



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

F O U N D A T I O N

RESEARCH IN FAMILY MEDICINE GRANT AWARDS

In 2007 the AAFP Foundation Research Committee (RC) discussed the need to have a set of criteria clarifying the expectations for projects granted research awards. In 2008 the committee formally adopted the “Guiding Principles for AAFP Foundation Research Grants” to help focus the deliberation of the proposals and determination of grants.

Since these criteria encompass the overall philosophy of the Foundation’s grant program, the RC believes it is important for the potential applicants for Foundation research grants should understand the criteria as they consider submitting proposals.

Guiding Principles for AAFP Foundation Research Grants

1. To support research of value to the practicing family physician

Rationale: The funds for this program are provided largely by donations of practicing family physicians; the research they support should have relevance to their practice.

2. To fund pilot studies

Rationale: Considerations of statistical power are important, but it should be a priority to fund innovative high quality research, even if that work is not powered to find statistically significant differences. We should encourage investigators to spend these limited resources on the best possible research methods rather than direct funding preferentially to satisfy the demands of sample size/recruitment. In turn, these high quality pilot studies will generate preliminary data to support larger grant applications to major funders which can and will fund large studies.

3. To encourage proposals by junior investigators

Rationale: Without access to small grant funds to support the generation of pilot data, junior investigators are destined to remain just that in today's funding environment. The role of the AAFP Foundation grant programs in supporting the pathway of junior investigators to major funding should not be underestimated.

PBRN STIMULATION GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Research grant applications will be considered only if submitted in the exact format of the official PBRN Stimulation Grant application form. Proposals will be returned if they do not strictly adhere to the page limit and formatting requirements. **Proposals must be typed using font size 12. Page and word limits are indicated for each section.**

- **The AAFP Foundation will only fund new uniquely identifiable research projects.**
- The principal investigator or one of the co-investigators must be a **member of the AAFP.**

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION REQUIRED

One copy of the completed application and appendices formatted appropriately for Microsoft Word (doc. file) must be e-mailed or sent on CD. The Application in MS Word format is available by e-mail request to smorantz@aafp.org. Attachments such as charts and photographs from other sources will be accepted in hard copy.

Mail the original hard copy of the completed application and attachments postmarked on or before the semi-annual deadline.

Please review these instructions and follow them closely in the preparation of the grant application.

These instructions parallel the items in the Grant Application and are so identified.

- A. TITLE OF THE PROJECT** – The title should be brief and descriptive of the intent of the proposed project.
- B. NAME OF THE APPLICANT'S PRACTICE BASED RESEARCH NETWORK** – The PBRN conducting or sponsoring the proposed project and the applicant's association/affiliation within that PBRN must be identified.
- C. NAME, TITLE, OFFICE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE INVESTIGATOR(S)**
Provide the name, title, office address, phone, e-mail and AAFP ID number (if applicable) for each investigator involved in the project. **NOTE: The principal investigator must be a family medicine researcher**, the one individual designated by the applicant organization to direct the project. If the proposed project is to be under the direction of co-investigators, identify these individuals as "co-investigators."
- D. TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS BEING APPLIED FOR FROM THE AAFP Foundation, THE TOTAL COST OF THE STUDY, AND THE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PROJECT COST THE AAFP FOUNDATION AMOUNT REPRESENTS** – Specify the amount of AAFP Foundation grant funds being applied for and the total cost of the project (calculate the percent of the total cost the AAFP Foundation funds will represent.) Include other grant funds already secured and in-kind support.
- E. PROPOSED LENGTH OF TIME FOR THE STUDY TO BE COMPLETED** – Indicate the anticipated start date and the completion date.
- F. APPLICANT AGREEMENT** – All applicants should be aware of and acknowledge their understanding that, in the event an application is approved, the grant award will be contingent upon agreeing to the following conditions:
 1. Grant funds must be used exclusively for the purposes and in the manner set forth in the application. If the funds are not used in keeping with the grant application as approved by the AAFP Foundation, the grant will be voided and the total amount of grant funds awarded returned to the AAFP Foundation upon demand;
 2. Unexpended grant funds at the conclusion or suspension of the project will be returned to the AAFP Foundation;

