

# Self-managed abortion, post-*Dobbs*

## 2023 Request for proposals

### Purpose

Self-managed abortion is an important option for people seeking to end a pregnancy, especially for those whose healthcare access is constrained by systems of oppression. In the wake of the *Dobbs v Jackson's Women's Health Organization* ruling, the potential need for self-managed abortion and the number of actors seeking to support this route to care has increased. In order to best support people seeking to self manage their abortions, research is needed that centers the perceptions, preferences, and experiences of people that have self-managed their abortions or are considering or seeking self-managed abortion. As such, the Society of Family Planning is offering the *Self-managed abortion, post-Dobbs* funding opportunity. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to generate evidence that can be used to support people's access to and experience of self-managed abortion in the post-*Dobbs* environment.

The deadline for proposals is July 6, 2023 at 8:59 pm PT/11:59 pm ET. Awards will be announced in September 2023 and funds will be available for immediate use.

**Application submission opens on  
May 8, 2023 and closes July 6, 2023**



## Research focus

We invite research proposals that explore self-managed abortion from the perspective of people considering, seeking, or having a self-managed abortion, with the goal of elevating people's perceptions, preferences, and experiences related to self-managed abortion in the post-*Dobbs* environment. For purposes of this funding opportunity, self-managed abortion is defined as the use of mifepristone and misoprostol or misoprostol only to end a pregnancy without participation of a health professional functioning in their licensed scope of practice.

Central to this funding opportunity is the understanding that access to abortion is not equitable and people's social locations (eg, race, ethnicity, religion, social class, gender, age, health, and geography) shape their abortion experiences. As such, proposed research must specifically define and justify the population the research is focused on and bring attention to how social location shapes that population's experience with abortion. Finally, we encourage research proposals that explicitly contextualize self-managed abortion in context of other routes to care, in the conceptualization of the research project and/or as part of the research design.

Proposed research must be positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical care, public policy, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support people seeking self-managed abortion. Teams must be attentive to the Society's [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vision Statement](#) and how they can be part of bringing that vision to life in their work.

Due to the [evidence](#) already in hand, studies on the safety and efficacy of self-managed abortion with mifepristone and misoprostol or misoprostol only are outside the scope of this funding opportunity. In addition, monitoring efforts seeking to get national or state level estimates of the use of these methods are outside of the scope of this funding opportunity.

## Funds and duration

We invite proposals for research studies with budgets up to \$50,000 that can be completed within 12 months of award. We anticipate supporting up to four research projects via this funding opportunity.

## 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 living in the US.



## 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.

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/42nBFHW>.

### Methods (35%)

The Society of Family Planning seeks to fund methodologically sound and rigorous projects.

### Impact (30%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are positioned to produce empirical evidence with a clear, concrete, and strategic path to changes in clinical care, public policy, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support people seeking self-managed abortion.

### Study population (20%)

The Society seeks to fund projects that are aligned with the proposed research questions, with a clear justification for a specific population focus and a thoughtful explanation of the social factors shaping that population's experience with abortion.

### Team (15%)

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 elevate the expertise and skills of Black and Indigenous researchers and researchers of color.

### Additional review considerations (not scored)

Reviewers are also asked to provide feedback on the reasonableness of the proposed budget and period of support; however, these factors are not scored.



## 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 (7-9 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 care, public policy, health service delivery, and/or other structures that support people seeking self-managed abortion.

**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.

**Study population:** Describe the specific study population. The study population must align with the research question(s) and be specifically defined and justified, with attention to the social factors shaping that population's experience with abortion. 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 12 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.

## Proposal instructions, continued

**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 elevate 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 7-9 pages of the proposal narrative.

### 5. Budget and budget narrative:

Studies should be \$50,000 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 7-9 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 7-9 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 7-9 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 7-9 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](mailto:Grants@SocietyFP.org).



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