

HEALTHY EATING RESEARCH 2024 CALL FOR PROPOSALS ROUND 14

Frequently Asked Questions

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1) About this funding opportunity

What is the Round 14 funding opportunity?

The Round 14 grants are offered through the Healthy Eating Research 2024 Call for Proposals (CFP). Round 14 grants represent the majority of RWJF's investment in research through this program.

What is the maximum award amount available through this funding opportunity?

Each grant will award up to \$275,000 for up to 24 months. Smaller grants, such as those involving secondary data analysis, which can be conducted with smaller budgets and across shorter time periods (e.g., under \$200,000 for 12 months) will also be considered.

How do I apply for a grant?

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted electronically. Visit and log in to the [application site](#) to apply. 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 line spacing) describing the study, including the total budget amount and project timeline estimate; and 2) biosketches for key personnel. The deadline to submit concept papers is April 3, 2024 (3 p.m. ET). Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system. Concept papers submitted after April 3, 2024 (3 p.m. ET) will not be reviewed.

Stage 2: Full Proposals (if invited)

Selected Stage 1 applicants will be required to submit a full proposal narrative of up to 15 pages (1.5 line spacing) accompanied by a detailed budget spreadsheet and budget narrative and additional supporting documents. Applicants must follow the instructions and use the templates provided in the RWJF online system. The deadline to submit full proposals is July 10, 2024 (3 p.m. ET).

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 concept papers and invite a limited number of applicants to submit a more detailed full proposal for further consideration.

When reviewing concept papers, we aim to select those proposals we feel are the strongest in

meeting the study parameters as outlined in the CFP, and that are most aligned with the overall goals of our program and this funding opportunity. Concept papers will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability to clearly articulate the study rationale, research question(s) and aims, strength and feasibility of the research design and methods, and focus on the targeted age group and priority populations. We aim to invite a portfolio of full proposals that represent a balance of topic areas (e.g., income supports, diet quality, obesity, food and nutrition security, housing) and are timely and policy-relevant. Qualifications of the PI and other key personnel are also considered.

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 spreadsheet and budget narrative. Templates for the required budget documents will be provided at the full proposal stage, if invited.

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

Applicants will be notified whether they are invited to submit a full proposal no later than May 8, 2024.

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; this will be necessary should any issues arise regarding your 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 full 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. Please be sure to include the name of the applicant institution, the principal investigator, and contact information in your communication.

How will full proposals be reviewed?

Invited full proposals will be reviewed by a minimum of three external reviewers with research content area and/or policy expertise, HER leadership, and RWJF senior staff. Final funding decisions are made by RWJF leadership. Complete selection criteria for proposals can be found in the CFP.

Why is there a demographics section in the online application?

This is a new standard application section that will be included in every phase of the application process. The data collected in this section will help RWJF better understand the demographic profiles of applicant organizations. The data collected will be aggregated and not used to make funding decisions. This data will allow RWJF to track the flow of resources to communities that have been historically marginalized and under invested in. We would ask that applicants please answer the questions as thoroughly as possible and to the best of their knowledge. Healthy Eating Research will not have access to this information during the review process.

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

Applicants will be contacted via email and informed whether they have been selected as finalists. Notification of finalists for all grant types will occur in mid-September 2024. Awards will begin in November 2024.

How can I get more information about Round 14 grants?

Visit [Healthy Eating Research's](#) website to learn more. You may also contact the *Healthy Eating Research* national program office, at healthyeating@duke.edu.

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 opportunity described in this CFP. The proposals will be reviewed independently; however, when making final funding recommendations to RWJF, we will also consider the uniqueness of the project in relation to the mix of potentially funded projects and geographic dispersion of grantees. It is rare that we will fund the same PI or project team for two grants.

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

Yes, individuals who have received HER or other RWJF funding in the past are eligible to apply for these grants.