3. Approval from the AAFP Foundation must be obtained, in writing, for any re-budgeting of grant funds prior to any re-allocation of grant funds;
4. Adherence to the timeline set forth in the grant application. If circumstances prevent adherence to the approved timeline, grantee must submit written explanation of those circumstances to AAFP Foundation and set forth exact date of expected project completion. The timeline will not be considered revised unless and until AAFP Foundation notifies grantee of AAFP Foundation's acceptance of the revised expected completion date;
5. Submission of written progress reports at the midpoint of the project and a report of the final results upon completion;
6. Financial reports detailing the expenditure of grant funds must be provided mid project and a final accounting summary of the expenditure of grant funds will be due upon completion of the project;
7. Ninety percent (90%) of the grant funds will be distributed in two payments. Following the first allocation, the subsequent distribution will be made only when the required financial and progress reports have been received by AAFP Foundation;
8. The final ten percent (10%) of the grant funds will be distributed upon completion of the project and submission of all required financial and progress reports;
9. Reports delinquent in excess of 90 days will prompt a reminder notice from AAFP Foundation. If grantee does not either obtain an approved timeline extension from AAFP Foundation (See Section G3) or submit the necessary reports within 60 days of the reminder notice, AAFP Foundation will consider the project terminated. No further funds will be provided to grantee;
10. In the event the research project involves human subjects, the applicant must agree to submit the project to an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and obtain approval for research on human subjects prior to the receipt of funding. Grant funds from the AAFP Foundation will not be released until a copy of the IRB approval or waiver notification is received by the AAFP Foundation;
11. The grantee will acknowledge the grant support of the AAFP Foundation in any published reports of the project by stating, "Funding was received from the AAFP Foundation as a PBRN Stimulation Grant award. The grantee will also provide the AAFP Foundation with a copy of any resulting published research articles;
12. The grantee agrees to abide by any additional condition(s) specified at the time an award notification is made by the AAFP Foundation.

G. HYPOTHESIS – In 120 words or less, state the research question(s) and hypothesis (if applicable), specifying what is expected to be answered by this project.

H. ABSTRACT – Summarize the proposed project, in 250 words or less, outlining succinctly the objectives and methodology. Include a discussion of how the proposed study will lead to the development or completion of a larger project and/or substantive results such as a publication/presentation, etc.

BACKGROUND, DESIGN AND ANALYSIS SECTIONS – The applicant should **complete these sections using no more than 2 – 3 pages**. Under each section address the information requested:

I. BACKGROUND – Provide the following:

1. A statement of the **purpose and specific goals and objectives** of the proposed study and an explanation of the needs or problems it is intended to address.
2. A discussion of how it is anticipated that the **proposed project will lead to the completion of a larger project and/or how it will serve as a catalyst for a large-scale project**.

3. A description of **related work by others and previous work by the applicant** to solve related problems and an explanation of how the proposed research will expand upon or complement those efforts.
4. An explanation of **who will benefit from this research study** and how the results of the project will be communicated to those who will benefit.

J. METHODS – Provide the following:

1. An explicit and complete description of the proposed research design(s) covering both *what* is to be done and *how* it is to be accomplished. The attempt should be made to use conventional language of research methodology found within the scientific research literature when referring to the design(s), for example, cross-over, cross-sectional study, longitudinal study, randomized clinical trial, double-blind placebo controlled, pilot study, descriptive study, etc.
2. A description of the sample population and the number in the study sample(s) and explain why this is the appropriate population. (see K.1.below)
3. If a survey is to be used, the instrument **must be included as an appendix**.
4. A timetable for the accomplishment of specific tasks and objectives.

K. ANALYSIS – Provide the following:

1. Describe your reason/rationale for the nature and size of your sample(s). If you based your sample size estimation on a power analysis, please describe briefly.
2. A description of major variables or phenomena to be measured and how they will be measured and/or observed. What are the statistical tests you will use for addressing the research questions and/or testing the hypotheses? What specific results or findings are expected?

