

2018 Call for Proposals

Brief Proposal Deadline: February 8, 2019 (3 p.m. ET)

Full Proposal Deadline: April 3, 2019 (3 p.m. ET)



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Health and Climate Solutions

Studying and Sharing Approaches That Help Build a Healthy, Equitable Future on a Rapidly Warming Planet

OVERVIEW

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is working to understand the mechanisms and strategies for effective, integrated climate and health action. RWJF seeks proposals from communities or organizations across the United States that: (1) have developed and implemented approaches that address the health impacts of climate change, while improving health equity, and (2) want to build evidence around those kinds of approaches. Eligible, local approaches can focus on one or more of a range of determinants of health—including, but not limited to: air quality; energy sources; transportation or mobility design; food and water systems; housing; and health systems. Grant funds will support research and evaluation activities, with some funds allocated to communication and dissemination efforts to share findings and lessons learned broadly.

Successful applicants will have: (1) an intervention or approach with a substantial period of implementation; (2) a history of, or deep interest in, working collaboratively with indigenous communities, communities of color, or low-income communities; (3) a well-developed research or evaluation plan assessing the nature and impact of the select approaches; (4) the capacity and expertise to successfully execute the proposed project activities; and (5) a demonstrated commitment to share findings and lessons with the field, including successes and challenges. Ideally, some of the selected projects will apply or amplify local, indigenous and traditional knowledge. Successful proposals will have an explicit, targeted aim to transform their community in positive ways, as well as have authentic engagement, representation, and leadership by members of the community.

Quick Facts:

- Applicants must submit a brief proposal by 3 p.m. ET on February 8, 2019.
- A limited number of brief proposal applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due by 3 p.m. ET on April 3, 2019.
- A subset of full proposal applicants will be selected as finalists, and will be asked to participate in a site visit interview, so proposal reviewers will have an opportunity to better understand the community, the approaches to

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address the health impacts of climate change and reduce health inequities, and the proposed research or evaluation activities.

- Finalists will be notified of grant recommendations by May 31, 2019. *The budget for each proposal may be up to \$350,000 for a 24-month project, approximately beginning July 15, 2019.*

BACKGROUND

RWJF is the largest philanthropy focused solely on improving the health of over 325 million people living in the United States. RWJF is helping to build a Culture of Health, where everyone living in the United States has a fair and just opportunity to live the healthiest life. RWJF is fiercely focused on health equity, and thus the vision for a Culture of Health includes everyone.

Climate change is a major threat to any vision of a healthy future. Our rapidly warming planet and the related ecosystem changes are causing a myriad of harms to ecological and human health.¹ These health impacts disproportionately impact the most vulnerable, including pregnant women, children, the elderly, those with chronic conditions, and those belonging to low-income communities or communities of color; and will continue to worsen dramatically in the future. The health impacts include: illness and injury and associated harm to mental health and well-being from extreme heat and other extreme weather events; reductions in air quality; increases in vector-borne diseases and food- and water-borne illnesses; and decreases in nutrition and food security.² The health impacts of climate change are challenging and deserve urgent attention.³ As with all challenges, however, there is also opportunity. While addressing climate change, individuals and communities have the opportunity to innovate and build something better: to build a Culture of Health.

THE PROGRAM

Through this funding opportunity, RWJF seeks to develop and amplify the evidence around a set of established approaches* that improve community health and well-being and advance health equity, while also addressing climate change adaptation or mitigation. Eligible, local approaches can focus on one or more of a range of determinants of health—including, but not limited to: air quality; energy sources; transportation or mobility design; food and water systems; housing; and health systems. Proposals should specify the determinants of health that the given approach is addressing, and the expected impact on health and well-being. Grant funds will support research and evaluation activities to develop the best possible evidence highlighting what is working well with the select approach and why; where there have been opportunities and challenges; and how other communities may learn from this approach to

¹ USGCRP, 2018: *Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II* [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.

