendix A](#)).
- Proposals for research involving multiple CFDS data assets conjointly are allowed and encouraged. A researcher may also import non-CFDS data into ADRF to conduct the research supported by an award. However, researchers must obtain and provide evidence that owners of the data to be imported permit linking their data as proposed.
- To be eligible for an award, research supported by this CFP must be for research or statistical purposes, in contrast to regulatory or law enforcement purposes. The research must use at least one of the restricted-use CFDS data assets from the list provided below (see Appendix A for further details).
- To be eligible for an award, researchers must be affiliated with U.S. academic organizations that are either institutes of higher education, public entities, or nonprofits that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations or Type III supporting organizations.

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- Projects that already have funding are not eligible for funding under this CFP for the same work. Researchers with funded projects may apply under this CFP for support for related research or an expanded project scope, accompanied by a clear explanation of how the work supported by this CFP relates to work that is already funded.
- Additional criteria apply to FSRDC researchers and ADRF researchers, as described in [Appendix B](#) and [Appendix C](#), respectively.

## THE RWJF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITMENT

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to building a Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. Achieving this goal requires focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion. To that end, RWJF is committed to fostering diverse perspectives. RWJF recognizes that individuals' perspectives are shaped by a host of factors, such as their race, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, age, socioeconomic status, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, familial status, education, religion, legal status, military service, political affiliation, geography, and other personal and professional experiences.

RWJF knows that the presence of diverse perspectives alone is not sufficient. Therefore, RWJF is also committed to creating inclusive environments where all individuals are encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences. RWJF believes that only through valuing people's differences and similarities, and remaining vigilant in advancing equity, will they be able to maintain an equitable workplace and actively pursue equity in all aspects of their work. RWJF commits to being continuous learners and working alongside others to cultivate equity, diversity, and inclusion.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

This CFP involves two stages of proposal writing and evaluation. In the first stage, each applicant (principal investigator) submits a brief proposal. Selected applicants will be notified that they are invited to submit a second-stage full proposal. Full proposals are then evaluated for awards.

Brief proposals will be evaluated based on their relevance to food and nutrition policy and the opportunity to create change that will increase health equity. Additional criteria include the compatibility of CFDS data assets with the proposed research, appropriateness of methodology, the applicant's experience and training, and for proposals using SNAP or WIC administrative data, whether the results will be informative for program administration of SNAP or WIC. Selections will also be made to ensure a balanced distribution of proposals across CFDS data assets.

Full proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

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## 1. Goals, objectives, and potential usefulness of the analysis

This criterion will assess the importance, relevance, and potential usefulness of the proposed study aims, hypotheses, methods, and outcomes. Applicants should describe how the anticipated results will advance knowledge of food policy; food retail markets; consumer behaviors related to food purchases and diet; and/or USDA nutrition assistance programs. If the proposed project builds on previous work, the proposal should explain how.

## 2. Quality and soundness of methodology and design

This criterion considers the scientific rigor, appropriateness, and cost-effectiveness of the proposed research and analytic methods, including: the research design, selection and appropriateness of data, data-gathering procedures (if additional data assets will be used besides CFDS data assets), and statistical techniques.

If two or more data sources are to be linked or merged, the proposal's discussion of the methods used to clean, standardize, and link the data will be important.

## 3. Qualifications of personnel and organizational capability

This criterion addresses the research qualifications and experience of the investigator(s) for conducting the proposed research. Panel members will evaluate the PI and other research staff on research experience and demonstrated research skills. Proposals that involve linking or merging data sources will be scored on the applicant's experience with such efforts.

## 4. Prospects for successful execution

This criterion evaluates the appropriateness of the proposed budget and project timeline, including the feasibility of completing the project within the specified funding period. Reviewers will consider whether the application demonstrates an adequate level of understanding by the applicant of the practical problems of conducting such a project. Proposals should describe how the project will be managed and how the researchers plan to ensure that the research exhibits rigor and quality. Reviewers will consider the approach for communicating, disseminating, and translating research findings to academic colleagues, advocates, decision-makers, policymakers, and community members, if applicable. Reviewers will also examine the use of any additional funding and the role that funds provided by this CFP will play in the overall project.

This program has an expert committee of internal and external reviewers that makes recommendations for funding. All final grant decisions are made by RWJF, with input from ERS.

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of proposals submitted.

## EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Grantees are expected to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports, as well as periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. RWJF may ask principal investigators (PIs) to participate in periodic meetings

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and give progress reports on their grants. At the close of each grant, the PIs expected to provide a written report on the project and its findings suitable for wide dissemination.

## APPLICANT SURVEY PROCESS

The PI of the proposal may be contacted after the submission deadline by SSRS, an independent research firm. The PI will be 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 SSRS will not impact the funding decision for your proposal in any way.

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

## USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project. In keeping with RWJF policy, funds may *not* be used to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, for political activities, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities. Additional budget guidelines are provided in the online application materials; please see [Budget Narrative Guidelines](#) at the RWJF website. The award is intended to cover travel expenses, which may be incurred to attend a final conference (if it is held in person instead of virtually) or, for some researchers, to travel to an FSRDC (see [Appendix B](#)); other travel expenses may be proposed as well, but the award of up to \$100,000 remains the same. Multiple researchers are allowed on a project, dividing the award. Fees charged by an FSRDC for data access are not included in the award and will be covered by RWJF (see [Appendix B](#)); no separate application is necessary.

## OPEN ACCESS

In order to ensure RWJF-supported research is made accessible to a wide and diverse audience, grantees who publish findings in peer-reviewed publications must do so in open access journals and/or must include funds in their budgets to cover the cost of making the resulting publications open access (typically \$2,000–\$5,000 per manuscript).

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted electronically via the RWJF online system.

To apply for this special solicitation, visit [www.rwjf.org/cfp/cfds](http://www.rwjf.org/cfp/cfds) and click the “Apply Online” link.

Applicants should register at [my.rwjf.org](http://my.rwjf.org) to begin the application process. It is recommended that applicants log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission



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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.

Note that proposal instructions and requirements vary depending on whether a researcher seeks to access data through the ADRF or through an FSRDC. All applicants must review Appendices B and C of this CFP, which provide instructions and requirements for researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through FSRDCs and the ADRF, respectively.

Brief proposal and full proposals are to be single spaced with one-inch margins, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

**All applicants are responsible for ensuring that they have submitted all required application elements for their chosen data asset(s).**

There are two phases in the application process:

## ***Phase 1: Brief Proposals***

All applicants must submit: 1) a brief proposal narrative of up to two pages (single spaced) that describes the proposed project; and 2) supporting documentation (e.g., CVs for key personnel, timeline).

### FSRDC Researchers:

- See [Appendix B](#) for brief proposal instructions and requirements for researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through FSRDCs.

### ADRF Researchers:

- See [Appendix C](#) for brief proposal instructions and requirements for researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through the ADRF.

Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system.

## ***Phase 2: Full Proposals (if invited)***

Selected Phase 1 applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal narrative of up to 15 pages (single spaced) accompanied by a budget and budget narrative and additional supporting documents. Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the online system.

