SOCIETY *of* FAMILY PLANNING RESEARCH FUND

Deadlines:

Intent to Submit form: January 31, 2017

Applications: March 8, 2017

Earliest start-up: July 1, 2017

See page 4 for full schedule.

2017 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Large Research Grants

(≤$60,000 & ≤$120,000)

Description

Large research grants are designed to support projects representing an investigator's specific interest and competencies.

Projects that are of interest include:

- Studies that have promise for advancing access to safe abortion or reducing unintended pregnancy at the population level, with a particular emphasis on studies working towards advancing access to safe abortion
- Studies working to exert influence at the institutional, community, policy, or societal level

Projects that are *not* of interest include:

- Studies without clear practical implications
- Studies that duplicate existing work
- Studies focused on developing new contraceptive methods or enhancing existing ones
- Studies focused on comparing pain management techniques for IUD insertion or abortion care (although studies that will move the needle on assessing how much pain makes a difference to women's experiences with IUD insertion or abortion care *are* of interest)
- Studies focused on comparing cervical preparation techniques
- Studies focused on assessing or improving individual-level knowledge or attitudes
- Studies focused on developing or evaluating decision-support tools
- Studies that already have or are currently seeking PCORI funding or federal funding (such HRSA, NIH, NSF)

The SFP Research Fund (SFPRF) will award up to $1,410,000 in large research grants.

Eligibility criteria

- Principal Investigators (PIs) must be SFP full or junior fellows who are in good standing with the Society and up-to-date with membership dues. PIs may submit multiple proposals for consideration; however, they may serve as PI on only one large research grant funded by SFPRF.

Applications from SFP fellows with PI status on a current large research grant that will continue past September 30, 2017, are not eligible for funding through this mechanism.

- Institutions must have nonprofit or tax-exempt status.

Since one of the goals of SFP is to support the next generation of investigators, we strongly encourage junior faculty to apply for large research grants and for senior investigators to consider serving as co-investigators on these projects.

Funds

This year, SFPRF will offer two funding categories: ≤$60,000 and ≤$120,000. Depending on the number and types of applications submitted for consideration, we will be able to fund anywhere between eight to ten grants at ≤$120,000 and three to five grants at ≤$60,000. Budget items may include salary and research expenses (e.g., equipment, supplies, and technical personnel). Indirect costs are permitted up to 20% of total direct costs.

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.

Subcontracts and subawards: The subcontract budget itself may include the 20% indirect cost charges, but the subcontract total may not be included in the main budget when calculating the overall indirect cost charges.

Duration

Large research grants are awarded for one-year or two-year periods. The first three months (July–October) of the project timeline may be allocated to IRB approval. However, funds can be disbursed any time after July 1, 2017, upon documentation of IRB approval.

Review process and criteria

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.

Review criteria:

- Significance: What is the project's potential to address an important issue in the field of family planning? What will the effect of this study be on the concepts, policies, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive the field? How important is the project for addressing 1) safe abortion or 2) unintended pregnancy? If the aims of the application are achieved, what will the effect of this study be on issues related to these topics?

- Approach: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems and alternative strategies presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed?

- Innovation: Is innovation required to address this area of study? If so, does the application challenge and seek to shift current research, policy, or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

- Investigator: Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If PIs are new investigators or in the early stages of an independent career, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise, and are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structures appropriate for the project?

- Environment: Will the scientific environment in which the work is to be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements? For projects based outside the the country of the PI's residence, is the support of in-country organization(s) described and documented?

- Budget and timeline: Are the budget and the requested period of support fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research?

- Impact: Considering all of the above criteria, and additional criteria as applicable, how likely is it that the project will exert a sustained and powerful influence on clinical practice, public policy, culture, or health services, programs, or outcomes?

Ethical considerations

Prior to the research start date, 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 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.
   - Specific aims: State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.

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
- Earliest grant start-up: July 1, 2017
- IRB approval by October 1, 2017

- Rationale: Describe the significance of the research study. Clearly state the gap that the proposal intends to address. Include any preliminary data or additional background information indicating the rationale for the proposed research.
- Research design and methods: Describe the research design's conceptual or clinical framework, procedures, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Describe any novel concepts, approaches, tools, or technologies for the proposed studies. Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims.
- Links with other projects: Indicate if the proposed project is linked in any way to other projects in progress.
- Impact statement: Describe how the proposed activities will influence clinical practice, public policy, culture, or health services, programs, or outcomes over time. Indicate how the study results will be utilized, and by what means they will be disseminated.

3. Bibliography/references
4. Timeline: Detail the proposed sequence or timetable for major project components. Indicate the start/completion dates.
5. Budget *(separate form)* with justifications: Include with your proposal a detailed budget and budget justification 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 requested, and the status of the requests. In addition, use the SFPRF budget form to provide information on personnel, percent effort, consulting, supplies and equipment, clinical costs, travel related to completing the project, and other specified expenditures.
6. 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.
7. NIH biographical sketch(es): Include principal investigator and any key personnel.
8. Appendices: Items such as survey instruments and tools will be accepted. However, please keep to a minimum.
9. Agency/institution's federal 501(c)3 status determination letter or proof of tax-exempt status.
10. 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 3,000 words. Font must be at least 11 points and 1.5 spacing. Please submit the proposal narrative along with items 3-9 as a single PDF file.