

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

INVESTIGATOR AWARDS IN
**Health Policy
Research**

2007

Deadline: March 28, 2007



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 \$335,000 are awarded to investigators from a variety of disciplines for innovative research projects that have national policy relevance.

Eligibility Criteria (page 5)

- Applications are welcomed from investigators in the health, social and behavioral sciences, as well as other fields.
- The program seeks a diverse group of applicants including minorities, researchers early in their careers, 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.
- Past awardees and teams of more than two researchers are not eligible to apply.

Selection Criteria (page 5)

Complete selection criteria can be found on page 5.

Total Awards

- Approximately 10 awards will be made in this grant cycle.
- The maximum award is \$335,000 including personnel, other direct costs and indirect costs calculated at a rate of up to 12 percent.

Deadlines

- **March 28, 2007 (5 p.m. EST)**—Deadline for receipt of letters of intent.
- **June 15, 2007**—Applicants will be notified by mail if they have been selected to submit a full proposal.
- **July 27, 2007**—Deadline for receipt of full proposals.
- **December 14, 2007**—Notification letters mailed to proposal applicants.
- **March 1 to September 1, 2008**—Acceptable start dates for projects.

How to Apply (page 7)

This program accepts paper applications only.

Complete instructions on how to apply can be found on page 7.

For further assistance, please contact the national program office (e-mail preferred):

Lynn Rogut, *deputy director*

E-mail: depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu

Phone: (732) 932-3817

www.ihhpar.rutgers.edu/rwjf

BACKGROUND

There is no shortage of complex health challenges facing the United States. Increased longevity is accompanied by a rise in chronic conditions. The number of Americans who are uninsured continues to grow, millions have insufficient access to care and suffer from untreated illness and disabilities, and health and treatment disparities abound. The prevalence of obesity among children and adults is increasing; we have shortages of needed health care personnel, and delivery and financing systems are difficult to navigate. These and other dilemmas are compounded by escalating demand for services and pressures to control spending.

Research that takes a broad perspective can enhance our understanding of such challenges, find innovative ways to address them, and inform the process of policy-making. Over the past 14 years, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, through its *Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program, has invested more than \$30 million in research on a wide range of problems with health and health care in America. Descriptions of previously funded projects and their products can be found at www.ihhpar.rutgers.edu/rwjf.

Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research is part of RWJF's Human Capital Portfolio, reflecting our longstanding 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.

THE PROGRAM

The Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research program supports researchers whose cross-cutting and innovative ideas promise to contribute meaningfully to improving health and health policy in America. Each year, the program awards 24- to 36-month grants of up to \$335,000 to highly qualified individuals to fund approximately 10 research projects that have national policy relevance.

We seek a diverse mix of investigators 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; and
- 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, psychology, public health, science policy, social work, sociology and others. We seek a diverse group of applicants including minorities, researchers early in their careers, 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. **Past awardees and teams of more than two investigators may not apply.**

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposal evaluation is based upon:

- relevance of the research 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 research 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 research;
- 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; and
- investigator's research record.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

The maximum grant award available is \$335,000, which includes personnel, other direct costs, and indirect costs calculated at a rate of up to 12 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
Phone: (732) 932-3817
Fax: (732) 932-3819
www.ihhpar.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:

- David Colby, Ph.D., *interim vice president, Research and Evaluation*
- Lori Melichar, Ph.D., *program officer, Research and Evaluation*
- Paul Tarini, *senior communications officer*
- Christine Phares, *grants administrator*

A national advisory committee (NAC) 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 makes funding recommendations to RWJF.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be received by the NPO no later than the deadline of 5 p.m. on March 28.

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.ihhpar.rutgers.edu/rwjf/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 the approach 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 project length and estimated budget (\$335,000 maximum including indirect costs of up to 12 percent).

An itemized budget is not required at this stage; and cited references are not required but may be included on a separate page.

All letters of intent will be reviewed and a limited number of applicants will be invited in June 2007 to submit full proposals.

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

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

Send your application package by overnight delivery 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 and samples of past, successful letters of intent, visit www.ihhpar.rutgers.edu/rwjf.

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

FUNDED PROJECTS

A complete list of the projects funded through this program and their products is available at www.ihhpar.rutgers.edu/rwjf.

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, we work with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change.

For 35 years we've brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those we serve. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, we expect to make a difference in your lifetime. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/services.



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

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