The format and submission process for a full proposal depend on whether a researcher seeks to access data through the ADRF or through an FSRDC.



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## FSRDC Researchers:

- See [Appendix B](#) for full proposal instructions and requirements for researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through FSRDCs.
- Requires simultaneous submission of: (1) a full proposal through the RWJF system for funding purposes; and (2) a full proposal at the FSRDC for data access purposes.

## ADRF Researchers:

- See [Appendix C](#) for brief proposal instructions and requirements for researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through the ADRF.
- Requires a single full proposal to be submitted through the RWJF online system.

Please see the section below for a complete list of Key Dates and Deadlines for the two phases.

## PROGRAM DIRECTION

The *CFDS CFP for Food and Health Research* is jointly administered by RWJF and ERS, and Mathematica provides overall assistance for the program.

Please direct questions about the program, selection criteria, or application content to the CFDS Project Team at Mathematica ([CFDS@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:CFDS@mathematica-mpr.com)). Any inquiries about specific CFDS data assets should be sent directly to the ERS contacts listed for each asset in [Appendix A](#). Please see the “How to Apply” section for information about the online application process.

Responsible staff members at RWJF are:

- Katherine Hempstead, *senior policy advisor*

Responsible staff members at ERS are:

- Mark Denbaly, *assistant director for data*

Responsible staff members at Mathematica are:

- Rebecca Franckle, Researcher

## KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

- **April 4, 2022**  
Announcement of CFDS call for proposals.
- **April 18, 2022**  
Optional office hours session for questions related to CFDS data assets (virtual); additional information and resources will be posted on the [Mathematica website](#).

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The office hours are optional for researchers; it is not a requirement for submitting proposals.

- **May 16, 2022 (3 p.m. ET)**  
Deadline for submission of brief proposals, including signed third-party agreements (as needed; see [Appendix C](#)).
- **June 27, 2022**  
Invitations sent to selected applicants to prepare a full proposal.
- **August 8, 2022 (3 p.m. ET)**  
Deadline for submission of full proposals.
- **October 17, 2022**  
Notification of Awards:
  - Selected applicants who submitted full proposals to access data at the ADRF are notified about awards.
  - Researchers who submitted full proposals to access data at an FSRDC who do have SSS are notified about awards.
  - Researchers who submitted full proposals to access data at an FSRDC who do not yet have SSS are notified of a *possible* award. Such applicants should begin the process to apply for SSS (see [Appendix B](#)). Subject to granting of SSS, these awards will be finalized at a later date.
- **Approximately December 2022–February 2023**  
Official award notifications from RWJF concluded with signed paperwork.
- **December 2, 2022 (tentative)**  
Initial conference (virtual).
- **November 2023**  
Interim conference (virtual).
- **February 2025**  
Final conference (tentatively in person).

## Applicant Deadline Policy

All proposals for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit [www.rwjf.org/cfp/cfds](http://www.rwjf.org/cfp/cfds) and use the “Apply Online” link. Applicants should register at [my.rwjf.org](http://my.rwjf.org) to begin the proposal process.

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All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online proposal requirements well before the final submission deadline. Please note that, in the 24-hour period leading up to the proposal deadline, staff may not be able to assist all applicants with any system-related issues. Therefore, we encourage applicants to submit their proposals well before the deadline so that any unforeseen difficulties or technical problems may be addressed in advance.

**Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.** While late submissions will not be accepted, RWJF may choose, at its sole discretion, to extend the proposal deadline for all applicants. Such extensions generally will be granted only in the event of: (1) a verified issue with the RWJF proposal system that prevented completion and submission of proposals; or (2) a disaster, emergency, or significant internet outage that affects one or more regions. For purposes of this policy, a region is generally considered to be one or more states. RWJF strives to give all applicants any support needed to successfully submit their proposal prior to the deadline. Submission is defined as all sections completed, marked finished, the proposal “submit” button used, and the proposal status shows “Submitted.” If the deadline is extended for any reason, the extension will be posted on the Funding Opportunities page at [rwjf.org](http://rwjf.org). In addition, an email will be sent to all individuals that have started a proposal in the RWJF online system.

## ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

For 50 years, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has worked to improve health and health care. We are working alongside others to build a national Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. For more information, visit [rwjf.org](http://rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.rwjf.org/twitter](https://www.rwjf.org/twitter) or [www.rwjf.org/facebook](https://www.rwjf.org/facebook).

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

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## Appendix A. Information on USDA's Consumer Food Data System (CFDS) Assets

This appendix provides a brief description of each CFDS data asset, as well as links to additional information and a point of contact for questions about each data asset. Researchers applying for funding from this call for proposals are required to submit proposals making use of one (or more) of the restricted-use CFDS data assets.

- Section A provides a brief background on the CFDS.
- Section B describes restricted-use data to be accessed through the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF).
- Section C describes restricted-use data (including SNAP and WIC administrative data) to be accessed through FSRDCs.
- Section D describes public-use CFDS data assets that may be used in combination with any restricted-use CFDS data asset(s).

Please also be sure to visit the Mathematica website for additional information on the data assets (for example, recorded presentations and guides to variables for SNAP and WIC administrative data): [www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition](http://www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition)

### A. Background

The USDA's Consumer Food Data System (CFDS) is a nationally recognized program predicated on a [2005 Consensus Study Report](#) by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The CFDS builds a comprehensive, integrated data system to support research on relevant and timely evidence that informs the USDA, Congress, and the U.S. public about the food sector—from farm gate to fork—and about key national issues around food and health such as food insecurity, obesity, diet quality, and nutrition assistance programs.

The CFDS is composed of data, statistics, and value-added data products that USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) integrates and constructs from government, commercial, and academic sources. The CFDS supports research conducted by ERS, other federal agencies, and extramural researchers. Data assets in the CFDS include some that are restricted use and others that are public use. CFDS data and sources include: survey data and survey supplements sponsored by ERS; proprietary data (commercial data) acquired by ERS and made available (with restrictions) to extramural researchers; government administrative data which are available (with restrictions) to extramural researchers, including micro-level data from State agencies that administer the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and its Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and various integrated and linked data sources.

A [2020 Consensus Study Report](#) by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine evaluated investments made in the CFDS investments and provided a set of

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recommendations to improve the content and uses of the CFDS. A cross-cutting recommendation is to maximize the returns to federal dollars invested in the CFDS by enhancing accessibility to extramural researchers of data resources for research of interest to USDA and the public.

## **B. Restricted-Use Data to be Accessed Through the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF) (8 data assets)**

### **Survey Data**

**1. National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS).** The USDA's FoodAPS is the first nationally representative survey of American households to collect unique and comprehensive data about household food purchases and acquisitions. Detailed information was collected (in 2012) about foods purchased or otherwise acquired for consumption at home and away from home, including foods acquired through nutrition assistance programs. The survey includes responses from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households, low-income households not participating in SNAP, and higher-income households.

