

## ABOUT RWJF

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. The Foundation seeks to:

- Assure that all Americans have access to quality health care at reasonable cost.
- Improve the quality of care and support for people with chronic health conditions.
- Promote healthy communities and lifestyles.
- Reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org).

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming  
Calls for Proposals at: <http://subscribe.rwjf.org>

THE  
ROBERT WOOD  
JOHNSON  
FOUNDATION®

Route 1 and College Road East  
P.O. Box 2316  
Princeton, NJ 08543-2316

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### INVESTIGATOR AWARDS IN Health Policy Research

2006

**Deadline: March 29, 2006**



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1/2006

THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION®

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Please refer to specific sections for complete detail.)

### Purpose

The *Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) supports highly qualified individuals to undertake broad studies of America's most challenging policy issues in health and health care. Grants of up to \$275,000 are awarded to investigators from a variety of disciplines. Successful proposals combine creative and conceptual thinking with innovative approaches to critical health problems and policy issues.

### Eligibility Criteria (page 5)

- Applications are welcomed from investigators in fields such as anthropology, business, demography, economics, engineering, ethics, genetics, health and social policy, history, journalism, law, medicine, nursing, political science, public health, psychology, science policy, social work and sociology.
- The program seeks a diverse group of applicants including minorities and individuals in nonacademic settings.
- Applicants must be affiliated either with educational institutions or with 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located in the United States.

### Selection Criteria (page 5)

Complete details for selection criteria can be found on page 5.

### Total Awards

- Up to 10 awards will be made in this grant cycle.
- The maximum award is \$275,000 including personnel, other direct costs, and indirect costs calculated at a rate of up to 9 percent.

### Deadlines

- **March 29, 2006 (5 p.m. EST)**—Deadline for receipt of letters of intent.
- **June 14, 2006**—Applicants will be notified by mail if they have been selected to submit a full proposal.
- **July 28, 2006**—Deadline for receipt of full proposals.
- **December 15, 2006**—Notification of awards mailed.
- **March 1 to September 1, 2007**—Acceptable start dates for projects.

### How to Apply (page 8)

**This program accepts paper applications only.**

- Complete instructions on how to apply can be found on page 8.

For further assistance, please contact the National Program Office (e-mail preferred):

Lynn Rogut, *Deputy Director*

E-mail: [depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu](mailto:depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu)

Phone: (732) 932-3817

[www.ihhcupar.rutgers.edu/rwjf](http://www.ihhcupar.rutgers.edu/rwjf)

## BACKGROUND

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has a history of investments that seek to build and maintain a strong and diverse leadership and workforce in health and health care, as well as to help develop specific fields. Our nation faces numerous complex challenges to the health of our people and the systems that care for them.

These include the increasing number of Americans with chronic conditions; the growing prevalence of obesity among children and adults; insufficient access to care; health and treatment disparities; untreated mental illness; the rising cost of insurance and prescription drugs; the growing number of people who are uninsured; delivery and financing systems that are difficult to navigate and insufficiently comprehensive; shortages in the health care workforce; and other dilemmas created by the escalating demand for services and pressures to control spending. Research with a broad perspective holds promise for enhancing society's understanding of difficult health problems and the complexities of health care delivery and financing.

Over the past 13 years, the *Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program has invested more than \$27 million in such research. Funded projects have explored a range of topics including health risk and disease prevention, the determinants of health and disparities among population groups, public health policy, health care reform, the patient-provider relationship, medical technology, patient safety and quality of care, the policy-making process, and public and private financing programs. Descriptions of previously funded projects can be found at [www.ihhcupar.rutgers.edu/rwjf](http://www.ihhcupar.rutgers.edu/rwjf)

## THE PROGRAM

Now in its 14th year, the *Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program continues to encourage researchers whose cross-cutting and innovative ideas promise to contribute meaningfully to improving health and health policy. Each year, the program provides 24- to 36-month grants of up to \$275,000 to approximately 10 highly qualified individuals.

We select a diverse mix of investigators—from those early in their careers to distinguished senior scholars—to undertake studies that:

- Explore underlying values, historical evolution and interplay among the social, economic and political forces that shape health, health care and health policy in the United States.
- Apply new perspectives from a variety of disciplines to analyze the organization, delivery and financing of health care services, workforce issues and public health challenges.
- Develop innovative ideas that hold promise for contributing to better policy-making.
- Synthesize existing work in ways that expose its policy significance and advance the understanding of key issues.

