

Honoring community-based organizations as knowledge generators

2022 Request for proposals

Purpose

Individuals working in community-based organizations have unique and valuable ways of knowing and generating knowledge based on their embeddedness within communities. However, the scientific community, including the field of family planning, has often excluded and delegitimized this knowledge. This exclusion reflects privilege-based gatekeeping in academic spaces and power imbalances, often a reflection of institutionalized racism, between community-based organizations and academic institutions.

As a core strategy, the Society of Family Planning Research Fund is seeking to build and support an inclusive, multidisciplinary, skilled, and well-connected community with a shared focus on family planning. Underlying this strategy is the knowledge that the full participation of individuals working in community-based organizations is essential to pursuing the ambitious vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science. This knowledge is further echoed in the [Society's diversity, equity, and inclusion vision statement](#).

To this end, the Society is offering the Honoring community-based organizations as knowledge generators request for proposals (RFP). This funding opportunity aims to support and elevate the knowledge of individuals working at community-based organizations, with a focus on lifting up knowledge that centers the needs and preferences of communities whose access to abortion care is constrained by systems of oppression. The deadline for proposals is October 3, 2022 at 11:59 pm ET. Awards will be announced in mid-November and funds will be available for immediate use.

Application submission opens on


August 8, 2022 and closes October 3, 2022



Context

The US abortion landscape is continuing to undergo seismic legal and policy disruptions, which are layered on top of existing systemic, intersecting barriers to abortion care that fall the hardest on people of color, people who have difficulty making ends meet, and other people experiencing structural oppression. It is critical to center the needs and preferences of these communities in order to direct research, policy, and service delivery efforts where they are most needed.

Individuals working in community-based organizations, with their deep knowledge about communities' needs, trusted relationships, and focus on communities who experience structural oppression, are essential partners in creating a world in which access to abortion is truly equitable. This funding opportunity will provide community-based organizations with dedicated time and resources to lift up their knowledge about the abortion care needs and preferences of the communities they work with and center these communities in the shifting abortion care landscape.



This funding opportunity aims to support and elevate the knowledge of individuals working at community-based organizations, with a focus on lifting up knowledge that centers the needs and preferences of communities whose access to abortion care is constrained by systems of oppression.

The award period is two years:

November 2022 through November 2024

Grant details

Organizations will have the opportunity to spend 24 months carrying out activities that support them in elevating knowledge about the needs and preferences of communities whose access to abortion care is constrained by systems of oppression. Applicants are encouraged to select activities that would most support their organization in this work.

The following are some examples of activities that organizations could engage in; these are intended to spark ideas rather than be directive or exhaustive.

- Carrying out community-based knowledge generation activities, such as community meetings, individual conversations, or focus groups.
 - Please note that organizations are not required to carry out new knowledge generation activities during the award period, but are welcome to if additional learning would be an asset to the organization in deepening their understanding of the abortion care needs and preferences of the community(ies) they work with.
- Developing a database or system to support your organization's learning activities.
- Participating in a course or training to develop organizational capacity related to generating, storing, or using knowledge.
- Translating knowledge in service of your organization's mission, such as materials for advocacy, tools for education, and/or to support program planning or strategic planning.
- Formalizing internal learning practices in the organization, such as developing an evaluation plan or training staff in learning practices.
- Developing a plan for sharing back knowledge with communities.
- Sharing knowledge with partner organizations, policymakers, clinicians, researchers, or others via meetings, writing, social media, cultural events, presentations, etc.

In addition to the activities that best serve the organization's mission and community, the Society requests that organizations lead two culminating events, one targeted to the community and one targeted to Society members, to support the sharing of knowledge. The Society will support grantees in elevating learnings to the Society community by providing them with full access to the Society's platforms including, but not limited to, continuing education programming, the [Society Connect](#) member portal, and [Annual Meeting](#) programming.

Award benefits

Specific benefits of the award include:

Salary and project support

- Funds for up to \$90,000/year in salary support and associated fringe. Organizations are welcome to use this funding to support one or more individuals' time. However, organizations must identify a project lead who can commit at least 50% effort to this grant for two years. The project lead will be the primary contact and person responsible for award activities at the organization and will also serve as a public ambassador of this work, highlighted as a grantee on the Society's website.
- Funds for up to \$25,000 for direct project costs including, but not limited to, costs associated with generating knowledge (eg, meeting space, participant honorariums), storing or synthesizing knowledge (eg, software, program fees, consultant fees), and/or sharing knowledge back with the community or other stakeholders (eg, travel, consultant fees).
- Funds for indirect costs of up to 20% of the salary support, fringe, and direct project costs.