- Contact: Elina Page ([elina.t.page@usda.gov](mailto:elina.t.page@usda.gov)), Linda Kantor ([linda.kantor@usda.gov](mailto:linda.kantor@usda.gov)), Jeff Gonzalez ([Jeffrey.Gonzalez@usda.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Gonzalez@usda.gov)), and Lauren Miller ([Lauren.Miller@usda.gov](mailto:Lauren.Miller@usda.gov)).
- Link to ERS website on FoodAPS: [www.ers.usda.gov/foodaps](http://www.ers.usda.gov/foodaps)

### **Proprietary Data (Restricted-Use; Brief Proposals require signed Third-Party Agreement)**

**2. IRI Consumer Network.** These data are item-level food purchases from food retailers (e.g., grocery stores) by a nationally representative panel of households, who record the following for each food item with handheld scanners or mobile applications: dollar value of purchase, quantities (for fixed-weight items), purchase date, product attributes, store name, and store format. Available household demographic information includes block group, income, household size, race, age and presence of children, and household heads' age, education, and occupation. In surveys known as RxPulse and MedProfiler, a subset of households provides drug purchase and self-reported health information, including COVID-relevant information in 2020 only. Years available: 2008–2020.

- Contact: Patrick McLaughlin ([patrick.mclaughlin@usda.gov](mailto:patrick.mclaughlin@usda.gov)), Alexander Stevens ([alexander.stevens@usda.gov](mailto:alexander.stevens@usda.gov)), and Xiao Dong ([xiao.dong@usda.gov](mailto:xiao.dong@usda.gov)).
- Link to ERS website on IRI: [www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#iri](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#iri)

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**3. IRI Infoscane.** These data are weekly point-of-sale records of the dollar value and quantity sold of individual food items by food retailers, such as grocery stores. Additional information include store addresses and product characteristics, including nutrition information from the nutrition facts panel for approximately 40 percent of UPCs and front-of-package claims, such as and health/wellness claims, for approximately 15 percent of UPCs. Depending on the retailer, sales data are either at the store level or aggregated to the retail marketing area (RMA), which are geographic areas that can cross state lines. InfoScan is a complex “Big Data” data asset with nearly 100 billion transaction records, covering a large portion of retail food-at-home sales in the United States. Years available: 2008–2020.

- Contact: Patrick McLaughlin ([patrick.mclaughlin@usda.gov](mailto:patrick.mclaughlin@usda.gov)), Alexander Stevens ([alexander.stevens@usda.gov](mailto:alexander.stevens@usda.gov)), and Xiao Dong ([xiao.dong@usda.gov](mailto:xiao.dong@usda.gov)).
- Link to ERS website on IRI:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#iri](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#iri)

**4. IRI Weekly Retail and Monthly Household COVID-19 Response Data.** These data contain information on nationally representative weekly food retail sales and monthly household purchases at the product level (e.g., subcategory) spanning the duration of the pandemic. The available levels of geography include national, regional, state, and market (e.g., Baltimore, MD/Washington, D.C.). The retail data include total sales value and volume-equivalent units sold by product and geographical unit. The household data include projected number of buyers, expenditures, number of trips, expenditure per trip; variables are at the level of all households as well as stratified by household income status. Year-ago values are included for all variables. Period to be available: October 2019 through present (data through September 2022 are expected to be available).

- Contact: Patrick McLaughlin ([patrick.mclaughlin@usda.gov](mailto:patrick.mclaughlin@usda.gov)), Alexander Stevens ([malexander.stevens@usda.gov](mailto:malexander.stevens@usda.gov)), and Xiao Dong ([xiao.dong@usda.gov](mailto:xiao.dong@usda.gov)).
- Link to ERS website on IRI:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#iri](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#iri)

**5. Monthly Food-at-Home Price Database (MFAHPD).** The Monthly Food-at-Home Price Database (MFAHPD) is a set of price indexes that allow users to track changes in prices over time by food product category and geography. It is built using IRI Infoscane data and IRI store weights and is identified using the ERS Food Purchase Groups (EFPs). This construction allows it to be easily combined with IRI data, weights, and EFPs for innovative research. The MFAHPD is an update of the previous ERS data product, the Quarterly Food at Home Price Database (QFAHPD), which remains available on the ERS website for public use. In the MFAHPD, there are seven indexes: unit prices, four bilateral price indexes, and

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two multilateral price indexes. These indexes have been constructed for the individual EFPGs with geographic divisions that include 10 metropolitan areas and four census divisions. They are currently available for 2016–2018. Among other research topics, users may consider the MFAHPD for analyzing price changes in individual food products or product groups; investigating geographic differences in food prices; or comparing specific food price changes to other geographically variable metrics, such as cost of living.

- Contact: Anne Byrne ([anne.byrne@usda.gov](mailto:anne.byrne@usda.gov))
- Links to relevant resources:
  - ERS website on MFAHPD (under “Value-Added Products”):  
[www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#iri](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#iri)
  - RTI report on food code mapping for ERS Food Purchase Groups (EFPGs) and the Monthly Food-at-Home Price Database (MFAHPD):  
[www.rti.org/publication/overview-food-code-mapping-ers-food-purchase-groups-and-monthly-food-home-price-database](http://www.rti.org/publication/overview-food-code-mapping-ers-food-purchase-groups-and-monthly-food-home-price-database)

**Key Background Information on Using IRI Weights.** The IRI Store-level weights are weights that allow for projections from the retail stores currently included in the IRI Infoscan data purchased by the Economic Research Service (ERS) to the population of stores in the United States. The weights are developed by utilizing NielsenIQ TDLinx as the source of store population information. These weights have been constructed for projections at the national level and for ten metropolitan areas and four census divisions. The weights have been also constructed for three types of projections by industry channel (such as grocery store and dollar store), by metropolitan area, and by a combination of both factors (channel-by-metropolitan area). The weights are currently available for 2012–2018. The weights are key inputs for the Monthly Food at Home Price Database (MFAHPD). The weights are also potentially useful for to generate policy-relevant economic intelligence for decision makers.

**6. Purchase to Plate Crosswalk (PPC).** The Purchase to Plate Crosswalk (PPC) uses a combination of probabilistic and manual matching to link the scanner data to the USDA Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies (FNDDS) and enables researchers to measure Healthy Eating Index (HEI) scores for both retail and household panel scanner data. The HEI score allows researchers to measure how well a basket of food complies with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Users can also import any data from the Food Pattern Equivalents/Ingredient Databases (FPED/FPID). Years available: 2013, 2015–2018 (linking to FNDDS/FPED/FPID: 2011–2012, 2013–2014, 2015–2016, 2017–2018). Date for next update is unknown and may not be available during the grant period.

- Contact: Andrea Carlson ([andrea.carlson@usda.gov](mailto:andrea.carlson@usda.gov)), Chris Lowe



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([christopher.m.lowe@usda.gov](mailto:christopher.m.lowe@usda.gov)), and Elina Page ([elina.t.page@usda.gov](mailto:elina.t.page@usda.gov)).

