

2017 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Interdisciplinary Innovation (I²) Grants, Phase 1

Description

Interdisciplinary Innovation (I²) grants provide funds for innovative, interdisciplinary projects that move beyond traditional modes of scholarly inquiry. Proposals that launch new, nontraditional, creative collaborations by bringing together faculty working across diverse disciplines and/or expert collaborators outside of academic settings are of particular interest.

Phase 1 grants are planning grants, and are designed to support study development, with a full research proposal expected after completion of Phase 1. Although each team should have identified a topic in need of an innovative solution and a few key members of the team to start the planning process, the overall aims and direction of planning activities should be somewhat general at the time of proposal submission. It is expected that methods and approaches will evolve subsequently as the team consolidates, generates new ideas, and benefits from interaction and new insights.

Examples of topics that could benefit from this approach include but are not limited to the following:

- Exploring how institutions and policies marginalize groups and the impact this has on reproductive health
- Broadening reproductive health research models to include a reproductive justice framework
- Developing/assessing new opportunities, novel settings, and new ways of delivering FP services (i.e., contraception and abortion) to adolescents
- Investigating task-shifting concepts and strategies that support the demedicalization of abortion and contraceptive care

After completing the six-month planning grant period, the team will design, develop, and submit a research proposal for up to \$75,000. If the proposal is approved, the team will be awarded a grant to conduct a 12-month (March, 2017–April, 2018) study.

The SFP Research Fund (SFPRF) will award up to \$150,000 in I² phase I grants.

Eligibility criteria

- The PI must be an SFP full or junior fellow.
- The research team must consist of at least three investigators, each representing a different discipline (disciplines within the same field are acceptable) or expertise. Individuals from various institutions may be included.

Phase I: Planning grant (\$25,000)

Duration: 6 months (July, 2017–January, 2018)

Funds available: \$150,000 for a total of six awards

Maximum project budget: \$25,000, including up to 10% for indirect costs

Review criteria and process

Proposals will be reviewed by an independent interdisciplinary team of outside experts and partners. Each proposal will be assigned a score based on a scale similar to that used by the National Institutes of Health. The score takes into account both the rigor of the proposal and the likelihood that the proposed work will ultimately lead to a sustained, demonstrable impact on clinical practice, public policy, culture, or health services, programs, or outcomes. In addition to these scores, SFPRF considers each proposal's responsiveness and relevance to the SFPRF mission and the recommendations of the review committee in determining which proposals to fund.

- **Significance:** Does the project address an important issue in the field of family planning?
- **Interdisciplinary strength:** Does the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed project serve to strengthen the proposed project? Does each discipline represented contribute to the project at a fundamental level? Does the collaboration hold the promise of bringing forward new, creative solutions to difficult-to-solve challenges?
- **Innovation:** To what extent does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods; challenge existing paradigms or develop new paradigms; or consider an existing problem from a new perspective?
- **Clarity of plan:** Are the activities appropriate to develop an innovative, interdisciplinary research study?
- **Impact:** Considering all of the above criteria, how likely is it that the planning grant will result in a project that is likely to exert a sustained, powerful influence on clinical practice, public policy, culture, health services, programs, or outcomes?

Ethical considerations

Prior to the start date of the award, all activities involving human subjects or vertebrate animals must be approved by an appropriate institutional review board (IRB) or equivalent.

Terms of awards

Upon acceptance of the award, the PI and his/her employing institution will be required to sign an award letter indicating acceptance of the SFPRF award terms and conditions. SFPRF must be notified in advance of and approve any significant changes in research protocols.

Application process

All potential applicants are first required to submit an Intent to Apply form. The information provided will be used to assist in planning for the review process. **Please be aware that proposals will not be accepted from applicants who do not submit the form.**

Intent to Apply form: The information requested will include applicant and institution information along with a working title and brief project description (250-word limit).

Proposal instructions

Grant proposals should include the following components:

1. **Proposal form:** Provide contact details for the applicant, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management should the project be funded.

2. **Proposal narrative**

- **Title and abstract** (250-word limit for abstract): Provide a summary description of the project. Do not include proprietary information: if the proposal is funded, the abstract may be used by SFPRF for informational purposes to describe its program activities.

- **Project description:** Describe the overall goal of the planning project and explain how the funds will help meet that goal.

- **Interdisciplinary relevance:** Describe the proposed team, the rationale for the different disciplines included, and the impact these diverse disciplines will have on the proposed study that would otherwise not exist.

- **Impact statement:** Describe how the proposed planning activities will contribute to a research study that will influence clinical practice, public policy, culture, or health services, programs, or outcomes over time.

3. **International study statement and letter from in-country organization:** PIs with projects based outside the country of their current residence must describe their collaboration with partner organization(s) and include a signed letter from the in-country host organization indicating their involvement with and support of the project.

4. **Budget with justifications:** Include with your proposal a detailed budget and narrative that specifically relates each item in the project budget to project activities. If you are seeking or

GRANT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- Intent to Submit form deadline: January 31, 2017 (see www.societyfp.org/research/applying)
- Online application submission opens February 7, 2017
- Application deadline: March 8, 2017 at 11:59 PM (EDT)
- Award decisions: Late June, 2017
- Grant start-up: July 1, 2017

have received other sources of funding for this project, please specify those sources by name, the amount being requested, and the status of the requests.

5. **Timeline:** Proposed sequence or timetable for major project components.

6. **Citations**

7. **NIH biographical sketch(es):** Include principal investigator and any key personnel.

8. **Agency/institution's federal 501(c)(3) status determination letter** or proof of tax-exempt status.

9. **Signature page:** Download a copy of the signature page and use the links provided to digitally sign the form.

Required formatting: The proposal narrative (not including title and abstract) may not exceed 1,500 words. Font must be at least 11 points and 1.5 spacing. Please submit the proposal narrative along with items 3-8 as [a single PDF file](#).