

# 2018 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

## Emerging Scholars in Family Planning



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## Purpose

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The Society of Family Planning Research Fund (SFPRF) and the Society of Family Planning (SFP) promote programs and grants that center diversity, equity, and inclusion and contribute to the academic success, retention, and persistence of emerging scholars from all backgrounds. SFP/SFPRF strives to actively build a community whose members have diverse cultures, backgrounds, and life experiences.

To this end, we are offering the Emerging Scholars in Family Planning grant. The grant may be used to support any publishable scholarly research project, and may include a thesis or dissertation. The proposed project should be completed within one year of award.

## Eligibility

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Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate-level program at the time of application and award. Medical students, nursing students, residents, and master's or doctoral-level students are eligible. Scholars must reside in the United States, and the proposed research must be focused on research in the United States that advances access to safe abortion or prevents unintended pregnancy.

## Funds

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The maximum grant award is \$7,500. Funds may be used to support expenses that are directly related to the research (e.g., statistical support, translation services, equipment, participant fees, participant reimbursement, and travel directly associated with conducting the research). Funds may not be used for tuition, general operating, overhead expenses, or other indirect costs. Awardees are expected to use these services as support, but must show they are completing the majority of the work themselves. Up to 20% of the requested award amount may be used as stipends or other support to present findings at an academic conference. We encourage scholars to submit their work for presentation at a broad array of conferences.

In addition, grant recipients will receive the following:

- **Complimentary registration, hotel, and travel** to attend the 2018 *North American Forum on Family Planning* (the Forum)
- **Complimentary membership to the Society of Family Planning for one year** during the award period (July 2018–2019)
- **Funding to cover the processing fees associated with open-access publication**, provided the work is published within two years of grant completion
- **Scholars lacking mentors within their institutions** may request **to be matched with a content or methodological expert** who will provide occasional support for the project; SFPRF will work to identify and support these partnerships

## Duration

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The award period is one year: October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019. However, funds will be available and the project may start as early as July 15, 2018, upon receipt of IRB approval and a signed agreement.

## Review of applications

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A team of experts and partners will review proposals and assess each proposal on these review considerations:

- How does the research support the goal of advancing access to safe abortion or preventing unintended pregnancy? What is the need for this research/what gap will this work fill?
- Are the study design and proposed methods well suited to answer the research questions in a rigorous and scientifically sound way?
  - Is the selection of participant characteristics (by age, location, race, and ethnic background, etc.) justified?
  - Will the sample of participants be representative of the population of interest?
- Has the applicant identified the target audience and do they have a feasible plan for the dissemination of findings? Will the target audience use or benefit from the findings of this work in a meaningful way?
- Does the applicant demonstrate a commitment to family planning research, the potential to benefit from the award, and evidence of faculty support?

## Ethical considerations

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For studies involving humans, human biological materials, or animals, evidence must be provided that the proposed research has been approved by the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent ethics committee. While IRB approval is not required at the time of application, only upon receipt of documentation will SFPRF issue the funds.

## Terms of awards

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Upon acceptance of the award, both the principal investigator and a representative of the institution will be required to sign a letter agreeing to the terms and conditions of the grant.

## Application procedures

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Online submission opens February 13 and closes on April 16, 2018, at 11:59 PM (ET). To be considered for

### GRANT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- Online submission of applications opens February 13, 2018 (see [www.societyfp.org/research/applying.asp](http://www.societyfp.org/research/applying.asp))
- Application deadline: April 16, 2018 at 11:59 PM (EDT)
- Award decisions: Late June, 2018
- Grant start-up: October 1, 2018

2018 funding, an applicant must be eligible and must submit a complete application in accordance with established guidelines.

## Proposal instructions

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Grant proposals should include the following components:

- 1. Online application form:** Includes contact and demographic information for the applicant, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the project is funded.
- 2. Proposal narrative** (6 pages, not including timeline or citations): Must include project title, abstract (no more 250 words), specific aims, background and significance, research design and methods (including study limitations and potential pitfalls and how they will be addressed). Describe your theory of change, and explain how the proposed activities will directly impact clinical practice, public policy, culture, health services, programs, or patient outcomes. Detail the expected outcomes and benefits of the study. Indicate how other scholars, advocates, patients, or clinicians will utilize the study results. Include the project's timeline and citations in this section.
- 3. Personal statement** (1 page): Outline your academic training and professional goals, why becoming an SFPRF Emerging Scholar is important to your professional development, and how you see yourself contributing to the SFP community now and in the future. Describe how your background, life experience, and/or scholarship will bring greater equity, inclusion, or diversity in disciplinary scholarship to the field.
- 4. Budget and justification** (2 pages): A detailed budget is required along with a budget justification that describes how each item in the project budget relates to project activities. Be sure to justify all expenses and detail any additional funds that will be used for the project. If the project has received additional funding, describe the source of any additional funds.
- 5. NIH biographical sketch of applicant**
- 6. NIH biographical sketch of faculty member**
- 7. Appendices:** Items such as survey instruments and tools may be included. However, please provide only illustrative examples that strengthen the proposal.
- 8. Agency/institution's federal 501(c)(3) status determination letter** or proof of tax-exempt status.
- 9. Signature page**
- 10. Letter of recommendation from faculty member** (1 page): The faculty member should comment on the applicant's potential for a research career, the applicant's ability to conduct the proposed research, the resources available to the applicant to conduct the study, and the willingness of the faculty member to mentor the applicant during the course of the project and in dissemination of the results.

**Required formatting:** Font size must be at least 11 points, and 1.5 line spacing must be used. Please upload the proposal narrative along with items 2-9 as a single PDF file.

## Evaluation of our grantmaking and its impact

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SFP and SFPRF believe that evaluating our grantmaking and the outcomes of the research we fund is essential to improving our impact and that of the broader field of family planning research. On an annual basis, we will gauge the funding opportunity's effectiveness at supporting the development of a strong and diverse cadre of scholars committed to building careers in family planning and advancing the missions of SFP and SFPRF. These evaluations may include the following:

- Number and percentage of participants who continue to pursue family planning scholarship
- Completion of graduate or professional doctoral degrees by disciplinary, institutional, and demographic variables
- Pursuit of postdoctoral training/research opportunities by disciplinary, institutional, and demographic variables

We also use [30 core metrics](#) to regularly evaluate the impact of grants that we award. These metrics were developed after a review of the literature and engagement with stakeholders in the field of family planning. It is not expected that all grants will achieve impact in all 30 areas listed, but we anticipate that grants will achieve impact in at least three areas. Areas of impact of particular relevance to this funding opportunity include the following:

- Research-related skills or capacities that were developed by the investigator
- Funding for future projects that emerged as a result of the research
- New or improved collaborations that emerged as a result of the research
- Research that was developed and that is targeted to meet expressed needs of a stakeholder
- The ability of the scholars we fund to disseminate their findings in broad and meaningful ways, to the appropriate target audiences, and with the engagement of the communities within which they work. Particular emphasis will be paid to understanding the dissemination of findings beyond academic publications and presentations.

Our evaluation endeavors to examine the growing impact of our work and provide direction for areas of improvement or future growth. The learnings from these evaluations drive our programmatic goals and strengthen the support we provide to our grantees. Through evaluation, we aim to learn alongside our members and grantees, building a community primed to exert a sustained and powerful influence on clinical practice, public policy, health services, health programs, and culture.