- Links to relevant resources:
  - ERS report on linking USDA databases to IRI data:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=92570](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=92570)
  - Journal article on the development of the Purchase to Plate Crosswalk and Price Tool:  
[www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0889157521005445?via%3Dihub](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0889157521005445?via%3Dihub)
  - Food Surveys Research Group webpage at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (for information on FNDDS, FPED, FPID):  
[www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-bhnrc/beltsville-human-nutrition-research-center/food-surveys-research-group/](http://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-bhnrc/beltsville-human-nutrition-research-center/food-surveys-research-group/)

**7. Purchase to Plate Price Tool (PPPT) and Purchase to Plate Ingredient Tool (PPIT).** The Purchase to Plate Price Tool (PPPT) estimates food prices for NHANES foods and the Purchase to Plate Ingredient Tool (PPIT) breaks the food prices into ingredient quantities based on market purchases. Researchers can use the PPPT and PPIT on all of the retail IRI data or a subset of the data, such as regional or store type. The Purchase to Plate National Average Prices (PP-NAP) for NHANES are publicly available data and are thus not considered one of the restricted-use data assets that must be used for this call for proposals. Years available; PPPT: NHANES cycles: 2011–2012 (InfoScan only), 2013–2014; 2015–2016; 2017–2018 (both InfoScan and Consumer Network); PPIT: NHANES cycles: 2013–2014; 2015–2016; 2017–2018. Date for next update is unknown and may not be available during the grant period.

- Contact: Andrea Carlson ([andrea.carlson@usda.gov](mailto:andrea.carlson@usda.gov)) and Chris Lowe ([christopher.m.lowe@usda.gov](mailto:christopher.m.lowe@usda.gov)).
- Links to relevant resources:
  - ERS report on the PPPT and estimating prices for foods in NHANES:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=99294](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=99294)
  - Journal article on the development of the Purchase to Plate Crosswalk and Price Tool:  
[www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0889157521005445?via%3Dihub](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0889157521005445?via%3Dihub)
  - NHANES webpage at the National Center for Health Statistics:  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/index.htm)

**8. NielsenIQ TDLinx.** These data contain information on individual store characteristics for supermarkets, supercenters, club stores, superettes, convenience stores, grocery kiosks,

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and other stores. The stores' TDLinX code is hierarchical, which allows linking an individual store to its firm name, and to an ultimate parent company, such as a foreign firm owner. Characteristics include store name, address, telephone number, location (longitude-latitude, state, county, and census tract), market area identifiers, annual sales, selling area, full-time equivalent employees, number of checkout registers, and many more. Years available: 2004–2020.

- Contact: Alana Rhone ([alana.y.rhone@usda.gov](mailto:alana.y.rhone@usda.gov)).
- Link to ERS website on TDLinX:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#tdlinx](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-markets-prices/food-prices-expenditures-and-establishments/using-proprietary-data/#tdlinx)
- Additional information on TDLinX, ReCount, and NETS:  
[Capturing the Complete Food Environment with Commercial Data: A Comparison of TDLinX, ReCount, and NETS Databases](#)

### C. Restricted-Use Data (including SNAP and WIC Administrative Data) to be Accessed Through FSRDCs (3 data assets)

#### **SNAP and WIC Administrative Data**

1. **SNAP Administrative Data.** Some states make restricted-use micro-level SNAP data and lists of variables available for research through an FSRDC. See Table 1 below for a list of states and corresponding years of data available.
  - Contact the FSRDC Administrator at the FSRDC where the research would be conducted:  
[www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/contact.html](http://www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/contact.html)
  - Link to ERS website on SNAP administrative data:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-assistance-data-collaborative-research-programs/snap-and-wic-administrative-data/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-assistance-data-collaborative-research-programs/snap-and-wic-administrative-data/)
  - Link to *Guide to Variables in SNAP Administrative Data*, which lists the particular set of variables available for each state:  
[www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition](http://www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition)

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**Table 1. State SNAP Agencies That Make Restricted-Use Administrative Data and Lists of Variables Available for Research Through a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) (as of January 2022)**

State	(Calendar) Years for which data are available
California—LA County only	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Connecticut	2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
Illinois	2017
Iowa	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Maryland	2017, 2018, 2019
Montana	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Nebraska	2018, 2019, 2020
Nevada	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
North Carolina	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020,
South Carolina	2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
South Dakota	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Wyoming	2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

**2. WIC Administrative Data.** Some states make restricted-use micro-level WIC data and lists of variables available for research through an FSRDC. See Table 2 below for a list of states and corresponding years of data available.

- Contact the FSRDC Administrator at the FSRDC where the research would be conducted:  
[www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/contact.html](http://www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/contact.html)
- Link to ERS website on WIC administrative data:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-assistance-data-collaborative-research-programs/snap-and-wic-administrative-data/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-assistance-data-collaborative-research-programs/snap-and-wic-administrative-data/)
- Link to *Guide to Variables in SNAP Administrative Data*, which lists the particular set of variables available for each state:  
[www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition](http://www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition)

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**Table 2. State WIC Agencies That Make Restricted-Use Administrative Data and Lists of Variables Available for Research Through a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) (as of January 2022)**

State	(Calendar) Years for which data are available
Colorado	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Connecticut	2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Illinois	2017, 2018, 2019
Kansas	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Maine	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Montana	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
South Dakota	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

### Survey Data

**3. Food Security Supplement (FSS) to the Current Population Survey (CPS).** Some U.S. households experience food insecurity at times during the year, meaning their access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources. The USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs aim to increase food security by providing low-income households access to food for a healthful diet, as well as nutrition education. The USDA monitors the extent and severity of food insecurity in U.S. households through the FSS, among other supplements. The public-use version of the FSS contains state-level identifiers, and information from some continuous variables (such as food spending and SNAP benefit amount) is rounded or reported by categories. The restricted-use version contains census-tract level identifiers and continuous variables are not rounded or categorized. Years available: 1997–2015 and 2017; data for 2016, and 2018–2020 are scheduled to be available in the coming months.

- Contact Alisha Coleman-Jensen ([alisha.coleman-jensen@usda.gov](mailto:alisha.coleman-jensen@usda.gov)), Matthew Rabbitt ([matthew.rabbitt@usda.gov](mailto:matthew.rabbitt@usda.gov)), and Laura Hales ([laura.hales@usda.gov](mailto:laura.hales@usda.gov)).
- Links to ERS website on food security:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/)  
[www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-security-in-the-united-states/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-security-in-the-united-states/)

### **D. Public-Use Data Assets**

Researchers are required to submit proposals making use of one (or more) of the restricted-use data assets listed above in Sections B and C. In addition, researchers are encouraged to use any of the public-use CFDS data assets listed below in combination with the

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restricted-use CFDS data asset(s).