² USGCRP, 2016: *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*. Crimmins, A., J. Balbus, J.L. Gamble, C.B. Beard, J.E. Bell, D. Dodgen, R.J. Eisen, N. Fann, M.D. Hawkins, S.C. Herring, L. Jantarasami, D.M. Mills, S. Saha, M.C. Sarofim, J. Trtanj, and L. Ziska, Eds. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, 312 pp. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7930/J0R49NQX>

³ IPCC (2018) *Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C: An IPCC Special Report*. Downloaded from: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

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tackle similar challenges. ****All interventions eligible for this funding must have been implemented and active for at least one year as of the date of the application.***

RWJF recognizes that some approaches may build on local, indigenous knowledge about things like how people should care for natural resources or manage and sustainably nurture food or water systems to support human health and well-being in relation to other living systems. Some approaches might be focused on later stages of policy and practice implementation. There is much to understand, learn, and share by documenting and assessing a wide range of community-level approaches. Ideally, these approaches would take a generational view, supporting the health and well-being of current and future people and generations. As noted above, approaches must have been implemented and active for at least one year as of the date of application to qualify for this call for proposals; award recipients may not use grant funds to develop an intervention or program to implement an idea for a community approach.

Applicants should propose allocating some grant funds to support communication and dissemination efforts to share findings and lessons learned with members of their own community, with RWJF staff, with other RWJF grantees funded through this opportunity, and ultimately with a broader set of communities and the public at large.

RWJF strives to make awards to a diverse set of communities: geographically, racially or ethnically, and with regard to climate and health risks and solutions. RWJF is seeking applications from a range of local stakeholders (including community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and local government agencies) focused on one or more geographically defined communities. Applicants must have authentic engagement, representation, and leadership by members of the community, especially those who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing disproportionate health impacts from climate change. RWJF seeks to foster and encourage proposals that focus on or amplify local, indigenous and traditional approaches to health and well-being.

Applicant organizations must have demonstrated capacity to conduct research or evaluation to document and understand their selected approach. Interested applicant organizations without in-house research and evaluation expertise are encouraged to form collaborations (for example, with local academic institutions or health systems) to apply for this funding opportunity. For such collaborations, the collaborating research or evaluation organization should not be listed as the primary Project Director on the proposal, but may serve as the Co-Project Director.

Research and Evaluation Activities

Advancing the evidence of what works, and why, is of paramount importance to RWJF. Applicant organizations must propose a research or evaluation project to answer one or more questions regarding: (1) how well their approaches work and why; (2) how effectively they address the health impacts of climate change and advance health equity; (3) how they took advantage of opportunities and overcame challenges; and (4) how other communities may learn from this approach to tackle similar issues. Through this funding opportunity, RWJF is not interested in theoretical applications or conceptual advancements. The research or evaluation design must be question-driven. The quantitative or qualitative methods used must be appropriately matched to the details of the actual approaches that have been implemented in the geographically defined community. Examples of potential methods include, but are not limited to: culturally responsive evaluations of program or policy implementation; quasi or natural experiments; secondary analyses of existing data; or network or systems analyses.

Communication and Dissemination Activities

RWJF will place strong emphasis on promoting knowledge sharing among grantees and other communities and those working to address the health impacts of climate change. Proposals should offer mechanisms for

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communicating and disseminating the research or evaluation findings and lessons learned with a diverse array of audiences. RWJF will give additional preference to proposals that include community members in the communication and dissemination activities.

TOTAL AWARDS

- Up to eight awards will be made through this funding opportunity.
- Proposals may request a budget of up to and including \$350,000 each, for a project duration of up to and including 24 months.
- Grant funds will support only research and evaluation activities and some communication and dissemination efforts; funds may not be used to develop or implement a new intervention, program, or approach.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Proposals must discuss approaches focused in one or more geographically defined communities.
- The community or organization implementing the approaches to address the health impacts of climate change, while improving health equity, must serve as the primary applicant (Project Director), and will be the prime recipient of funds. Individuals from collaborating organizations (e.g., research partner) can serve as the co-Project Director.
- Eligible applicant organizations include public and private nonprofit organizations, federally or state-recognized Indian tribal governments, indigenous organizations, local government, and academic institutions.
- Preference will be given to applicant organizations that are either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations or Type III supporting organizations. The Foundation may require additional documentation.
- Applicant organizations must be based in the United States or its territories.
- Only one proposal may be submitted per applicant organization.