L. REFERENCE SECTION – The applicant should provide a bibliography of the references cited in the above section(s).

M. BUDGET – Provide a detailed budget with a breakdown of estimated project costs. List separately the amounts of in-kind support being provided by the applicant institution, the amounts to be covered by other grant funds which have been secured by the applicant, and the amounts requested from the AAFP Foundation. The budget must include all major direct expenses for the project. **Note: The AAFP Foundation does not provide grant funds for indirect or overhead costs.**

Following are additional guidelines for specific expense categories:

1. **Salaries and Wages** – All personnel who are to participate in the project should be listed by position and/or title. Indicate the associated full-time equivalency (F.T.E.) and projected costs for each position.
2. **Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits** – Specify the amount and the percent of total salary that taxes and benefits represent.
3. **Consultants** – Specify the type of consultant and associated costs. Indicate the number of days of consulting the figure represents.
4. **Travel** – Specify the type of travel expense (lodging, transportation, meals) and the projected amount. Only travel expenses directly related to the study will be acceptable. **Note: AAFP Foundation funds cannot be used to support the travel of an investigator to present his/her findings at a professional meeting or seminar.**
5. **Equipment Support** – Specify the type of equipment required and the associated costs. **Note: The AAFP Foundation funds generally will not be used to support the purchase of equipment. If rental of equipment is necessary, the type and associated cost must be stated. If rental would be more costly than purchase, documentation should be provided to justify purchase.**
6. **Communications** – Specify type of expense (e.g., postage or telephone) and the associated costs.

7. **Supplies and Materials** – Specify the type of expendable supplies and materials and the associated costs.
 8. **Other Direct Expenses** – Specify by type and amount any other direct costs not attributable to one of the above classifications.
- N. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION** – For each category of expense provide a brief statement justifying the expense, in the context of the proposal and how or why the expense relates to the work required.
- O. DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICE BASED RESEARCH NETWORK** – This section should address the points listed below.)
1. Brief demographic descriptions of clinicians and practices in the network, *if available* (number of members, number of practices, locations, patients represented, medical specialists, etc.).
 2. Titles and brief descriptions of *current and/or completed* network research projects (also indicate inclusive dates, funding sources, PI name with his/her institutional affiliation). [No more than four]
 3. Information (titles, dates, funding amounts, PI, funders) on grants received to conduct research projects in the network. [No more than three]
 4. Names, position titles, and FTEs (e.g., 1.0, .60) of current network staff.
 5. Describe nature of existing network relationships with departments of family medicine and with the state academy of family physicians.
- P. IRB AND INFORMED CONSENT** – Discuss the ethical implications of this study and how human subjects will be protected. In the event the research involves human subjects, the applicant is asked to briefly describe the requirements that must be met to submit the project to an Institutional Review Board (IRB). **If applicable, include a draft of the informed consent form in the appendix.**
- Q. SPECIAL SECTION FOR REQUIRED APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE RESUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION** – As the AAFP Foundation Research Stimulation Grant program has evolved; applications and the associated critiques have been returned to the applicants for possible rework and resubmission in a subsequent review cycle. In those cases, the applicant must include a summary of how the deficiencies cited in the original application have been addressed in the resubmitted application. Also, be sure to note in your transmittal letter that this application is a resubmission and reference the application number assigned to the original application. Every effort should be made to include this information with the application.
- R. APPENDIX** – In the event the applicant wishes to provide supporting materials such as survey instruments or supporting letters, it is requested that a listing be made on a cover page with the corresponding page numbers for those appendices. If a survey or data collection instrument to be used in the project has been developed, a copy must be enclosed along with any information relative to pre-testing results or assumptions used.
- S. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH(ES)** – The applicant is asked to provide a brief biographical sketch for the principal investigator(s) and co-investigator(s) or, in lieu of a biographical sketch, a copy of his/her curriculum vita (c.v.) may be attached.

For additional information or clarification, you may contact Susie Morantz at the AAFP Foundation:

Call 1-800-274-2237, Extension 4470, or e-mail smorantz@aafp.org

The PBRN Stimulation Grant program is administered by the AAFP Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Academy.