

Capturing tradeoffs in abortion care using preference assessment methods

2022 Request for proposals

Purpose

With the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v Wade*, access to abortion in the US has become even further out of reach, especially for people of color, people who have difficulty making ends meet, and other people experiencing structural oppression. With nearly half of states poised to or currently banning abortion, the pathways to obtaining an abortion are increasingly complex and burdensome and require people to make numerous tradeoffs along the way.

Understanding what matters most to people when making tradeoffs around abortion, especially people whose access to abortion is constrained by systems of oppression, is critical in order to direct resources and policy, advocacy, and service delivery efforts where they are most needed. Building off existing qualitative evidence and calling forward powerful methods to capture empirically the decision-making process, the Society of Family Planning Research Fund is offering the Capturing tradeoffs in abortion care using preference assessment methods request for proposals. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to develop new evidence on the attributes that matter most to people when making tradeoffs around abortion in a highly restricted environment.

The deadline for proposals is November 9, 2022 at 11:59 pm ET. Awards will be announced in mid-January 2023 and funds will be available for immediate use.

Application submission opens on
September 6, 2022 and closes November 9, 2022



Research focus

The Society invites proposals that leverage quantitative [preference assessment methods](#) (eg, discrete choice based methods, ranking methods, rating methods, indifference methods) to capture the relative importance of different attributes when making tradeoffs around abortion care. For example, how do people seeking abortion conceptualize tradeoffs between costs, geographic proximity, intervention efficacy, abortion methods, involvement of a support person, stigma management, or medical supervision? The study design should be selected based on the research question and population.

Proposals must focus on a US population whose access to abortion is constrained by a system or intersecting systems of oppression (eg, racism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, nationalism, oppression created by state-level abortion restrictions) and must include a qualitative component to inform the attributes that will be assessed via the quantitative preference method, unless existing research efforts are already underway.

Additionally, as abortion care becomes more fragmented, we encourage proposed research to consider “unbundling” components of the abortion experience that may have been previously contained within the setting of an abortion clinic. For example, proposed research may focus on one or two decisions within the cluster of decisions related to care, such as: Medication abortion or procedural abortion? Driving to care or flying to care? Telemedicine or facility-based care? Seeking care within or outside of the formal healthcare setting? Relying on information from clinicians or social networks? Seeking support within social networks or from volunteers?

Recognizing the heavy influence of cost, and that the majority of people accessing abortion care pay out-of-pocket, proposed research must be attentive to the payment models that are most relevant to the study population. Further, proposals should be attentive to the Society’s [diversity, equity, and inclusion vision statement](#).



Funds, benefits, and duration


The Society invites proposals for research studies with budgets up to \$300,000 that can be completed within 24 months of award.

Research funding is accompanied by two additional benefits. First, the investigators and key team members will join a learning community of peers supported by this funding opportunity, as well as others conducting related research. The learning community will provide space for additional scientific feedback and capacity building. Second, the Society will provide funding to cover processing fees associated with open-access publication, provided the work is published within two years of grant completion.

Eligibility

Grants will be made to organizations on behalf of a named principal investigator (PI). Grants are limited, without exception, to tax-exempt organizations. Applicants do not need to be members of the Society.

Funding is limited to projects focused on people seeking abortion care in the US.



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Review process

All proposals will undergo peer review using specific criteria. The goal of peer review is to make recommendations for enhancing the research proposal and to identify the projects with the greatest potential impact. The funder of these awards may also be involved in the selection of grants; this helps ensure that the research funded through the Society is one of many strategic components working together to strengthen the family planning sector. We anticipate supporting up to four research projects via this funding opportunity.

All proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria. For more information about the review process, please see the proposal review guide: <https://bit.ly/3R2cS6w>

Impact (25%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are relevant to the US abortion landscape and positioned to generate empirical evidence with a clear and strategic path to changes in clinical practice (including the removal of clinical practices not aligned with preferences), public policy, or health services delivery.