1. **Food Access Research Atlas (FARA).** The FARA provides users with a wide set of statistics on food choices, health and well-being, and community characteristics for all communities in the United States.
  - Contact: Alana Rhone ([alana.y.rhone@usda.gov](mailto:alana.y.rhone@usda.gov))
  - Link to ERS website to FARA:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas.aspx](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas.aspx)
2. **Food Environment Atlas.** The Food Environment Atlas is a web-based mapping tool that includes over 275 indicators that help determine and reflect a community's access to affordable, healthy food. Food environment factors interact to influence food choices and diet quality.
  - Contact: Alana Rhone ([alana.y.rhone@usda.gov](mailto:alana.y.rhone@usda.gov)).
  - Link to ERS website on Food Environment Atlas:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/)
3. **Food Availability Data System.** The ERS Food Availability (per capita) Data System (FADS) includes three distinct but related data series on food and nutrient availability for consumption: food availability data, loss-adjusted food availability data, and nutrient availability data. The data serve as proxies for actual consumption at the national level.
  - Contact: Linda Kantor ([linda.kantor@usda.gov](mailto:linda.kantor@usda.gov)).
  - Link to ERS website to FADS:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-availability-per-capita-data-system/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-availability-per-capita-data-system/)
4. **Flexible Consumer Behavior Survey (FCBS) on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).** The FCBS, conducted since 2007, collects information on information on U.S. consumers' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about nutrition and food choices as a supplement to a premier health and nutrition survey. Data collected by the FCBS include economic variables, SNAP and WIC participation, and dietary and behavioral indicators such as self-assessed diet quality; types of foods available in the home; frequency of eating out; time spent grocery shopping and time spent cooking meals at home; nutritional knowledge; and use of food labels and nutrition information. (A public-use version is available that provides nationally representative estimates; although the National Center for Health Statistics has a restricted-use version with granular geographic identifiers, including county and state FIPS codes, that version is not supported by the *CFDS Grant Competition for Food and Health Research*.)
  - Contact: Brandon Restrepo ([brandon.restrepo@usda.gov](mailto:brandon.restrepo@usda.gov)).

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- Link on ERS to FCBS:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-choices-health/food-consumption-demand/flexible-consumer-behavior-survey/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-choices-health/food-consumption-demand/flexible-consumer-behavior-survey/)

### 5. Eating and Health Module (EH Module) on the American Time Use Survey (ATUS).

The ATUS measures the amount of time people spend doing various activities, including time spent eating or drinking as a primary (main) activity. In 2014–2016, the EH Module on the ATUS asked respondents about secondary eating (eating while doing another activity); soft drink consumption; grocery shopping preferences and fast food purchases; meal preparation and food safety practices; food assistance participation; general health, height and weight, and exercise; and income.

- Contact: Brandon Restrepo ([brandon.restrepo@usda.gov](mailto:brandon.restrepo@usda.gov)) and Eliana Zeballos ([eliana.zeballos@usda.gov](mailto:eliana.zeballos@usda.gov)).

- Link on ERS website to EH module:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/eating-and-health-module-atus/#](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/eating-and-health-module-atus/#)

### 6. Food Expenditures Series (FES). The FES provides the most comprehensive measure of the total value of all food acquisitions in the United States. The series tracks food expenditures at grocery stores, supercenters, warehouse clubs, and other retail stores (for food at home, or FAH) and at restaurants, school cafeterias, hotels and motels, recreational places, and other away-from-home eating places (for food away from home, or FAFH). The series also estimates the value of home production—food grown or caught for personal consumption. FES also tracks food spending by federal, state, and local governments, including food purchased as part of food and nutrition assistance programs or as part of doing business (e.g., expensed meals), and meals served at government-sponsored group quarters (e.g., correctional facilities, nursing homes, group homes, military quarters) and hospitals.

- Contact: Eliana Zeballos ([eliana.zeballos@usda.gov](mailto:eliana.zeballos@usda.gov)) and Wilson Sinclair ([wilson.sinclair@usda.gov](mailto:wilson.sinclair@usda.gov)).

- Link on ERS website to FES:  
[www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-expenditure-series/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-expenditure-series/)

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## Appendix B. Instructions for Proposals Using Data to be Accessed Through the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs)

This appendix provides detailed instructions for proposals using data to be accessed through the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs).

- Section 1 provides a brief introduction.
- Section 2 provides detailed instructions to supplement the main call for proposals (CFP), specific to FSRDC applicants.
- Section 3 describes instructions for brief proposals for FSRDC applicants.
- Section 4 describes instructions for full proposals for FSRDC applicants.

Note that FSRDC applicants, if selected to submit a full proposal, will have to submit two separate proposals (of similar but not identical materials; one to the Census Bureau in order to apply for *access* to the data, and one to the RWJF online system in order to apply for *funding*). Details are described below, and applicants should also refer to the Census Bureau's website and resources ([www.census.gov/about/adrm/ced/apply-for-access.html](http://www.census.gov/about/adrm/ced/apply-for-access.html)) for instructions on submitting a research proposal to access data at an FSRDC.

Please also be sure to visit the Mathematica website for additional information on the data assets (for example, recorded presentations and guides to variables for SNAP and WIC administrative data): [www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition](http://www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition).

### 1. Introduction

Researchers applying for funding from the CFDS CFP are required to submit proposals making use of one (or more) of the restricted-use data assets listed in the USDA's Consumer Food Data System (CFDS). Three of the restricted-use data assets are accessed through Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs). Researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through FSRDCs are subject to the requirements/instructions described in the CFP and the additional application requirements described in this appendix.

Note: A requirement of the *CFDS CFP for Food and Health Research* concerns the types of data sources that may be used to supplement the CFDS data assets. For FSRDC researchers, the only restricted-use data that may be requested under this CFP are surveys and censuses of the U.S. Census Bureau. This limitation to Census Bureau surveys and censuses is not driven by FSRDC or Census Bureau policies. In general, a proposal can be submitted to an FSRDC that requests importing data into the FSRDC environment or accessing a wider array of data than those permitted under this CFP. The greater restrictiveness of the *CFDS CFP for Food and Health Research* is motivated by the goal of having final research results ready for sharing at a final conference to take place during the grant period.



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## 2. Additional CFP Requirements for FSRDC Applicants

The details described below are additional requirements for FSRDC applicants. Note that these details align with the sections of the CFP; and thus, the two documents should be reviewed jointly to ensure that all requirements are met.

### Expectations of all funded grantees who will use data to be accessed through FSRDCs:

- *Special Sworn Status.* Researchers seeking to access SNAP or WIC administrative data or the restricted-use version of the Food Security Supplement of the Current Population Survey (FSS/CPS) will do so through an FSRDC and must have Census Bureau Special Sworn Status (SSS) to conduct the research. Researchers that do not already have SSS can apply for SSS to conduct the project. SSS involves a federal Moderate Background Investigation (MBI); there is no fee to the researcher for an MBI for a project that has been approved by the Census Bureau. The process to complete the MBI and obtain SSS, if granted, can take three to four months following the Census Bureau's approval of the project. Under some circumstances regarding cumulative years of residency in the United States in the last five years, noncitizens can apply for SSS but an additional one to two months is needed to process an application.
  - Finalization of an award will be conditional on achieving SSS.
  - Grants for awardees who must apply for SSS will start later in approximately February–March 2023 (see CFP). However, awardees are expected to attend the initial conference while SSS is pending.

