Healthy Eating Research 2019 Call for Proposals:
Addressing Nutritional Disparities, Improving Nutrition, and Increasing Food Security

Applicant Webinar
June 25, 2019
ReadyTalk Operations

- **Technical support:** call 1-800-843-9166

- **Audio:**
  - Streaming through computer speakers
  - See registration confirmation email for phone number
  - All participants in listen-only mode

- **Submitting questions:**
  - Use the chat function to ask technical or content-related questions throughout the webinar
Presenters

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Program Director,
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Deputy Director,
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Purpose of the Webinar

- Learn about the Healthy Eating Research program
- Understand the 2019 Call for Proposals (CFP) scope, award types, and application and review processes
- Opportunity to ask questions
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

- RWJF is the nation’s largest philanthropy dedicated solely to health.

- RWJF is committed to building a Culture of Health, a national framework for improving health, equity, and well-being where everyone has the opportunity to live a healthier life.

- As part of its commitment to building a national Culture of Health, RWJF seeks actionable research that advances health equity in the areas of nutritional disparities, better nutrition, and food security.
Healthy Eating Research – Our Goals

Program Goals:

1. Establish a research base for policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) strategies that advance health equity in the areas of diet quality and nutrition.

2. Build a vibrant, multidisciplinary field of research and a diverse network of researchers.

3. Ensure that findings are communicated effectively to inform the development of solutions with the goal of promoting health equity.
Healthy Eating Research – Our Focus

- Supports research on Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change (PSE) strategies with strong potential to promote the health and well-being of children at a population level.

- HER’s focus (as of 2018):
  - improving dietary intake and patterns that impact a variety of children’s short-term and long-term outcomes
  - actionable research that advances health equity in the areas of nutritional disparities, nutrition, and food security

- Target populations:
  - pregnant women and infants and children (ages 0-8) and their families
  - priority on lower-income and racial and ethnic minority populations that are at-risk for poor health and well being, and nutrition-related health disparities
What is PSE?

Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change (PSE) is a way of modifying the environment to make healthy choices practical and available to all community members. This could include policy change (organizational/small p, federal, state, or local), changes in systems (such as the healthcare system), or changes in environments.
Current Funding Opportunity

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support actionable research that advances health equity in the areas of nutritional disparities, nutrition, and food security.

Three types of funding opportunities are included in this CFP:

1. **Small-Scale Grants:** Each grant will award up to $200,000 for up to 18-months.

2. **Large-Scale Grants:** Each grant will award up to $320,000 for up to 24-months.

3. **Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Grants:** Each grant will award up to $320,000 for up to 24-months.
New this year – Community-Based Participatory Research Grants

• CBPR is a collaborative approach to research conducted in communities and in partnership with researchers.
• Community members, persons affected by the issue under study, or other key stakeholders in the community’s health have the opportunity to be full participants in each phase of the work.
• Applicants for this opportunity must have existing community-research partnerships and have identified a project of interest to the community. Projects in an initial exploration phase will not be considered for this funding opportunity.
Target Age Groups and Priority Populations

• Target age groups for studies funded as part of this CFP are pregnant women, infants, and children (ages 0 to 8) and their families.

• All studies must have the potential to impact groups at highest risk for poor health and well-being, and nutrition-related health disparities.
Topics of Interest

Topics of interest for this CFP include, _but are not limited to_, research exploring:

- PSE changes aimed at (1) increasing access, affordability, and demand for healthy foods and beverages and (2) decreasing access to and/or demand for less healthy foods and beverages;
- Examining if and how non-diet or nutrition policies may indirectly and positively impact family and children’s nutritional health and weight;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Nutrition Assistance Programs;
- Other policies, interventions and practices in childcare settings, retail food outlets, and communities.
Types of Studies

- Experimental or quasi-experimental studies
- Secondary analyses of existing datasets
- Evaluations of PSE interventions or natural experiments
- Retrospective analyses of PSE change successes
- Case studies
- Financial, economic, or cost-effectiveness studies
- Health impact assessments or statistical modeling or simulation studies
- Policy and legal analyses to identify or evaluate promising PSE interventions
- Quantitative meta-analyses
Equitable Evaluation

• Applicants invited to submit a full proposal *will be required* to detail how their proposed project meets the three core principles of equitable evaluation.

• Equitable evaluation is an approach that highlights the potential for research and evaluation to contribute to equity. The core principles of equitable evaluation are:

  1) evaluation should advance equity;

  2) evaluation should answer questions about contributors to inequity; the effect of a strategy or policy on different populations and drivers of inequity; and the role of cultural context in an initiative; and

  3) evaluations should be multiculturally valid and encourage participant ownership.