Methods (45%)

The Society seeks to fund methodologically sound and rigorous projects that generate quantitative data on the relative importance of different attributes when making tradeoffs around abortion care.

Study population (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that focus on study populations whose abortion access is constrained by systems of oppression and that are aligned with the proposed research questions.

Team (10%)

The Society seeks to fund projects where the team composition is an asset to the project, including teams that bring together individuals with diverse skill sets, backgrounds, and perspectives. The Society also prioritizes study teams that leverage the expertise and skills of Black and Indigenous researchers and researchers of color

Budget (5%)

The Society seeks to fund projects with budgets that are fully justified and appropriate in relation to the proposed project.

Timeline (5%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are feasible to complete within 24 months of receiving the award.

Proposal instructions

1. Online application form:

Includes contact and demographic information for the PI, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the project is funded.

2. Summary (250 words):

Provide a brief summary of the proposed project. This information may be used in our newsletter, website, and other educational and promotional purposes should the application be funded.

3. Study team:

List key team members, including contact and demographic information.

4. Proposal narrative (8 to 10 pages):

All proposals should include:

Background: Describe the issue and justify how the proposed research project will generate data that will produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical practice, public policy, or health services delivery.

Research question(s): Include the question(s) that will be answered through the proposed project.

Methods: Describe the research methods that will be used to answer the research question(s) at hand. Explain how you will determine what attributes are selected for and which are excluded from your research question(s).

Study population: Describe the specific study population. The study population must align with the research question(s) and be specifically defined and justified. Sample size should be based on power calculations or other appropriate methods as determined by the study approach; sample size should account for subgroup analyses as appropriate.

Timeline: Describe the timeline for conducting research activities. Data collection and analysis must be feasible to complete within 24 months of receiving the award.

Use of research results: Narrate the target audience(s) with whom you plan to share your research findings, the actions you would like them to take in response to your findings, and the desired outcomes.

Team composition: Team composition must be an asset to the project, including teams that bring together individuals with diverse skill sets, backgrounds, and perspectives relevant to the proposed project. Elaborate on the expertise and skills of the individuals composing your study team. Describe the positionality (eg, the social and political context that creates your identity in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability status) of the team and its effect on the proposed project's design, feasibility, and impact. Note that the Society prioritizes study teams that leverage the expertise and skills of Black and Indigenous researchers and researchers of color.

References: Works cited should be listed as an appendix to the proposal; reference page is not included in the 8 to 10 pages of the proposal narrative.

Proposal instructions, continued

5. Budget and budget narrative:

Studies should be \$300,000 or less. The budget narrative must provide sufficient detail to assess feasibility and suitability in the peer review process and must justify the relevance of requested resources to the project's success. Additional secured or requested funds for the proposed project must be named, if applicable. Direct project costs include personnel, research expenses (eg, equipment, supplies, travel, materials), activities related to use of research results, and other related costs. Indirect costs are permitted at no more than 20% of total direct costs. For subcontracts and sub-awards, the 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. Budget documents should be included as an appendix and are not included in the 8 to 10 pages of the proposal narrative.

6. Team information:

NIH-style biosketches are encouraged for all established scientists. Professional resumes are encouraged for those whose careers have not focused on research. Team members can submit the format that works best for the individuals on the team; however, each submitted biosketch or resume should not exceed 10 pages in length.

These documents must be included as an appendix and are not included in the 8 to 10 pages of the proposal narrative.

7. Tax exempt status:

Proof of the agency/institution's tax-exempt status determination letter must be included as an appendix and is not included in the 8 to 10 pages of the proposal narrative. Documentation should also be included for subcontracts with tax-exempt organizations that exceed 20% of the budget. These documents must be included as an appendix and are not included in the 8 to 10 pages of the proposal narrative.




Required formatting and submission instructions

Please use a font size that is at least 11 points and 1.5 line spacing. Upload all materials as a single PDF file. All proposals must be submitted electronically through the [online application portal](#).

Questions

The Society welcomes the opportunity to provide clarification around or assistance with any components of the application. Please contact Grants@SocietyFP.org.



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