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 opportunity. 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, we 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. This organization will be identified in the online system as the "Applicant Organization." The organization receiving the grant may choose to establish a subcontract or consulting arrangement with the other organization(s). You will need to identify 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 at the Applicant Organization 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. This organization will be listed as the “Applicant Organization” in the online system. However, subcontracts to multiple institutions are allowed for the same project through one grant award. The organization that receives the grant will manage the subcontracts. The organization receiving the grant may also enter into consulting arrangements with other individuals or institutions.

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. *Healthy Eating Research* may require additional documentation from organizations not meeting these criteria. Applicant organizations must be based in the United States or its territories.

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 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 will advise you about these requirements (if necessary) prior to the grant award.

Will HER fund individuals?

No. We do not award grants to 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.

Can we submit an application for an ongoing partnership or project?

Yes, we accept applications from existing partnerships and projects, as long as they are for research projects that meet the overall grant parameters as outlined in the CFP. For all grants, it should be made clear in your proposal if this is a new component or extension of your existing project.

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 currently.

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 not required, but is strongly 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?

Research expertise should include a strong knowledge of formulating research hypotheses, crafting an appropriate study design and methodology, analyzing and reporting on the findings, and then communicating and translating these findings to relevant audiences. It is important for the research team to have a track record in policy-related research. It is also expected that the research team includes individuals with relevant content expertise.

3) Proposal Content and Programmatic Questions

What topics are you most interested in for this CFP?

We are most interested in funding research projects that will provide advocates, decision-makers, and policymakers with the evidence needed to impact the key social determinants of health and inequalities that underlie poor dietary patterns and related health consequences. HER is focused on accelerating evidence-based, strategic, actionable, and equitable solutions for improving children's nutrition, diet quality, food access and security, weight, and related health and well-being outcomes. While important, it is beyond the scope of this CFP to address excessive or deficient intakes of specific micronutrients (i.e., sodium); rather, we are interested in approaches that impact diet and overall health more holistically.

This CFP aims to fund research on supportive family policies and programs that have strong potential to impact equitable access to nutritious food in communities, nutrition security, diet quality, and improved nutrition and health outcomes. We are especially interested in strategies to improve health outcomes for families with low-incomes and racial/ethnic groups experiencing higher rates of health disparities.

This CFP focuses on five areas related to supportive family policies and programs to improve nutrition and health:

- Child nutrition programs
- Food access and hunger-relief programs
- Structural inequities impacting access to healthy and affordable foods
- Social and economic policies (nonfood policies)
- Emerging topics

Examples of possible research topics include (but are not limited to):

Child nutrition programs

- Explore strategies to expand the reach and impact of federal child nutrition programs (e.g., WIC, school meals, CACFP, summer food service program, summer EBT, farm to school program) such as: expanding program outreach and eligibility, simplifying program enrollment processes, identifying ways to improve equity within federal nutrition assistance programs, innovating new technology, and building the evidence base for these programs' impacts on food insecurity, nutrition, and other child health outcomes.

- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 - Investigate health and nutrition outcomes associated with WIC participation, especially in early and late childhood, either during or beyond years of program participation.
 - Understand barriers to and facilitation of WIC program participation.
 - Measure dietary and participation effects associated with changes to the WIC food package, including the increase in the WIC cash value benefit (CVB) for fruits and vegetables.
- School Meals
 - Measure the impacts of universal meals (i.e., healthy school meals for all).
 - Determine additional resources necessary to support implementation of updated nutrition standards (e.g., school kitchen equipment, additional training).
 - Examine access to and impact of the USDA afterschool snacks and supper programs.
 - Assess reach and impacts of the new Summer Electronic Benefit transfer which will launch summer 2024.
- Child and Adult Care Program
 - Design and test interventions to increase CACFP participation.
 - Better understand characteristics (e.g., provider demographics) and contextual factors of providers experiencing disparities in CACFP access.
 - Evaluate state efforts that extend CACFP eligibility to children cared for by small home-based care providers who are legally exempt from their states childcare licensing requirements.