Additional benefits

- Complimentary Society membership for two years (November 2022-2024) for the project lead and one colleague.
- Complimentary registration, hotel, and travel for the project lead and one colleague to attend the 2022 and 2023 SFP Annual Meetings. Note the dates for the 2022 Annual Meeting are December 3-5, 2022.
- Connections with peers supported by this funding opportunity via a learning community facilitated by Society staff, which will provide space for capacity building and relationship building with peers and external stakeholders.
- Participation in a webinar series showcasing grantees' leadership around knowledge generation to the research community.
- Introductions to leaders in the field and potential funders for future work.



Eligibility

Grants are made to organizations on behalf of a named project lead. The project lead will be the primary contact for the grant and is expected to dedicate at least 50% effort to grant activities for two years.

Organizations receiving grants are limited, without exception, to nonprofit entities with tax-exempt status. Organizations must be located in the US, focused on a community in the US, and interact directly with a community to serve their needs — for example, providing community-informed direct services or engaging in community organizing. Our definition of a community-based organization is intentionally broad and we welcome you to be in touch if you have any questions about eligibility. Organizations do not need to work in abortion, but must be interested in and committed to just and equitable abortion and work with a community that experiences inequities in abortion access.

Organizations and project leadership must be representative of the community(ies) whose knowledge is being elevated. Please note that the Society will prioritize proposals that uplift the expertise and skills of people who identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

Reporting requirements

Informal discussions of progress with Society staff upon request (no written progress reports are required). End-of-year interim financial reports and a final financial report.



Review Process

A committee composed of individuals working in community-based organizations and family planning researchers with experience collaborating with community-based organizations will review applications using the criteria outlined below. We anticipate funding eight awards via this funding opportunity. For more information about the review process, please see the [proposal review guide](#).

Organization (30%)

- Does the organization demonstrate an interest in and commitment to just and equitable abortion?
- Does the organization work with a community whose access to abortion is constrained by systems of oppression and would benefit from centering their needs and preferences in the abortion landscape?
- Does the organization demonstrate the potential to benefit from the award?

Project leadership (30%)

- Does the project leadership thoughtfully reflect on their positionality and how it impacts their work?
- Is project leadership representative of the community(ies) whose knowledge is being elevated?

Scope of work (40%)

- Does the organization have clear goals for the award period and a thoughtful plan for the activities they would like to undertake in support of those goals?
- Are the ideas for award activities likely to support the organization in centering the abortion care needs and preferences of the community(ies)?
- Would the community(ies) benefit from the work that the organization is proposing?



Proposal instructions

In recognition of the time and effort that goes into developing a proposal, the Society will provide a \$500 honorarium to all organizations that submit a full proposal.

1. Online application form:

Includes contact and demographic information for the project lead, organization, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management. This information will be used to distribute your proposal honorarium and grant benefits if the application is funded.

2. Summary (250 words):

Provide a brief summary of the organization and community(ies) you work with and what your organization hopes to contribute and/or gain during the award period. This information may be used in our newsletter, website, and other educational and promotional purposes should the application be funded.

3. Statement of organization and project leadership (2-3 pages):

Please describe:

- Your organization and the community(ies) you work with;
- Your organization's commitment to just and equitable abortion and why you think it is important to elevate the abortion care needs and preferences of the community(ies) you serve;
- What your organization hopes to contribute to and gain by participating in this funding opportunity; and
- The positionality (eg, the social and political context that creates your identity in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability status) of those in leadership at your organization and the individual(s) that will be involved in the award and how that affects the proposed activities. Please note that the Society will prioritize proposals that uplift the expertise and skills of individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

4. Scope of work (1-2 pages):

Please share:

- Your goals for the award period;
- The activities you hope to carry out during the award period and how you envision sharing learnings back with the local community(ies) and Society membership. Sketch out a rough timeline for activities over the 24 month period. We understand and expect that activities and the associated timeline will be honed and adjusted during the award period.
- How the proposed activities will support your organization in elevating knowledge about the abortion needs and preferences of the community(ies); and
- How the activities will benefit your community(ies).

Proposal instructions, continued

5. Budget and justification (1 page):

Provide a budget that details salary support, direct project costs, and indirect costs (not to exceed 20%) using [this template](#), if useful. The total request for salary support is not to exceed \$180,000 over 24 months.

6. Tax exempt status:

Proof of the agency/institution's tax-exempt status determination letter.

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

This is the Society's first funding opportunity focused on community-based organizations. We look forward to supporting the work of community-based organizations through this new funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to provide clarification around or assistance with any components of the application. Please contact Grants@SocietyFP.org.

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