Learn more at: [https://www.equitableeval.org/](https://www.equitableeval.org/)
Eligibility Criteria

• 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.

• 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.
Healthy Eating Research Will Not Fund

- Organizations outside of the U.S. or its territories
- Individuals
- Dissertation studies
- Projects with a sole focus 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.
Selection Criteria

• Relevance and timeliness of the proposed study to the field
• Focus on Actionable Research
• Feasibility
• Quality of the Proposed Design
• Alignment with the principles of Equitable Evaluation
• Qualifications of the proposed PI and other key personnel
• Evidence of fiscal and project management capacity
• Communications/Dissemination Plan
Application Process
Application Process

Two-stage application process:

1) **Concept Paper**

   Concept papers submitted after July 31, 2019 (3 p.m. ET) **will not be reviewed**.

2) **Full Proposal for invited applicants**

   Applicants will be notified as to whether or not they are invited to submit a full proposal. Invited full proposals will be peer-reviewed.

All application materials must be submitted electronically via the RWJF online system. Visit [www.rwjf.org/cfp/her12](http://www.rwjf.org/cfp/her12) and click on the “Apply Online” link.

If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at [http://my.rwjf.org](http://my.rwjf.org) before you begin the application process.
Pre-Application Resources

- Today’s webinar
- HER website [www.healthyeatingresearch.org](http://www.healthyeatingresearch.org), see “Funding”
  - Download the call for proposals
  - Program and grant opportunity descriptions
  - Summaries of previous grant awards
  - Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
  - Link to proposal application site
- Email: HealthyEating@duke.edu
- Phone: 1-800-578-8636
Application Timeline for ALL Grant Types

- **July 31** – Concept Papers due by 3:00 p.m. ET
- **Mid-August** – Select applicants invited to submit full proposals
- **October 2** – Invited Full Proposals due by 3:00 p.m. ET
- **Early December** – Notification of Finalists
- **February 1, 2020** – Awards begin
Top 8 Tips to Ensure You Will Not Miss the Deadline
Top 8 Reasons Why You Could Miss the Deadline

1. When experiencing difficulty with the online application system, which may result in missing the deadline, applicants should contact their program administrator immediately. Report a problem via email to healthyeating@duke.edu. The email should include the documents and/or content you were unable to upload.

2. Complete your application online instead of offline. As soon as possible, look for templates and detailed instructions in the online application site to guide you in submitting the appropriate information in the required format. Applications that are not fully completed online by the deadline, and in the specified format, will not be accepted.

3. Submit your application well in advance of the deadline so that any unforeseen difficulties, e.g., technical problems, may be addressed in plenty of time before the deadline.

4. Don't abandon an application you can’t find and then create a duplicate application. Instead, notify the program administrator to help you find your original application. You will not be permitted to offer multiple partially completed applications that, together, create a whole application.
5. As soon as you've completed a section in the online application system, be sure to use the “Save, section finished” button located at the bottom of the screen. You will still be able to return to that section to make edits prior to submission. Most screens in the online system allow you to save your work three different ways:

- “Save, continue editing”
- “Save, return home”
- “Save, section finished”

When you’ve completed all requirements on a screen, remember to “Save, section finished.” All required screens must be saved as section finished in order to activate the “Submit” button on the upper right side of the “Home” screen, just below the “Instruction” box.
6. **Remember to press the “Submit” button when you've completed your application.** When all required fields and uploads are completed in the online application system, the “Submit” button will become activated on the upper right side of the “Home” screen, just below the “Instruction” box. After successfully submitting, applicants will receive a submission-confirmation email. If you didn't get a "Submission Confirmation“ email when you thought you had submitted successfully, return to the application and look for the submission status on the “Home” screen. A successfully submitted application will display “Submitted” with a date and time. If you don’t see a submitted message, look to the left for sections that don't have a green checkmark in the “Status” column. Those are the sections that are either incomplete, or have not been properly saved as finished.
Top 8 Reasons Why You Could Miss the Deadline

7. **Carefully note the deadline date, time and time zone.** Deadline time is always shown as Eastern Time (ET). Confusion is not an acceptable excuse for missing the deadline.

8. **Have a backup person lined up in advance to step in for you in the event of an emergency.** Unanticipated emergencies can happen. Be sure your backup has access to submit for you. If there is an "Invite Contributors" button on the left side of the “Home” screen of the application site, you may use it to add a backup.
Questions?
Submit questions using the “Q & A” box on your screen
Thank You for Participating

- An archived version of today’s webinar, including audio, will be posted next week at: www.healthyeatingresearch.org
- Email: HealthyEating@duke.edu
- Phone: 1-800-578-8636
- Application site for Round 12: www.rwjf.org/cfp/her12
Questions: Individual/Family Behavior Change

• Can you give an example of the scope you'd want to see for a study addressing factors impacting behavior change with nutrition education?
  • There are more examples on our website on what we have funded but an example would be nutrition education on calories in restaurants coupled with use of menu labeling or SNAP Ed approaches with the SNAP program, or in a food retail store nutrition education coupled with pricing incentives and look at independent effects.

