

## 2017 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

# Midcareer Mentor Grants

### Description

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Midcareer mentor grants are two-year awards that provide protected time to midcareer faculty for research and mentoring. This grant is intended for individuals who have a record of supervising and mentoring junior researchers. Mentees may include undergraduate students, graduate/medical students, medical residents, postdoctorates, and/or early-career faculty.

Those applying for the mentoring grant should consider the ways in which the proposed mentoring activities will help teach the next generation of researchers how rigorous, family-planning focused research can be used as a tool to influence clinical practice, public policy, culture, or health services, programs, or outcomes.

**Mentoring:** Activities include, but are not limited to, dedicated efforts to provide technical expertise, advice, insight, and professional career skills as well as group activities such as seminars, workshops, and/or meetings. The scope of the mentoring activities should be designed to advance the career goals of the participants. This includes promoting successful transitions from one career stage to another and providing opportunities for the development of leadership skills. It is expected that an overarching goal of any mentoring program is to facilitate the professional success of participants as independent researchers and members of the research community.

**Research experience:** Activities include, but are not limited to, researcher-shadowing opportunities for undergraduate students and research experiences for graduate students, medical students, medical residents, postdoctorates and/or early career faculty. The nature of research experiences should be tailored to the needs and career level of mentees.

The SFP Research Fund (SFPRF) will award up to \$160,000 in midcareer mentor grants.

### Eligibility criteria

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Applicant must be an SFP full fellow, in the midcareer stage, functioning at the associate professor level in an academic setting or equivalent level in a nonacademic setting, with an established record of independent, peer-reviewed research funding and publications.

Applicant must also have PI status at a nonprofit or tax-exempt institution, with at least 10% of effort contributed to the proposed work. Grants will be made to institutions on behalf of a named PI, not to individuals. Eligible institutions employing SFP fellows include but are not limited to universities, independent nonprofit agencies, community-based organizations, and hospitals.

## Funds

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The award amount is up to \$80,000 over two years. Budget items may include 10% salary, research-related expenses, and mentoring activities. Indirect costs are permitted up to 20% of total direct costs. Salary for administrative assistance is not permitted.

**SFPRF's definition of indirect costs:** Costs not directly identifiable to a specific sponsored project (e.g., costs for general operations such as utilities, building operations, library services, purchasing, administrative offices, etc.) but associated with the cost of doing research and/or training.

## Duration

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Midcareer mentor grants are two-year grants (July, 2017–June, 2019).

### GRANT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- Intent to Submit form deadline: January 31, 2017 (see [www.societyfp.org/research/applying](http://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

## Review process

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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. 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.

## Ethical considerations

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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

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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

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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

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Grant proposals should include the following components:

1. **Online 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 proposed research. 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.
  - **Applicant's background:** Include a description of the following:
    - Past and current mentoring experience and mentoring role (i.e., research advisor, clinical mentor, etc.)
    - Ability to conduct high-quality family planning research
    - How the award will contribute to a family planning research program and relieve the candidate from other activities or administrative duties
  - **Research plan:** Provide a brief description of all current and pending research projects that will be involved in mentoring activities. Additional research may be proposed as a basis for this award.
  - **Mentoring plan:** Include a description of the availability of appropriate junior investigators for mentoring; their previous training and specialization; plans for recruitment, selection and supervision; the types of educational and research experiences that will be provided; and the capacity in which the candidate for the career award will serve as a mentor.

- **Impact statement:** Describe how the proposed activities will 1) impact your mentees' research career development and trajectory and 2) influence clinical practice, public policy, culture, or health services, programs, or outcomes over time.

**3. Bibliography/references**

**4. Timeline:** Proposed sequence or timetable for major project components. Indicate the start/ completion dates.

**5. 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 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. Be sure to provide information on personnel, percent effort, consulting, supplies and equipment, clinical costs, travel related to completing the project, and other specified expenditures.

**6. Letter of support:** Letter should include the institution's assurance that applicant will be relieved from other duties, patient care, administrative, etc., to allow him/her to devote time to research and mentoring activities.

**7. 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.

**8. NIH biographical sketch(es):** Include applicant and any key personnel

**9. Appendices:** Items such as survey instruments and tools will be accepted. However, please keep to a minimum.

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

**11. Signature page:** Download a copy of the signature page and use the links provided to digitally sign the form (*upload separately*).

**Required formatting:** The proposal narrative (not including title and abstract) may not exceed 2,500 words. Font must be at least 11 points and 1.5 spacing. Please submit the proposal narrative along with items 3-10 as [a single PDF file](#).