

Healthy
Eating
Research

2018 Call for Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions



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1) Round 11 Grants

What is the Round 11 funding opportunity?

The Round 11 grants are offered through the [Healthy Eating Research 2018 Call for Proposals \(CFP\)](#). Round 11 grants represent the majority of RWJF's investment in research through this program.

What is the maximum award available through the Round 11 grants funding opportunity? How many grants will be awarded?

The two types of funding opportunities included in this CFP are:

1. *Small-Scale Grants*: Each grant will award up to \$200,000 for up to 18-months. Approximately 8 small-scale grants will be awarded under this CFP.
2. *Large-Scale Grants*: Each grant will award up to \$500,000 for up to 24-months. Approximately 2 large-scale grants will be awarded under this CFP

How do I apply for a grant?

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/her11 and click on the "Apply Online" link for this solicitation. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at <http://my.rwjf.org> before you begin the application process.

There are two stages in the application process.

Stage 1: Concept Paper

Applicants must submit: 1) a concept paper narrative of up to three pages (1.5 spacing) describing the study and 2) biosketches for key personnel. Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system.

Stage 2: Full Proposals (if invited)

Selected Stage 1 applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal of no more than 15 pages (1.5 line spacing) for a small grant and no more than 18 pages for a large grant, accompanied by a budget and budget narrative and additional supporting documents. Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system.

Why do you first use the concept paper instead of accepting a full proposal from all applicants?

The concept paper method saves your time and ours. We review all of the concept papers and invite a limited number of applicants to submit a more detailed full proposal for further consideration.

How detailed should my budget be in the concept paper?

You should **not** include a budget in your concept paper. As part of the concept paper stage, applicants are required to provide only the total amount of funding requested. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will need to provide detailed budget information via a budget worksheet and budget narrative.

When is the deadline for the concept paper?

There is one deadline for receipt of concept papers for both small-scale and large-scale grants:

- July 18, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)

Applicants may submit a concept paper for any of the three deadlines listed above. Concept papers submitted after July 18, 2018 (3 p.m. ET) will not be reviewed.

When can I expect to be notified on the status of my concept paper?

Notification will be tied to the concept paper deadline:

Round 11 Grants	Concept Papers Due in RWJF Online System	Applicants Notified Whether They Are Invited to Submit a Full Proposal
Small-Scale Grants	July 18, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)	August 13, 2018
Large-Scale Grants	July 18, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)	August 13, 2018

How can I check the status of my proposal?

Stage 1: Concept Paper

Upon submission of the concept paper, you will receive a confirmation email from the RWJF online system. Please ensure that you have confirmation of your concept paper submission. Your concept paper will be available to you via <http://my.rwjf.org> for one year from date of submission.

Stage 2: Invited Full Proposals

Upon the successful submission of your proposal, you will receive a confirmation email from the RWJF online system. Please ensure that you have confirmation of your proposal submission.

Your full proposal will be available to you via <http://my.rwjf.org> for one year from date of submission.

Note: We expect to receive many proposals. If you have a question about a specific proposal, please send an email to healthyeating@duke.edu or call us at 800-578-8636. Please be sure to include the name of the applicant institution, funding mechanism, the principal investigator, and contact information in your communication.

How will proposals be reviewed?

Invited proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of national program office (NPO) staff, a senior program advisory panel, other expert reviewers, and RWJF senior staff. All funding decisions are made by RWJF. Complete selection criteria for proposals can be found in the CFP.

When will grants be awarded? When will I be notified if I have been awarded a grant or not?

Notification and initiation of funding will be tied to the full proposal deadline:

Round 11 Grants	Invited Full Proposals Due in RWJF Online System	Notification of Finalists	Awards Begin
Small-Scale Grants	September 26, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)	November 26, 2018	February 1, 2019
Large-Scale Grants	October 10, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)	December 14, 2018	February 1, 2019

Applicants will be contacted via email and informed whether or not they have been selected as finalists.

How can I get more information about Round 11 grants?

You may contact the Healthy Eating Research national program office, at healthyeating@duke.edu or 800-578-8636.

2) Eligibility

We have two distinct grant proposal ideas. Can we submit both? Is there any chance we could be funded for both?

Yes and yes. Your organization can apply for more than one grant through the funding opportunities described in this call for proposals (CFP). The proposals will be reviewed independently, within each funding opportunity. However, following the completed review period, we will also consider the uniqueness of the project in relation to the mix of potentially funded projects and geographic dispersion of grantees as we make our final funding recommendations to RWJF.

If we have received RWJF funding in the past, can we apply for another RWJF grant?

Individuals who have received RWJF funding in the past are eligible to apply for a Round 11 grant.

