

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Research in Transforming Health and Health Care Systems

From: Office of Foundation Relations
Coordinator: Nicole Dancz, Assistant Director, Foundation Relations (nicole.dancz@emory.edu)
Website: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2021/research-in-transforming-health-and-health-care-systems.html>
Submission Limitations: None
Foundation Deadline: Phase 1- Brief proposals due: **June 28th, 2021, 3:00 p.m. ET** Applicants will be notified of invitation to submit full proposals September 13, 2021 and full proposals will be due November 1, 2021 at 3 p.m. ET

Please contact your RAS unit ***and Nicole Dancz to inform them of your intent to submit.***

Background:

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to building a Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. Since 2017, the Foundation's Research in Transforming Health and Health Care Systems (RTHS) program, managed by AcademyHealth, has helped advance this vision by supporting rigorous, empirical studies that help policymakers, practitioners, stakeholders, and others understand the effects of current or potential policies to transform health and health care systems.

Purpose:

The purpose of this 2021 RTHS call for proposals is to fund research studies that evaluate or predict how enrollees are effected by Medicaid policy changes enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on communities of color, we are requesting studies that examine the impact of Medicaid policies on communities of color and/or explore how current or proposed policies may alleviate or exacerbate racial inequity and structural racism in the context of Medicaid. The goal of this funding opportunity is to generate rigorous evidence on the effects of recent Medicaid policy changes on enrollees, states, and others, and to inform and advance equitable policies and racial equity in Medicaid.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- Applicant organizations must be based in the United States or its territories.
- 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.
- Projects may be generated from disciplines including health services research; economics; sociology; program evaluation; political science; public policy; public health; public administration; law; business administration; or other related fields.
- Consistent with our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Commitment, we particularly encourage applicants with project directors or team members from backgrounds historically underrepresented in research disciplines as a result of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, or other factors.

Selection Criteria

- Importance and policy relevance of the question to be addressed and the potential of the study to contribute significant new information to the evidence base and to policy decisions.
- Potential of the study to generate evidence that helps address racial inequities and structural racism in the context of Medicaid, including the impact of policies on communities of color.
- Meaningful involvement of Medicaid enrollees, community organizations, advocates who work with Medicaid enrollees, or other impacted stakeholders in the project.
- Strength of the proposed methodology and incorporation of reasonable and relevant empirical methods.
- Appropriateness and availability of proposed data sources.
- Qualifications and expertise of the applicant.
- Ability to create timely deliverables for wide dissemination (e.g., issue briefs, webinars, blog posts, infographics,

social media outreach), including products based on preliminary findings and throughout the life of the grant, in addition to papers suitable for peer-reviewed publication. Please see below for the Foundation's open access policy regarding peer-reviewed publications.

- Appropriateness of the time line and budget. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate their ability to make early or full findings available during the grant period.

Key Dates

- June 28, 2021 (3 p.m. ET): Deadline for receipt of brief proposals.
- September 13, 2021: Applicants notified whether invited to submit full proposals.
- November 1, 2021 (3 p.m. ET): Deadline for receipt of full proposals.
- March 4, 2022: Notification of finalists.
- May 1, 2022: Grants start.

Budget and Use of Grant Funds

- Up to \$1.75 million will be available under this CFP.
- Funding will range from \$150,000 to \$350,000 per project to accommodate studies of 12 to 36 months. Applicants should request the amount of funding they will need to complete the proposed research and to translate and disseminate the results. Applicants should propose a grant period that supports the timely dissemination of findings to inform policy.
- They expect to fund a diverse range of studies with varying budgets and time lines.
- Grant funds may be used for: project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project, and indirect costs to support the applicant organization's general operations.
- 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.
- Additional budget guidelines are provided in the online application materials.

Application Components: Applicants should work with their RAS unit and the Office of Foundation Relations before final submission to the sponsor.

Phase 1: Brief Proposal

Applicants must submit a brief proposal describing the proposed project. Applicants should not begin drafting their proposal until they have familiarized themselves with the detailed instructions and brief proposal template displayed in the online application system. The brief proposal should be no more than four pages, double-spaced, 11-point Arial font and black type, and include the following information, as specified in the template:

- The research question and potential of the study to generate significant and new knowledge to inform health policy.
- The potential of the study to advance racial equity and/or address structural racism in the Medicaid context.
- The methodology and data sources to be used.
- The meaningful involvement of Medicaid enrollees, community organizations, advocates, or other stakeholders in the study.
- The deliverables and plan for dissemination.

Brief proposals will be reviewed by staff at RWJF and AcademyHealth.