• Is the expectation that grant proposals will address behavioral change for the child and at least one other family member or more?
  • Changes could be at the child level, parent level or family level.

• I see that proposals that address change in individual level outcomes are not responsive. Would study of a novel model of care (intervention) for family-level health outcomes be responsive?
  • Yes, as long as it could lead to PSE changes.
Questions: Individual/Family Behavior Change

- I know you mentioned that research can't be just nutrition education or at the individual level. Can you elaborate a bit more on the "individual level" piece - would interventions targeting behavior at the family level (mothers and their children) be acceptable? to follow-up - if the project is NOT nutrition education but targets behavior at the family level, is this still not fundable?
  - All studies must have the potential to impact policy, systems, or environmental changes at a population level. So it could be an intervention at the individual level if it was proven to be cost-effective and had the ability to reach large number of children and families at a population level.

- Is targeting integrating nutrition education (through systems change) into child care centers considered individual or systems level?
  - If it could impact child care centers on a large level and be used a state-level or national level it would be a systems level change.
Questions: Target Population

- I see two target audiences. If we are focused on low income, food insecure populations in general (including but not specifically pregnant or 0-8) - would this be considered your target audience or is it too general?
  - It would need to have a primary focus on children 0-8 yrs.

- Do you anticipate refugee or immigrant community-focused programs possibly standing out as a priority for funding?
  - Refugee or immigrant populations would be included in our target population.
Questions: Methods

• Is RWJF interested in research that conducts secondary data analysis to identify food insecure areas in different states? and proposing the interventions that can improve the situations?
  • Yes, this would fit within our CFP.

• Does this CFP support projects that aim for identifying trends in disparities in diet quality among pregnant women and children 0-8 by age, sex, race/ethnicity, SNAP participation status, education, and etc., using existing data? This is to identify trends in diet disparities over time but not focusing on identify contributors to disparities?
  • Yes, this would fit within our CFP.

• For identifying solutions, does this CFP support cost-effectiveness (CEA) analysis to evaluate different policy options to improve diet and reduce obesity of children among low-income families?
  • Yes, this CFP supports cost-effectiveness analysis as a research method.
Questions: Other Scope

- Will evaluating specific dietary target among children 0-8 such as consumption of ultra-processed foods be eligible (as opposed to the overall diet quality)?
  - Yes, it does not need to focus on overall diet quality but could also focus on aspects such as reducing sugar-sweetened beverages or high calorie low nutrient foods.

- If I understood correctly, obesity outcome or other health outcomes are not required as long as diet quality or patterns is assessed?
  - Yes that is correct.

- Would you fund in the area of addressing weight bias in health care professionals and programs serving the 0-8 population?
  - Weight bias is outside of our scope and would need to be related to improvement in healthy eating or BMI outcomes.
Questions: Other Scope

• Does the Foundation have an interest in funding research pertaining to improving breastfeeding education and equity?
  • Yes, but it would need to have increased breastfeeding rates or duration as an outcome.

• Will you be funding assessments in schools related to school wellness policy change?
  • No, schools are not included in this CFP.

• What if a program is provided during after school hours? As a way to reach families but not part of the school nutrition program
  • Yes, this would be considered if it included only 5-8 year old children.
Questions: Application

• I wanted to ask if you could speak a little more about "studies in other countries will be considered only to the extent that they may directly inform U.S. policy." What kinds of research studies in other countries would a Reviewer perceive as directly informing US policy?
  • Examples would be policies such as SSB taxes in different countries like Mexico or a junk food tax in Mexico or Chili or bans on food marketing to children or warning labels on unhealthy foods. Policies that other countries are doing that could be done in the U.S.

• Is there a limit in number of partners we choose for this research?
  • We do not place a number limit on the partners.

• Do you offer any kind of matching between interested applicants (like I believe E4A does?) for researchers who are looking for collaborators?
  • At this time, Healthy Eating Research does not offer matching services for applicants looking for collaborators or links to other potential partners.
Questions: Application

• The template indicates that we may submit up to five biosketches (of no more than four pages each). Does this mean that you envision the leadership (PI plus co-I) team consisting of 5 members?
  • Yes, the application at the full proposal phase includes space for one PI, one Co-PI, and three Co-I’s. You may have a larger team and include details about their qualifications and role in your narrative, but you must select five team members for whom to include a biosketch.