Is it possible for an organization to be awarded more than one grant through *Healthy Eating Research*?

Yes, an organization may apply for multiple grants under this program. Geographic dispersion of grantees and the mix of study topics will be considered in the final selection process, but are not primary considerations.

Can an investigator participate in more than one proposal, or submit multiple proposals?

Yes, an investigator may participate in more than one proposal. For example, an investigator might serve as the principal investigator on one proposal and a co-investigator on another proposal. In making final selections, however, the Foundation will consider the geographic and organizational representation of grantees.

Can two organizations submit a joint proposal?

Yes, two organizations may submit a joint proposal. However, one organization must serve as the recipient of the grant from RWJF. The organization receiving the grant may choose to establish a subcontract or consulting arrangement with the other organization(s). You will need to identify only one principal investigator (PI) and you also may choose to name one co-principal investigator (Co-PI). There is no limit to the number of co-investigators. If the proposal is funded, the person listed as PI will have ultimate responsibility for the grant.

Will you award grants to multiple institutions for the same project?

No. One organization must serve as the recipient of the grant from RWJF. However, subcontracts to multiple institutions are allowed for the same project through one grant award. The organization that received the grant would need to manage the subcontracts. The organization receiving the grant may also enter into consulting arrangements with other individuals or institutions.

Are partnerships encouraged and can a partner fund the intervention?

Partnerships are not specifically encouraged, but they are welcome. For example, a partner could fund an intervention to be evaluated by the *Healthy Eating Research* grant. The partnership will be reviewed for how it may affect the objectivity, or perceived objectivity, of the proposed research. Sources of any proposed co-funding will need to be clearly identified in the proposal.

What types of organizations are eligible to receive a grant under this program?

Preference will be given to applicants 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. The focus of this program is the United States; studies in other countries will be considered only to the extent that they may directly inform U.S. policy.

My organization is not classified as a 501(c)(3) type organization. Can I still apply?

Yes. While preference is given to tax exempt organizations classified as 501(c)(3) organizations by the I.R.S., other types of organizations may apply. Organizations that are not classified as 501(c)(3) organizations may be required to submit additional documentation, or complete additional reporting requirements if a grant is awarded.

Are there restrictions or preferences regarding nonprofit collaborations with for-profit firms?

There are no specific restrictions or preferences. We will review all collaborations for possible actual or perceived conflicts of interest and for issues that might affect the perceived credibility of the research results.

Can governmental entities such as USDA, NIH, the Indian Health Service, and local public health departments apply to this program?

Yes, governmental entities may apply. In some cases, additional documentation/ paperwork may be required if your organization is chosen as a finalist. The *Healthy Eating Research* national program office would advise you about these requirements prior to grant award.

Can individual schools or school districts apply for funding?

Yes, funding may be awarded to schools or school districts for research that meets the criteria set forth in the **call for proposals (CFP)** [www.rwjf.org/cfp/her11] and RWJF online application system for this solicitation. In many circumstances, a school or school district will need to identify an outside research team to bring required research expertise and experience to the project. This is often done through a subcontract with a researcher or his/her home institution.

Will the Foundation fund private individuals?

No. We do not award grants to private individuals.

Can an applicant organization be from outside the United States?

No. We do not award grants to organizations from outside the U.S. or its territories.

Will you consider funding pilot intervention studies?

Yes. Please see the **call for proposals** [www.rwjf.org/cfp/her11] for a listing of the types of studies that could be funded under this CFP.

Will you fund community demonstration projects?

No, *Healthy Eating Research* awards grants for research studies. This program does not fund demonstration projects.

Will you fund measurement development studies?

Yes, we will fund measurement development studies.

Will you fund dissertation studies?

No, *Healthy Eating Research* does not fund dissertation studies at this time.

Is it required that the PI have a PhD, JD, MD, etc., or would a master's degree be acceptable?

The experience and qualifications of the research team is one of the primary criteria for proposal review. A doctorate or other terminal degree (e.g., PhD, JD, MD) is preferred for the principal investigator.

Can research associates/postdoctoral researchers be principal investigators?

Yes, research associates and postdoctoral researchers may serve as principal investigators on *Healthy Eating Research* grants. However, you should check your institution's policy regarding this, as some universities only allow faculty members to be principal investigators on grants.

What sort of research expertise are you looking for in an investigator?

In general, research expertise should include a working knowledge of formulating research hypotheses, crafting an appropriate study design and methodology, analyzing and reporting on the findings, and then translating these findings with the potential that they can be widely adopted. It is also important for the research team to have a track record in policy-related research. We also encourage a multidisciplinary team of investigators.

