



Intent to
Submit form:
January 31, 2017

Applications:
March 8, 2017

Start-up:
July 1, 2017

See page 3 for
full schedule.

2017 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Trainee Grants

Description

Trainee grants are one-year awards that provide trainees and graduate-level students with support to carry out a research project. The proposed work should be within the applicant's ability to execute independently, within the time available, under the guidance of a faculty member. Funds can be used to support projects such as a master's thesis, PhD dissertation, or other research endeavor.

Projects that are of interest include studies that have promise for advancing access to safe abortion or reducing unintended pregnancy, with a particular emphasis on studies working towards advancing access to safe abortion.

The SFP Research Fund (SFPRF) will award up to 11 trainee grants.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicant must be enrolled as a medical student, resident or graduate level student at the time of application and award. This is an open grant and neither applicant nor faculty mentor/supervisor is required to be an SFP fellow.
- Institutions must have nonprofit or tax-exempt status.

Funds

The award amount is up to \$7,500 for a one-year period. Funds may be used for costs associated with the research project. Trainee stipends or support for registration/travel for scientific conferences are permitted at no more than 20% of the total amount requested. Indirect costs are not permitted.

Duration

Trainee grants are one-year grants (July, 2017–June, 2018).

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

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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:** Does the project address an important issue in the field of family planning? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will the effect of this study be on the concepts, policies, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive the field?
- **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success 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?
- **Impact:** Considering all of the above criteria, how likely is the project to exert a sustained and powerful influence on clinical practice, public policy, culture, or 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.

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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 SFFRF for informational purposes to describe its program activities.

■ **Background:** Include rationale, objectives, specific aims, and scientific significance of the proposed work.

■ **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.

■ **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.

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

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5. **Budget with justifications:** Include with your proposal a detailed budget and budget justification that specifically relates each item in the project budget to project activities.
6. **IRB brief:** Describe in a few sentences the current status of IRB approval for the project, including the anticipated date of final IRB approval). If the study has been approved, please include a copy in the proposal packet. While institutional IRB approval is not required at time of award proposal submission, no funds will be disbursed before such approval is documented, if required to start the proposed research.
7. **Letter of recommendation** from a faculty member best qualified to comment upon the student's academic/research performance and potential (advisor or mentor).
8. **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 that they will provide guidance and supervision on the project.
9. **NIH biographical sketch or CV of the trainee**
10. **Appendices:** Items such as survey instruments and tools will be accepted. However, please keep to a minimum.
11. **Agency/institution's federal 501(c)(3) status determination letter** or proof of tax-exempt status.
12. **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 2,000 words. Font must be at least 11 points and 1.5 spacing. Please submit the proposal narrative along with items 3-11 as [a single PDF file](#).