### Eligibility Criteria

- If a grant is awarded to access data at an FSRDC, researchers must plan to be *physically present* on site at an FSRDC to conduct the research; remote access to an FSRDC under this CFP is not an option.
- A researcher may propose linking SNAP or WIC administrative data to surveys and censuses of the U.S. Census Bureau, including the [Household Pulse Survey](#), which was launched in 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposals that seek to import non-Census Bureau data into an FSRDC to merge with SNAP or WIC administrative data are discouraged unless such data are public-use data, such as various summary statistics for geographic areas. Proposals that would also make use of Title 26 (IRS) data or Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data will not be considered under this CFP. While it is possible, in principle, to import proprietary or restricted-use government data to combine with SNAP or WIC administrative data, obtaining appropriate permissions can involve substantial delays. Completion of the research could easily fall outside the time

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envisioned for research supported by this CFP, with final results to be presented in February 2025.

## Selection Criteria

- For proposals that seek access to data through an FSRDC, approval from the Census Bureau is required for data access. The Census Bureau has 13 possible criteria for evaluating the proposal, each of which identifies a benefit to the Census Bureau from the project; researchers are encouraged to download and read *Writing Benefit Statements For Projects Accessing Confidential Data*, which is available on the [“Apply for Access”](#) webpage on the Census Bureau website. To be approved, a full proposal (see below) needs to meet only a single Census criterion of the 13 available. If applicable, proposals can describe how the project could meet two or even three criteria and are encouraged to do so if more than one criterion can be fulfilled by the research. At a minimum, the proposal must identify a specific criterion and explain how the research meets it.
- *Approvals for access to SNAP or WIC Administrative Data.* These micro-level administrative data are acquired from various State SNAP or WIC agencies that are part of a federal-state partnership administering USDA nutrition assistance programs. Apart from a recommendation for funding by an expert panel of internal and external reviewers, full proposals involving SNAP or WIC administrative data will need approvals by the Census Bureau and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The criterion that FNS uses to evaluate the proposal is whether the results will be informative for program administration of SNAP or WIC.

## Evaluation and Monitoring

- Those researchers who access data through FSRDCs will submit an annual report to the Census Bureau for each year the project is active. At the end of the project, the researchers are required to submit a Post-Project Certification that serves as a final report for Census purposes.

## Use of Grant Funds

- Fees charged by an FSRDC for data access (which vary across FSRDC locations) must be listed in the full proposal as a separate line item. FSRDC data access fees will be included in the award, and researchers are responsible for paying the FSRDC directly. However, the amount of the FSRDC data access fee does not count against the upper limit of awards, which are funded up to \$100,000; for researchers using an FSRDC, a proposed budget can be as high as \$100,000 plus the FSRDC data access fee.

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Brief Proposal Deadline: May 16, 2022 (3 p.m. ET)

Full Proposal Deadline (by invitation only): August 8, 2022 (3 p.m. ET)

## How to Apply

- Researchers who propose use of SNAP or WIC administrative data or restricted-use FSS/CPS data: (1) should recognize that access to the data is through an FSRDC; and (2) are strongly encouraged to contact an FSRDC Administrator at their preferred location for guidance prior to preparation and submission of a brief proposal; see [Federal Statistical Research Data Centers](#) on the website of the U.S. Census Bureau.

## 3. Brief Proposal Instructions

Brief proposal submissions are to be single-spaced with one-inch margins, with 12-point Times New Roman font. Brief proposals must include the following components:

- a. **Administrative Information** (This information will be provided in the RWJF portal, it does not need to be detailed in the brief narrative template described below).
  - Title of proposed project
  - Name of principal investigator (PI)
  - Name of U.S. educational institution with which the PI is affiliated
  - Names and affiliations of co-researchers, if any
  - CFDS restricted-use data asset(s) requested for the project
  - Name of other researcher-provided public-use data to be used for the project; such data are eligible for inclusion (see Eligibility Criteria).
  - The name of the FSRDC through which data access would occur and list any Census Bureau data sets requested for the research (see Eligibility Criteria).
- b. **Research Information** (This section has a 2-page limit and will be completed in the Brief Narrative Template provided in the RWJF portal.)
  - Discussion of the Topic and Research Question(s): Explain relevance to the policy research agenda. Is the proposed project an offshoot or expansion of an ongoing project (which may have its own funding in place)? If so, please describe.
  - Discussion of Methodology and Data Sources: Describe key variables, statistical methods, and empirical specification.
  - Discussion of possible outputs and benefits of research.
    - Researchers who wish to access data through an FSRDC are advised that a successful full proposal will need to have a statement about Benefits to the Census Bureau (also known as “Title 13 benefits”). **The brief proposal needs to include a short, two-sentence discussion of possible Title 13 benefits stating benefit criteria and elaborating briefly.** The full, detailed Benefits to

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Census Statement will be required at the full proposal stage.

- Researchers who wish to use SNAP or WIC administrative data should recognize that the criterion that FNS uses to evaluate the proposal is whether the results will be informative for program administration of SNAP or WIC.

### c. **Supporting Documentation** (not counted as part of the two-page limit)

- Requested budget amount (a detailed budget narrative is required for a full proposal).
- Proposed project timeline (2-page limit, see instructions in RWJF portal).
- A curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé for the PI and for each co-researcher, if any.
  - Each CV must identify: (a) country of citizenship, and (b) whether the researcher already possesses SSS. While SSS is not required of any member of the research team at the time of submitting the brief proposal, SSS (which involves a federal background investigation) is required of a researcher before that researcher can access data through an FSRDC.

NOTE: Researchers who seek access to data through an FSRDC and are not invited to prepare a full proposal (for funding from the *CFDS CFP for Food and Health Research*) may choose to complete a proposal in tandem with an FSRDC for access on a nonfunded basis or through other funding that the researcher(s) may secure.

## 4. Full Proposal Instructions

Selected applicants from the brief proposal phase will be invited to submit a full proposal. The format and submission process for a full proposal for researchers seeking to access data through an FSRDC are described below.

The process for applying for data access at an FSRDC and the process for applying for funding are related, but they require researchers to submit **two separate proposals** (of similar but not identical materials). Researchers seeking access to data through an FSRDC will need to:

- Submit an application to the Census Bureau to apply for access to the data:  
[www.census.gov/about/adrm/ced/apply-for-access.html](http://www.census.gov/about/adrm/ced/apply-for-access.html)
- Submit the same full proposal, accompanied by other information, to the RWJF online system to apply for *funding*:

### ***Submission 1: Applying for data access***

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Researchers who plan to access data through an FSRDC are directed to the Census Bureau's website and resources (listed below; see [www.census.gov/about/adrm/ced/apply-for-access.html](http://www.census.gov/about/adrm/ced/apply-for-access.html)) for instructions on submitting a research proposal to access data at an FSRDC:

- Research Proposal Guidelines
- Proposal Registration Form
- RDC Predominant Purpose Statement
- Writing Benefit Statements for Projects Accessing Confidential Data

Researchers seeking to access data through an FSRDC are strongly encouraged to contact an FSRDC Administrator as early as possible—ideally, before submitting a Brief Proposal. Researchers are required to contact an FSRDC Administrator in order to submit a Full Proposal. The FSRDC Administrator: (a) can provide assistance with the critical Statement of Census Benefits, required for any proposal seeking to access data through an FSRDC; (b) provide detailed information on access fees for inclusion in the proposal budget (see “Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative” section below); and (c) will route the proposal for review at the Census Bureau and FNS.