3) Proposal Content and Programmatic Questions

In addition to healthy eating to help prevent obesity, can we include a physical activity component in our proposal?

The aim of the *Healthy Eating Research* program is to identify promising food and nutrition policies and environments and the factors that affect them. You may evaluate food policies and environments as adjuncts to existing physical activity interventions, or collect data on physical activity for the purpose of clarifying the impact of energy intake interventions. We expect that the vast majority of the grant resources will be focused on healthy eating.

What age range are you most interested in within the 0- to 18-year-old age span covered in this CFP?

There is no one age range in which we are most interested.

Do you have a certain city or region size that you are looking for in terms of the project sites?

No, this is a national program and we hope to receive proposals from across the U.S. in a variety of geographic locations for studies of various-sized communities.

Are rural populations considered to be underserved or special populations?

Yes, rural populations where risk of childhood obesity or low-diet quality is high are of interest to *Healthy Eating Research*.

Will proposals that target communities with higher-than-average BMI be given consideration even if they are not lower-income or racial or ethnic minority communities?

The goal of *Healthy Eating Research* is to help all children achieve optimal nutrition and a healthy weight. Low diet quality and obesity rates are highest in lower-income and certain ethnic and racial populations. If your population includes neither lower-income nor racial and ethnic minority children, you will need to specify clearly in your proposal how your results will be relevant to these high-risk groups.

Are the criteria for addressing lower-income and racial and ethnic minority populations exclusive or mutual?

Your study can include lower-income and/or racial and ethnic minority populations at risk for obesity.

How is lower-income defined in this context?

Lower-income may be defined by the researcher since there are different ways to define and measure income levels. We do not have a specific cutoff for defining lower-income populations. However, there are benchmarks that might be useful to investigators. In child-care, school, preschool, and after-school settings it is useful to use the measure of percentage of children living in households with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty line, a common threshold for meal and snack subsidies for federal nutrition assistance programs. In schools, it is also useful to use the measure of proportion of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals, as these are based on the federal poverty guidelines.

Are there specific evaluation methods that are preferred?

No, the evaluation methods and the analysis will be driven by the research question asked. There can be a variety of designs that could include observation and measurement studies, secondary data analyses, analyses of the effect of natural variations in food policies and environments, as well as evaluating current programs and current policies. Survey research that might look at associations or correlations also could be included. Mixed-design (qualitative and quantitative) studies are also welcome.

Can you please provide more information about the requirement to include a representative of the community or stakeholder group targeted?

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to funding programs that are responsive to the needs of communities. Researchers should seek input from relevant stakeholders to develop feasible and policy-relevant studies. *Healthy Eating Research* requires grants to include at least one representative of the community or stakeholder group targeted as an ongoing adviser. Examples include advocates, community leaders, policy-makers, and school or child-care officials.

Do community stakeholders need to be identified in the full proposal?

Yes, at least one community stakeholder must be identified in the full proposal.

4) Budget and Co-Funding

What is the allowable indirect cost rate?

The Foundation's current indirect cost rate is 12 percent. The RWJF online application system contains RWJF Budget Preparation Guidelines and a complete explanation of indirect costs.

Are the indicated award amounts direct costs only or do they include both direct and indirect costs?

The indicated award amounts include both direct and indirect costs.

Do I need to submit a budget with my proposal?

Concept Papers

For the initial three-page concept paper, applicants should **not** submit a budget. Applicants will need to provide only the total amount of funding requested from RWJF.

Invited Full Proposals

Invited full proposal applicants will need to complete detailed budget worksheet and budget narrative documents. The RWJF online system for applicants contains detailed budget guidelines.

How detailed does the budget narrative need to be for the full proposal?

Applicants will need to complete a budget worksheet and narrative. The budget narrative should demonstrate that the finances are consistent with the proposed study design and RWJF budget guidelines, and that the project is financially feasible. If applicable, the budget narrative must include the amount and source of any in-kind support or co-funding.

What can grant funds be used for?

RWJF grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, dataset procurement, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, and other direct 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.

The call for proposals states that funds should be included for the principal investigator to participate in an annual grantee meeting. Can you provide more information?

The *Healthy Eating Research* program convenes grantees each year as a way to learn from each other, present research findings, network and build the field, and provide an opportunity for the *Healthy Eating Research* program to provide technical assistance. Grant funds must be allocated for this purpose, as described in the budget guidelines. Funds for up to two individuals to attend one grantee meeting in each year of funding must be included in the proposed budget. The 2019 meeting will be held March 13-15, 2019.

I would like to apply for funds to build onto an existing grant. What information do I need to provide?

Describe in the proposal narrative the existing study, its funding level, the funding source(s), and the ways in which your proposal will leverage or supplement existing funding.