Food access and hunger-relief programs

- Explore strategies for integrating nutrition and health, for example by evaluating produce prescription programs, or pilots linking electronic health record data with nutrition outcomes or policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) strategies.
- Develop PSE changes aimed at improving nutrition security, nutritional disparities, diet quality and patterns, access to healthy foods, and food security for children and families, especially among populations at highest risk for poor dietary patterns and nutritional disparities.
- Develop PSE changes aimed at increasing access, affordability, and demand for healthy foods and beverages (e.g., pricing incentives, potable water access, food procurement), and decreasing access to and/or demand for less healthy foods and beverages, including ultra-processed foods (e.g., product placement, pricing disincentives, nutrition labeling).

- Understand food insecurity in certain populations not studied, such as households with adolescents, or parents who have young children and are attending community colleges, tribal colleges, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), or Hispanic serving institutions.
- Develop and evaluate food sovereignty projects in Native American communities to promote traditional food access to address food insecurity and improve child nutrition.
- Explore the facilitation of and/or barriers to implementing updated nutrition standards in the charitable food system, such as modeling the cost-effectiveness and impact of implementing improved nutrition standards in food banks or examining additional training or technical assistance needed for successful implementation in food pantries.
- Evaluate interventions in the charitable food system including exploring the impacts of nutrition standards on food sourcing (i.e., retail/food manufacturer donations, individual donations, USDA commodities, food purchases) and distribution.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Expand incentives for fruits and vegetables in SNAP, both in terms of the dollar amount and locations where these incentives are available.
 - Measure the effectiveness of expansions to the Thrifty Food Plan.
 - Identify ways to enhance the equity of SNAP, including via programs like Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) which operates in U.S. territories.
 - Develop strategies to expand, implement and evaluate online purchasing for SNAP and WIC.

Structural inequities impacting access to healthy and affordable foods

Structural inequities, including systemic racism, shape our environments and are evident in long-standing systems, policies, and practices impacting access to healthy and affordable foods, such as access to grocery stores, community zoning decisions, proliferation of fast food restaurants, and benefit program eligibility requirements. These injustices routinely impact lower-income and communities of color. More research is needed to:

- Explore the intersection of racism, economics, and health across the food system and identify strategies to enhance equity in existing nutrition programs with the goal of improving food and nutrition security.
- Evaluate community-powered initiatives and effects on improvements in aspects of the food system or nutrition and food security and overall health.
- Identify the most effective aspects of community-driven approaches in low-income areas and communities of color for improving access to healthy foods and reducing access to unhealthy foods.

- Examine exposures such as discrimination and stigma that impact people of color and lower socioeconomic status in terms of community access to healthy and unhealthy foods, nutrition quality, or food insecurity.
- Developing and testing strategies with a community-academic partnership for data collection, management, and analysis or a shared community data dashboard to assist community-powered groups.

Social and economic policies

- Examine relationships between increased benefits or social services for families and impacts on diet quality and food security. For example, issues may include: housing assistance programs, childcare subsidies, child tax credits, minimum wage or universal income, access to health insurance, paid family leave, transportation, etc.
- Examine the unintended consequences of current social and economic policies and programs, especially as related to food and nutrition security and child health outcomes for low-income children and families, families of color, and other populations at high risk for nutrition inequities.
- Identify innovative connections between social determinants of health (e.g., housing, healthcare, education, transportation, income) and food security and diet quality, that may lead to impactful PSE changes in other federal programs, such as those operated by the Department of Health and Human Service's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), housing assistance or other Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs, Department of Defense (DOD) programs for military families, Environmental Protection Agency programs focused on local food systems (e.g., Local Foods, Local Places), IRS Tax policies, etc.
- Explore how variation in local and state social and economic policies (e.g., minimum wage) impacts food security, nutrition, and weight.
- Explore other policies, interventions, and practices in child-care settings, retail food outlets, and communities, health care settings, prenatal care, home visiting, etc.

Emerging topics

Research is needed on new and emerging topics impacting nutrition equity, diet quality, nutrition insecurity, reducing excess weight, and designing and testing innovative interventions. Examples include:

- Identify novel ways to utilize Medicaid or CHIP programs to optimize families' nutrition and food security.
- Examine the impacts of climate change on food systems and access to healthy foods.