Applications to the Census Bureau will consist of the following:

- (1) Abstract (1 page)
- (2) Project Description (up to 15 pages, single spaced)
- (3) Benefits Statement (no length limitation)

### ***Submission 2: Applying for funding***

Selected applicants from the brief proposal phase will be invited to submit a full proposal to apply for funding that consists of the following:

- (1) Abstract (1 page)
- (2) Project Description (up to 15 pages, single spaced)
- (3) Supporting Documents (see details below; not included in the page limit)

Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system. All submissions should:

- Include appropriate headings and subheadings throughout to assist reviewers in following the proposal description.
- Not include any appendices.
- Use 12-point font and one-inch margins. Times New Roman font is required.
- Include page numbers.

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## 1. Abstract (1 page)

In lieu of a separate project abstract, the same Abstract prepared for the applicant's Census Bureau proposal can be submitted for the RWJF proposal.

## 2. Project Description (15 pages maximum)

In lieu of a separate project description, the same Project Description prepared for the applicant's Census Bureau proposal can be submitted for the RWJF proposal.

## 3. Supporting Documents (to be uploaded separately in the RWJF online system; not included in the total page limit)

### a. Administrative Information

Additional demographic and administrative information will be collected as part of the online application submission:

1. Project Title
2. Principal Investigator (PI)
3. Name of U.S. educational institution with which the PI is affiliated
4. Does PI have Special Sworn Status? (yes/no)
5. Names and affiliations of co-researchers, if any
6. CFDS restricted-use data asset(s) requested for the project
7. User-Provided Datasets. List other data asset(s) that will be used in the research

### b. Experience, Qualifications, Capacity, and Use of Staff (1 page maximum)

Briefly describe the PI's relevant experience and ability to conduct the proposed research. Describe how other members of the team will contribute to the success of the project.

### c. Work Plan and Timeline

A work plan should be included which lists the start and end dates of the project, a timeline that indicates the sequence of tasks necessary for the completion of the project, and the responsibilities of each of the co-researchers. The plan should identify the time commitments of the co-researchers in both absolute and percentage terms. The work plan also should include plans for dissemination of the results of the study (e.g., articles in journals, presentations at conferences) for materials that have passed disclosure review (including results cited in a conference presentation). All applications must propose a publicly available output.

Be sure to allow time for disclosure review prior to sharing statistical results, including unpublished results in a conference presentation.

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## d. Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative

For this section, please see [Budget Narrative Guidelines](#) at the RWJF website. A worksheet and a narrative explanation of the budget should be included that state clearly how the funds will be used. If applicable, the applicant should also document the level of funding from other sources and describe how these funds will be expended.

Note that fees charged by an FSRDC for data access will be included in the award (i.e., in addition to the base award of up to \$100,000) and thus, must be accounted for in the budget. All applicants must request detailed information on access fees from the FSRDC Administrator and include this information as a separate line item in the budget.

There will be periodic convenings of funded projects, including a kickoff workshop (virtual, Fall 2022), an interim conference (virtual, Fall 2023), and a final conference (in-person, early 2025 in Washington, D.C.). Grantees are expected to attend all convenings and should budget for travel expenses as needed (i.e., All PIs must plan to attend the final conference in person. Other researchers, if any, can be included in the budget to attend the final conference if desired).

As noted in the CFP, open access fees may be applicable if the researcher does not submit to an open access journal.

## Appendix C. Instructions for Proposals Using Data to be Accessed Through the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF)

This appendix provides detailed instructions for proposals using data to be accessed through the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF).

- Section 1 provides a brief introduction.
- Section 2 provides detailed instructions to supplement the main call for proposals (CFP), specific to ADRF applicants.
- Section 3 describes instructions for brief proposals for ADRF applicants.
- Section 4 describes instructions for full proposals for ADRF applicants.

Please also be sure to visit the Mathematica website for additional information on the data assets (for example, recorded presentations and guides to variables for SNAP and WIC administrative data): [www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition](http://www.mathematica.org/projects/consumer-food-data-system-grant-competition)



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## 1. Introduction

Researchers applying for funding from the CFDS CFP are required to submit proposals making use of one (or more) of the restricted-use data assets listed in the USDA's Consumer Food Data System (CFDS). Eight of the restricted-use data assets are accessed through the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF). Researchers who propose to use any of the data assets accessed through ADRF are subject to the requirements/instructions described in the CFP and the additional application requirements described in this appendix.

Note: A requirement of the *CFDS CFP for Food and Health Research* concerns the types of data sources that may be used to supplement the CFDS data assets. For ADRF researchers, data from other sources may be used in the research, either in combination with an ERS data asset (through linking or merging) or on a stand-alone basis. Either way, the researcher must already have permission to use the additional data source(s) for the proposed research. This requirement is automatically met when the researcher is making use of publicly available data. Other sources of data may be proposed as well, as long as no additional future permissions for their use are required. If an applicant proposes to use nonpublic data besides a CFDS data asset, evidence such as a copy of a signed agreement is needed to demonstrate that the use of those data for the proposed project are covered by already existing permission.

## 2. Additional CFP Requirements for ADRF Applicants

The details described in this section are additional requirements for ADRF applicants. Note that these details align with the sections of the CFP; and thus, the two documents should be reviewed jointly to ensure that all requirements are met.

### Eligibility Criteria

- *Third-Party Agreements.* If proprietary data will be requested, the brief proposal must be accompanied by the appropriate Third-Party Agreement (TPA) signed by the relevant official(s) of the applicant's educational institution (see below for the distinction between a brief proposal and a full proposal, and the timeline for submissions). Note that the TPA is specific to the particular source of data and needs to be signed without any change in the language of the agreement. Blank TPA forms for accessing IRI and NielsenIQ TDLinx are available via the following links:
  - TPA form for IRI: [www.ers.usda.gov/media/8606/tpa\\_iri.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8606/tpa_iri.pdf)
  - TPA form for NielsenIQ TDLinx: [www.ers.usda.gov/media/dlkmzotv/tpa\\_nielsen\\_tdlinx.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/dlkmzotv/tpa_nielsen_tdlinx.pdf)
  - In addition, researchers who propose to use the Purchase to Plate Crosswalk (PPC), Purchase to Plate Price Tool (PPPT), or Purchase to Plate Ingredient Tool (PPIT) will need to provide a signed Third-Party Agreement for IRI data: [www.ers.usda.gov/media/8606/tpa\\_iri.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8606/tpa_iri.pdf)

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## How to Apply

Researchers who want to access proprietary data or restricted-use FoodAPS data will do so through the ADRF; it is not necessary for researchers to contact the ADRF while preparing a brief proposal or full proposal.