What if I am seeking additional support from other funders or I have already secured additional support from other funders?

If additional funding will be sought or required for the project you propose, please specify the source(s), amount, and uses of that funding in the budget, and provide written documentation that required funds will be awarded (if applicable). If you cannot provide documentation of an anticipated award, then indicate in your application materials the status of your requests to other funders. You also should indicate how critical the other funding will be to the success of the proposed project. Finalist applicants may be asked in the future to provide additional documentation about the status of their requests to other funders.

5) Selection Criteria

Will you provide the evaluation criteria to be used by the program in making these awards, with weights?

The evaluation criteria to be used in making funding decisions are outlined in the "Selection Criteria" section of the [call for proposals \(CFPs\)](#). We do not assign weights to these criteria.

How will my proposal be evaluated?

The program grant review process is rigorous to ensure quality, fairness, and integrity. All proposals will undergo an initial screening for completeness and eligibility. Invited proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of national program office (NPO) faculty at the University of Minnesota, a senior program advisory panel, other expert reviewers, and RWJF senior staff. Please see the **CFP** for a complete listing of the selection criteria used in the proposal review process.

After the proposal review process, finalist applicants will be recommended to RWJF for funding. All funding decisions are made by RWJF.

What kinds of projects will NOT be funded?

Specific guidance on the types of studies that will and will not be funded is provided in the "Study Guidelines," "Eligibility Criteria," and "Selection Criteria" sections of the **CFP**.

Healthy Eating Research does NOT fund proposals that:

- Request funds for organizations outside of the U.S. or its territories. The focus of this program is the United States; studies in other countries will be considered only to the extent that they may directly inform U.S. policy.
- Request funds for individuals.
- Request funds for dissertation studies.
- Focus solely on nutrition education or individual behavior change. However, studies could compare the impact of environmental changes with or without nutrition education or promotion, or identify the most effective components of a multi-component intervention.

Does the proposed study population need to include children at greatest risk of obesity?

Specifically, HER aims to help all children achieve optimal nutrition and a healthy weight. HER grantmaking focuses on children and adolescents from birth to 18, and their families, with a

priority on lower-income and racial and ethnic minority populations that are at greatest risk of poor nutrition and obesity: African American, Latino, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander children, and children who live in lower-income communities. Grants funded through this program should demonstrate the potential to improve healthy eating and help children achieve the energy balance required for a healthy body weight, especially in these lower-income and racial and ethnic populations at greatest risk. Findings are expected to advance RWJF's efforts to ensure that all children and their families are able to achieve optimal diet quality and a healthy body weight, and that families have the opportunity and resources to experience the best physical, social, and emotional health possible, promote health equity, and build a Culture of Health. While this does not necessarily require including children from these populations in the study sample, relevancy of findings to these high-risk groups must be clearly specified.

6) Notification and Funding

When will we be notified if we have been selected as a finalist or not? When will grants be awarded?

Round 11 Grants

Stage 1: Concept Paper

The initial concept paper must be submitted by 3 p.m. ET on July 18, 2018. Applicants will be contacted via email and informed of whether or not they are invited to submit a full proposal on August 13, 2018.

Round 11 Grants	Concept Papers Due in RWJF Online System	Applicants Notified Whether They Are Invited to Submit a Full Proposal
Small-Scale Grants	July 18, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)	August 13, 2018
Large-Scale Grants	July 18, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)	August 13, 2018

Stage 2: Invited Full Proposals

Notification and initiation of funding will be tied to the full proposal deadline:

Round 11 Grants	Invited Full Proposals Due in RWJF Online System	Notification of Finalists	Awards Begin
Small-Scale Grants	September 26, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)	November 26, 2018	February 1, 2019
Large-Scale Grants	October 10, 2018 (3 p.m. ET)	December 14, 2018	February 1, 2019

Applicants will be contacted via email and informed whether or not they have been selected as finalists.

7) Post-Grant Award

What is required of *Healthy Eating Research* grantees?

- Grantees will be expected to meet the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports and bibliographies. In addition, grantees are required to submit semi-annual narrative reports to the *Healthy Eating Research* national program office (NPO) at Duke University and respond to periodic surveys and other communications sent from RWJF and the NPO.
- Up to two representatives from each grant are required to attend the *Healthy Eating Research* annual grantee meeting. Activities for funded researchers also may include conference calls, working groups, collaborative presentations, and commissioned research (e.g., papers, analyses).
- RWJF may select and fund an independent research group to conduct an evaluation of the *Healthy Eating Research* program. **As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, RWJF requires grantees to provide information requested for program evaluation activities.**