RWJF encourages applicant organizations representing diverse geographic areas, first time-applicants, and communities that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to apply.

OUR EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITMENT

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to building a Culture of Health that provides everyone living in the United States a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. Achieving this goal requires focus on equity,

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diversity, and inclusion. To that end, we are committed to fostering diverse perspectives. We recognize that individuals' perspectives are shaped by a host of factors, such as their race, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, age, socioeconomic status, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, familial status, education, religion, legal status, military service, political affiliation, geography, and other personal and professional experiences.

We know that the presence of diverse perspectives alone is not sufficient. Therefore, we also are committed to creating inclusive environments where all individuals are encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences. We believe that only through valuing our differences and similarities, and remaining vigilant in advancing equity, will we be able to maintain an equitable workplace and actively pursue equity in all aspects of our work. We commit to being continuous learners and working alongside others to cultivate equity, diversity, and inclusion.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of RWJF staff, George Mason University staff, advisory committee members, and other expert reviewers as needed. Final funding decisions will be made by RWJF.

In addition to the criteria listed below, projects will be selected with the intention of funding a diverse set of communities based on several criteria such as location (e.g., region of the country, urban or rural); determinants of health addressed; characteristics of the community served; types of stakeholders involved in the project; and with regard to climate and health risks and solutions.

All proposals will be screened for eligibility and then reviewed using the following criteria:

- An intervention with at least a one-year documented history of implementation activities.
- History of, or deep interest in, working to address the health and well-being of indigenous communities, communities of color, or low-income communities.
- Well-developed research or evaluation plan, with demonstrated ability and capacity to successfully conduct the proposed project activities.
- Demonstrated commitment to share research and evaluation findings and lessons learned with diverse stakeholders.
- Biographies of up to five project personnel and, if applicable, collaborating individuals or organizations, with clear delineations of roles, responsibilities, and amount of time allocated to carry out project activities.
- Appropriateness of budget allocations given the proposed project activities.

EVALUATION

The purpose of evaluation at RWJF is learning rather than accountability. An independent research group selected and funded by RWJF will conduct an evaluation of the program. The program may publicly release results from this evaluation. As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, grantees must participate in the evaluation. Grantee

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participation includes assisting with necessary data collection and sharing of findings and lessons learned to accomplish the evaluation objectives.

MONITORING

RWJF monitors the grantees' efforts and careful stewardship of grant funds to assure accountability. Grantees will be required to submit periodic narrative and financial reports, as well as provide periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. Project staff will be asked to participate in periodic meetings and give progress reports on their grants.

APPLICANT SURVEY PROCESS

The Project Director of the proposal may be contacted after the submission deadline by SSRS, an independent research firm. The Project Director will be asked to complete a brief, online survey about the proposal process and applicant characteristics. This voluntary questionnaire will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Responses provided to SSRS will not impact the funding decision for your proposal in any way.

SSRS will protect the confidentiality of your responses. RWJF will not receive any data that links your name with your survey responses.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project. In keeping with RWJF policy, grant funds may *not* be used to subsidize individuals for the costs of their health care, to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, for political activities, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities.

Applicants should budget for the following in-person activities (two participants can be budgeted to attend each activity): three (3) in-person meetings with other project grantees; and two (2) RWJF's research conferences.

HOW TO APPLY

All proposals for this solicitation must be submitted electronically via the RWJF online system. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/ccah and use the "Apply Online" link. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at my.rwjf.org before you begin the proposal process.

There are three phases in the competitive proposal process:

Phase 1: Brief Proposals

All applicant organizations must submit a brief proposal to be considered for this funding opportunity. A select number of brief proposals applicants will be selected as semi-finalists, and invited to submit full proposals.

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Important: Applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with the detailed instructions and formatting requirements in the online application system before starting their proposals.

The brief proposal should demonstrate the fit of the proposed project with the funding opportunity and the qualifications of the applicant organization, and all collaborators, to adequately carry out project activities. It will consist of:

- A narrative.
- A budget estimate, with an expected allocation of funds to the primary applicant organization and collaborating organizations, and to the project activities.
- Resumes or CVs for up to five (5) project personnel.