**Please note:** The *Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program funds projects with a broader scope than traditional NIH or NSF grants. Data-driven health services research focusing on a narrowly defined research question is not appropriate for this program, nor are pilot projects that are designed to evaluate clinical care in a specific geographic area or to demonstrate service delivery programs or financing strategies.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications are welcomed from investigators in fields such as anthropology, business, demography, economics, engineering, ethics, genetics, health and social policy, history, journalism, law, medicine, nursing, political science, public health, psychology, science policy, social work and sociology. We seek a diverse group of applicants including minorities and individuals in nonacademic settings such as research firms and policy organizations. Applicants must be affiliated either with educational institutions or with 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located in the United States.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposal evaluation is based upon:

- Relevance of the work to national policy and its potential to inform and improve policy-making.
- Contribution and potential significance of the project to the theoretical underpinnings and knowledge base of health, health care or health policy.
- Extent to which the work represents an innovative perspective on health, health care or health policy.
- Soundness of the project's conceptual framework (the ideas, concepts, theories and bodies of knowledge informing the proposed approach) and methodology.
- Feasibility of the work.
- Likelihood that the findings can be useful to a variety of policy-makers and other leaders.
- Capability of the investigator to undertake and complete the project on schedule.
- Investigator's research record.

## USE OF GRANT FUNDS

The maximum grant award available is \$275,000, which includes personnel, other direct costs, and indirect costs calculated at a rate of up to 9 percent. Investigators must be prepared to commit substantial time to the project. Grant funds are to be used primarily for project salary support for the principal investigator(s). In circumstances where salary support may be available from other sources, a larger portion of the budget may be allocated to research related expenses. Following RWJF practice, all grantees are expected to participate in national meetings designed to share their work with other investigators supported by the program. Annual reports, which are necessary for grants management and monitoring, must be submitted.

## PROGRAM DIRECTION

Direction and technical assistance are provided by the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, which serves as the National Program Office (NPO):

**Institute for Health, Health Care Policy,  
and Aging Research**  
**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**  
**55 Commercial Ave., Third Floor**  
**New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1340**  
**Email: [depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu](mailto:depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu)**  
**Phone: (732) 932-3817**  
**Fax: (732) 932-3819**  
**[www.ihhcar.rutgers.edu/rwjf](http://www.ihhcar.rutgers.edu/rwjf)**

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- David Mechanic, Ph.D., *Program Director*
- Lynn Rogut, *Deputy Director*
- Cynthia Church, *Program Administrator*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- James Knickman, Ph.D., *Vice President, Research and Evaluation*
- David Colby, Ph.D., *Deputy Director, Research and Evaluation*
- Lori Melichar, Ph.D., *Program Officer, Research and Evaluation*
- Paul Tarini, *Senior Communications Officer*
- Penny Bolla, *Grants Administrator*

A National Advisory Committee of experts drawn from such fields as medicine, public health, economics, nursing, political science, sociology, law, history, journalism and the behavioral sciences assists in proposal review and the selection of awardees.

## HOW TO APPLY

**The deadline for receipt of applications for an Investigator Award is March 29, 2006.**

*Applicants may submit only one application annually, and the number of investigators per project is limited to no more than two.* To apply, please submit eight collated sets of the following:

- A brief introductory cover letter printed on organizational letterhead.
- A four-page, double-spaced letter of intent printed on plain paper using a 10-, 11-, or 12-point font.
- A full curriculum vitae for each principal or co-investigator (up to two per project).
- A completed Application Summary Sheet for *each investigator*—downloaded from the program Web site at: [www.ihhpcar.rutgers.edu/nwjf/applications/default.asp?s=1](http://www.ihhpcar.rutgers.edu/nwjf/applications/default.asp?s=1)

The double-spaced letter of intent must include:

- The title of the proposed research project.
- A brief description of the problems being addressed and their policy significance.
- The specific research questions and issues to be explored.
- A summary of key objectives and activities to be undertaken.
- The anticipated contribution of the proposed study to improving health policy, and the potential audience(s) for the work.
- The length of time and total budget (\$275,000 maximum including indirect costs of up to 9 percent) estimated for the project. An itemized budget is not required.

All letters of intent will be reviewed and a limited number of applicants will be invited to submit full proposals, for which an application package and instructions will be provided in June 2006.

The number of grants will depend on the nature, quality and estimated budgets of applications received, with approximately 10 awardees selected annually.

*RWJF does not provide individual critiques of letters of intent or proposals submitted.*

Send your application package by courier or regular mail (do not use fax or e-mail) to:

**Lynn Rogut, Deputy Director  
Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research  
55 Commercial Ave., Third Floor  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1340**

For more information about the program, visit the program's Web site at: [www.ihhpcar.rutgers.edu/rwjf](http://www.ihhpcar.rutgers.edu/rwjf)

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the NPO (e-mail preferred) at [depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu](mailto:depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu) or call (732) 932-3817.

## FUNDED PROJECTS

A complete list of the projects funded through this program is available at: [www.ihhpcar.rutgers.edu/rwjf](http://www.ihhpcar.rutgers.edu/rwjf)