- Examine the implications of new obesity/weight loss drugs for public health and prevention initiatives, especially related to prevention work with adolescents and young children.
- Address unique issues impacting the health and wellbeing of rural communities.
- Examine issues related to public health datasets.
- Develop new measures and metrics for measuring nutrition and health outcomes, and evaluation of programs.

In addition to nutrition, can we include a physical activity component in our proposal?

The aim of the *Healthy Eating Research* program is to identify promising PSE strategies to advance health equity in the areas of diet quality and nutrition. Specific to this CFP, we are focused on funding research that advances health equity in the areas of nutritional disparities, dietary quality and patterns, and food security, and we hope to shed light on the drivers of inequities in these areas. 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, but we expect that the vast majority of the grant resources will be focused on healthy eating.

Where can I learn more about HER and RWJF’s focus on equity and priority topics for this grant opportunity?

Information about Healthy Eating Research’s focus on equity can be found [here](#) and RWJF’s Culture of Health [here](#).

What age range and population are you most interested in for this CFP?

The target population is children (0 to 18) and families in the United States, with high priority on those who are at highest risk for poor nutrition and obesity, specifically lower-income families and racially and ethnically diverse populations (e.g., Black, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders). Studies do not have to include the entire age range of 0 to 18 and could focus only on one age group such as preschool-age children.

Will studies be considered if their primary target is parents/caregivers of children?

Yes, if the applicant can make the connection to how targeting parents/caregivers of children (0 to 18) will lead to changes in children’s health outcomes, these studies will be considered.

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 at high risk for poor nutrition and obesity?

Yes, rural populations where risk of nutritional disparities, poor dietary quality and patterns, and food insecurity is high are of interest to *Healthy Eating Research*.

Will proposals be given consideration even if they do not target lower-income or racially or ethnically diverse populations?

The goal of *Healthy Eating Research* is to help all children achieve optimal nutrition and address nutrition-related disparities. Low diet quality and obesity rates are highest in e-income and certain ethnic and racial populations. All studies must have the potential to impact groups at highest risk for poor health and well-being, and nutrition-related health disparities. We are especially interested in studies focused on racially and ethnically diverse populations (Black, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders), with an emphasis on families and children (ages 0 to 18).

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. 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 groups.

Evidence generated through HER should be timely and policy-relevant and aimed towards identifying equitable policies and programs.

Are the criteria for addressing lower-income and racially and ethnically diverse populations exclusive or mutual?

Your study can include lower-income and/or racial and ethnic populations at risk for nutrition-related health disparities.

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. While we do not have a specific cutoff for defining lower-income populations, we encourage investigators to use thresholds or benchmarks commonly used in the chosen setting(s), policy, or with the chosen population(s). For example, in child-care, school, preschool, and after-school settings many researchers use the percentage of children living in

households with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty line as this is a common threshold for meal and snack subsidies for federal nutrition assistance programs.

Are there specific evaluation methods that are preferred?

No, the evaluation methods and the analysis should be driven by the research question. A variety of designs could be used, including observation and measurement studies, secondary data analyses, analyses of the effect of natural variations in food policies and environments, and evaluating current programs and policies. Survey research looking at associations or correlations also could be included. Mixed-design (qualitative and quantitative) studies are also welcome.

RWJF is interested in funding projects that use evaluation as a tool for advancing equity by applying [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 ([Center for Evaluation Innovation 2017](#)).

Although not required, researchers are encouraged to embed the principles of equitable evaluation into proposals submitted under this CFP.

Where can I find additional guidance or resources on incorporating equity into my proposed study?