Applicants must submit a brief proposal by 3 p.m. ET on February 8, 2019.

RWJF will offer two optional webinar opportunities to discuss this call for proposals and field questions about it for interested applicant organizations. The second webinar will be a repeat of the first. RWJF will record both and post a link to these recordings.

These opportunities are open to all individuals and organizations, regardless of eligibility for this specific funding opportunity and will occur on: **Monday, January 7, 2019 from 3–4:30p.m. ET**; and **Tuesday, January 15, 2019, from 8–9:30 p.m. ET**. Registration is required. For the **January 7 webinar**, please [register here](#). For the **January 15 webinar** (which repeats the January 7 webinar), please [register here](#).

Phase 2: Full Proposals

RWJF will invite a set of semifinalist applicants to submit a full proposal of no more than 10 pages accompanied by a detailed budget, budget narrative, letter(s) of support from collaborating individual(s) or organization(s), and resumes or CVs for up to five (5) key project personnel. Semifinalists will receive additional criteria for developing their full proposals at the time of receiving the full proposal submission link. Semifinalists will be asked to provide their top three preferences for a site visit in their full proposal application.

From that set of semifinalists, RWJF will select a number of full proposal applicants as finalists and will invite them to participate in site visit interviews in the spring of 2019.

Applicants must submit full proposals by 3 p.m. ET on April 3, 2019.

Phase 3: Site Visits

RWJF will conduct an in-person, one-day site visit with each finalist applicant, who will be selected after the full proposal review process is completed. Finalists will receive additional guidelines for the site visit at the time of being notified about the review decision. Please direct all inquiries to hcs@rwjf.org

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As noted above, all applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. Staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline.

Late Submissions

RWJF will accept only those proposals that are completed and submitted at the time of the deadline. Because one of our Guiding Principles is to treat everyone with fairness and respect, RWJF's deadline policy applies to all applicants. Applicants are expected to notify the program administrator immediately after experiencing difficulty with the online proposal system that may interfere with a timely submission. To do so, click on the "Contact Us" link found in the "Resources" area on the left side of most screens within the online proposal site. We encourage you to submit your proposal in advance of the deadline so that any unforeseen difficulties, e.g., technical problems, may be addressed well before the deadline.

RWJF does not provide individual feedback of submitted proposals.

PROGRAM DIRECTION

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Michael W. Painter, JD, MD, *senior program officer*
- Priya Gandhi, MSHCPM, *research associate*
- Jennifer Day-Burget, *communications officer*
- Sofia Kounelias, *senior program financial analyst*

George Mason University has received a grant to serve as a thought collaborator and program office for this funding opportunity; their staff will support the application process and provide assistance to grantees, including helping support the translation of research and evaluation activities into learning products. Responsible staff members at George Mason University are:

- Mark A. Mitchell, MD, MPH, *Associate Professor*
- Edward Maibach, PhD, MPH, *University Professor*
- Karmjot Randhawa, *Research Translation Operations Manager*
- Colin Nackerman, *Climate Program Specialist*

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KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

Monday, January 7, 2019 (3–4:30 p.m. ET)

First of two optional applicant webinars that will provide an overview of the program and an opportunity to ask questions that are general in nature. Registration is required; please [register here](#) for the January 7th webinar.

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 (8–9:30 p.m. ET)

This optional webinar will be a repeat of the first applicant webinar that provided an overview of the program and an opportunity to ask questions that are general in nature. Registration is required; please [register here](#) for the January 15th webinar.

February 8, 2019 (3 p.m. ET)

Deadline for receipt of brief proposals.*

March 6, 2019

Selection of semifinalists; notification of invitations to submit full proposals.*

April 3, 2019 (3 p.m. ET)

Deadline for receipt of full proposals.

May 2, 2019

Selection of finalists; notification of invitation to participate in a site visit interview.

May 6–May 20, 2019

Site visits conducted.

May 31, 2019

Selection of recommended grants; notification of decisions.

July 15, 2019

Approximate grant start date.

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ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

For more than 45 years, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working alongside others to build a national Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. For more information, visit rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

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Sign up to receive email alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/manage-your-subscriptions.html.

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