## 3. Brief Proposal Instructions

Brief proposal submissions are to be single spaced with one-inch margins, with 12-point Times New Roman font or 12-point Calibri or equivalent. Brief proposals must include the following components:

- a. **Administrative Information** (This information will be provided in the RWJF portal, it does not need to be detailed in the brief narrative template described below).
  - Title of proposed project
  - Name of principal investigator (PI)
  - Name of U.S. educational institution with which the PI is affiliated
  - Names and affiliations of co-researchers, if any
  - CFDS restricted-use data asset(s) requested for the project
  - Name of other researcher-provided data to be used for the project; nonpublic data are eligible for inclusion as long as they do not require new permissions from a data owner.
- b. **Research Information** (This section has a 2-page limit and will be completed in the Brief Narrative Template provided in the RWJF portal.)
  - Discussion of the Topic and Research Question(s): Explain relevance to the policy research agenda. Is the proposed project an offshoot or expansion of an ongoing project (which may have its own funding in place)? If so, please describe.
  - Discussion of Methodology and Data Sources: Describe key variables, statistical methods, and empirical specification.
  - Discussion of possible outputs and benefits of research.
- c. **Supporting Documentation** (not counted as part of the two-page limit)
  - Requested budget amount (a detailed budget narrative is required for a full proposal).
  - Proposed project timeline (2-page limit; see instructions in RWJF portal).

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- A curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé for the PI and for each co-researcher, if any.
- For researchers accessing proprietary data through the ADRF (IRI, NielsenIQ TDLinx, and Purchase to Plate): A signed Third-Party Agreement for the specific data asset (see Eligibility Criteria above).

## 4. Full Proposal Instructions

Selected applicants from the brief proposal phase will be invited to submit a full proposal that consists of the following:

- (1) Abstract (1 page)
- (2) Project Description (up to 15 pages, single spaced)
- (3) Supporting Documents (see details below; not included in the page limit)

Researchers seeking to access data through the ADRF are required to submit a single full proposal through the RWJF system. Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the online system.

All submissions should:

- Include appropriate headings and subheadings throughout to assist reviewers in following the proposal description.
- Not include any appendices.
- Use 12-point font and one-inch margins. Times New Roman font is required.
- Include page numbers.

### 1. Abstract (1 page)

The Abstract should begin with the Project Title. The abstract should be 150–250 words in length, written in first person, reference major datasets and key methods, and discuss expected findings. It should capture the essence of the project proposal similar to what would be expected of a scientific journal publication.

### 2. Project Description (15 pages maximum)

This document should include each of the sections outlined below. The proposal should be written so that it can be understood by a competent social scientist who is not necessarily a specialist in the field or on the topic within the field. Researchers may add subsections as necessary in the sections described below.

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## a. Introduction

An overview that describes: (1) the project; (2) the specific research questions to be investigated; (3) a brief discussion of relevant literature (a full literature review is not necessary; some references are fine); (4) proposed accomplishments; and (5) knowledge and information to be gained from the project by the applicant, the government, and the research community. If the proposal builds on any current project, the application should describe how funding from this CFP will enhance current efforts.

## b. Methodology and Design

Provide a description and justification of how the proposed research project will be implemented, including the research design, methodology, and data sources. The proposed research plan should:

- Describe in detail how the applicant plans to define the study population and subpopulations.
- Identify how the proposed data sets and variables will be used by the applicant to answer each of the research questions described in the proposal.
- Identify the methodology the applicant will use to analyze the data.
- Discuss potential pitfalls that may be encountered and how they will be addressed.
- Discuss limitations to the proposed procedures.

## c. Data Sources

Data sources should be divided into two sections:

- “CFDS Data Assets”—Specify the exact data you are requesting. For each requested dataset, include the years of data needed, a short description of how the dataset will be used, and a justification of the need for the restricted-use data.
- “Researcher Provided Data”—If the researcher plans to bring in other data for the project into the ADRF, list those datasets. Please include the source for your external data; the years of the data; a short description of how the dataset will be used; and a justification of the need for the researcher-provided data. This list should be as comprehensive as possible.

## d. References

All references cited should be complete, including titles and all co-authors. Refer to APA citation style for formatting instructions.

**3. Supporting Documents** (to be uploaded separately in the RWJF online system; not included in the total page limit)

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### a. Administrative Information

Additional demographic and administrative information will be collected as part of the online application submission:

1. Project Title
2. Principal investigator (PI)
3. Name of U.S. educational institution with which the PI is affiliated
4. Names and affiliations of co-researchers, if any (see table below)
5. Project Role and Data Access (see table below)
6. CFDS restricted-use data asset(s) requested for the project
7. User-Provided Datasets. List other data asset(s) that will be used in the research

The following table should be used for capturing the necessary information for (4) and (5):

Name	Affiliation	Email	Role	Involvement

Type: PI = Principal Investigator, CI = Co-investigator

Involvement: Indicate the expected involvement of each researcher, which determines whether the researcher will need an ADRF account. For the PI and each additional researcher listed, identify:

A = if the person will need direct access to the restricted-use ERS data assets;

B = if the person will need to access statistical results derived from the restricted-use data prior to disclosure review of the results;

C = if the person is a co-researcher who will use statistical results that have passed disclosure review and/or use other data sources (user-provided datasets) besides the ERS data assets; such a person may be advising on or co-authoring papers based only on disclosed output.

Note that researchers in either category (A) or (B) above would need an account at ADRF. Researchers in category (C) do not require an ADRF account.

### b. Experience, Qualifications, Capacity, and Use of Staff (1 page maximum)

Briefly describe the PI's relevant experience and ability to conduct the proposed research. Describe how other members of the team will contribute to the success of the project.

### c. Work Plan and Timeline

A work plan should be included which lists the start and end dates of the project, a timeline which indicates the sequence of tasks necessary for the completion of the project, and the responsibilities of each of the co-researchers. The plan should identify the time commitments of the co-researchers in both absolute and percentage terms. The

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work plan also should include plans for dissemination of the results of the study (e.g., articles in journals, presentations at conferences) for materials that have passed disclosure review (including results cited in a conference presentation). All applications must propose a publicly available release of findings.

Be sure to allow time for disclosure review prior to sharing statistical results, including unpublished results in a conference presentation.

### d. Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative

For this section, please see [Budget Narrative Guidelines](#) at the RWJF website. A worksheet and a narrative explanation of the budget should be included that state clearly how the funds will be used. If applicable, the applicant should also document the level of funding from other sources and describe how these funds will be expended. No line item is needed for ADRF data access fees because ERS covered them prior to this CFP.

There will be periodic convenings of funded projects, including a kickoff workshop (virtual, Fall 2022), an interim conference (virtual, Fall 2023), and a final conference (in-person, early 2025 in Washington, D.C.). Grantees are expected to attend all convenings and should budget for travel expenses as needed (i.e., All PIs must plan to attend the final conference in person. Other researchers, if any, can be included in the budget to attend the final conference if desired).

As noted in the CFP, open access fees may be applicable if the researcher does not submit to an open access journal.