Healthy Eating Research strives to ensure researchers have the knowledge, tools, and resources to apply an equity lens to all funded projects, which entails understanding the social, political, and environmental contexts of a program, policy, or practice and the ability to evaluate and assess the unfair benefits and burdens on a society or population. Healthy Eating Research has designed a suite of training and technical assistance materials on this topic, including:

1. [Equity for Researchers Toolbox](#): The resources in this document offer tools to help researchers understand and incorporate racial equity principles into their research in order to advance health equity;
2. [HER Equity Webinar Series](#): A series of “equity in research” focused webinars with presentations from HER grantees and other partners; and

3. [Getting to Equity Framework](#): A framework to guide practitioners and researchers in public health and other fields working on nutrition and obesity prevention to place greater priority on equity issues when undertaking PSE change strategies and related research.

4) Budget and Co-Funding

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 only need to provide the total amount of funding requested from HER.

Invited Full Proposals

Invited full proposal applicants will need to complete detailed budget worksheets and budget narrative documents using the templates provided in the online application system. The RWJF online system for full proposal applicants contains detailed budget guidelines.

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

All invited full proposal applicants will be provided with detailed instructions regarding the budget narrative and worksheets during the full proposal stage. Applicants will need to complete an online summary budget worksheet and a detailed budget narrative and spreadsheet. The online summary budget worksheet reports the total amount of funds requested for the project, as well as the total for each of the four HER/RWJF budget categories: personnel, other direct costs, purchased services, and indirect costs. The detailed budget spreadsheet provides additional information on the included line items within each category. The budget narrative should provide a detailed explanation for how each line item will be spent, and how the amount was determined. The budget narrative should demonstrate that the finances are consistent with the proposed study design and HER/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. Additional instructions for each of these documents can be found in the online application system.

What can grant funds be used for?

All invited full proposal applicants will be provided with detailed budget guidelines regarding allowable expenses during the full proposal stage. Generally, 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 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.

In order to ensure that HER research is made accessible to a wide and diverse audience, grantees of the *HER Round 14* who publish HER data and findings in peer-reviewed publications must do so in open access journals or must include funds in their budgets to cover the cost of making the resulting publications open-access (typically \$3,000-\$5,000 per manuscript).

What is the allowable indirect cost rate?

RWJF's current allowable indirect cost rate varies by institution:

- 15 percent for U.S. colleges/universities and hospital or health systems,
- 30 percent for nonprofit organizations, and
- 0 percent for for-profit organizations and government entities.

If consultants/contractor costs (i.e., sub-contracts or sub-grants) constitute more than one-third of the total direct costs of the project or program, the allowable indirect cost rate on those third-party costs is limited to 5 percent.

The maximum indirect cost rates apply to both the primary applicant organization and any sub-grantee or sub-contractor costs up to the rate applicable to their organization type. For example: if a U.S. university is the primary grantee and has a U.S.-based nonprofit organization as a sub-grantee, the U.S. university is eligible to receive a 15 percent indirect cost rate, while the U.S.-based nonprofit organization is eligible to receive a 30 percent rate. Similarly, if a U.S. nonprofit organization is the primary grantee and a for-profit organization is a subcontractor, the U.S. nonprofit organization may receive a 30 percent indirect cost rate, while the for-profit subcontractor may not apply indirect costs (0%).

At the full proposal application stage, the online application system will contain detailed Budget Preparation Guidelines; a complete explanation of indirect costs can be found [here](#). In addition, all finalists will undergo a thorough budget review by HER NPO staff, with opportunities to make corrections, before awards are made.

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.

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. It may be beneficial to consider submitting additional supportive documentation regarding the existing grant to ensure that reviewers have as much information as possible during their review.

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 (CFP). 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 full proposals will be reviewed by a minimum of three external reviewers with research content area and/or policy expertise, HER leadership, 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 final 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 "Types of Studies," "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. (Note: 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 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.

6) Notification and Funding

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

Stage 1: Concept Paper

The initial concept paper must be submitted by 3 p.m. ET on April 3, 2024. Applicants will be contacted via email and informed of whether they are invited to submit a full proposal no later than May 8, 2024.

Stage 2: Invited Full Proposals

Applicants will be contacted via email and informed whether they have been selected as finalists. Notification of finalists will occur in mid-September 2024. Awards will begin in November 2024.

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).

Optional activities for funded researchers also may include conference calls, participation in HER-led work 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.**