

2008 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline

June 12, 2008



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Examining the Effects of Public Reporting and Pay-for-Performance on Health Care Quality

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to ensuring that all Americans receive quality health care. Specifically, we aim to help communities across the country set and achieve ambitious goals to improve the quality of health care in ways that matter to patients and families, including patients from racial and ethnic backgrounds who often experience lower quality care.

More information about our work in **Quality/Equality** can be found at www.rwjf.org/quality.

Purpose

Through this solicitation, we seek proposals for projects to examine the effects of public reporting and pay-for-performance on quality of care. In late 2008 a total of approximately \$4 million will be available for projects addressing one of the two topics outlined below. Grants of between \$200,000 and \$400,000 each will be awarded for policy-relevant research.

Pay-for-performance and public reporting programs are proliferating rapidly. The objectives of these programs are to give physicians incentives to invest in improving the quality of care, and then support those investments through financial rewards or increased patient volume or both. Public reporting programs also aim to enable patients to choose physicians who provide high quality care. However, there are concerns within the field about possible unintended consequences of public reporting, such as the potential for these programs to divert physicians' attention from unmeasured, but important, areas of quality and to increase racial and socioeconomic disparities in health care delivery. Thus, the following two topics have been identified to address gaps in the research and help to advance our regional quality strategy.

Topic 1: Public Reporting

Although public reporting is gaining momentum in markets across the country, much remains to be learned about the circumstances under which public reporting can successfully lead to improvements in quality of care for adults. We are soliciting proposals that measure the effect of public reporting programs when individual physicians are the units of measurement. What are the effects when larger medical groups are the unit of measurement? Is there any evidence that certain programs work better for the individual physician or a larger medical group unit of analysis? We are also interested in proposals which aim to test how public reporting can be designed so that it works for individual physicians.

Topic 2: Pay-for-Performance

Pay-for-performance efforts have sometimes had unintended consequences. These include instances where quality measures may not be adequately adjusted for patients' medical conditions or socioeconomic status, or quality measures leading physicians to avoid high-risk patients. We are therefore soliciting proposals that measure the effects of pay-for-performance programs on the quality of care people of various races and ethnicities receive. We are also interested in proposals which address whether pay-for-performance programs can be designed so that they actually reduce disparities in quality of care received.

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Key Dates and Deadlines

- **June 12, 2008 (3 p.m. ET)**
Deadline for receipt of brief proposals.
- **July 28-31, 2008**
Applicants notified if invited to submit a full proposal.
- **September 4, 2008 (3 p.m. ET)**
Deadline for receipt of full proposals.
- **December 1, 2008**
Start of grants.

For complete information about this call for proposals, selection criteria, proposal process or frequently asked questions, please visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/qe2.

Inquiries

Inquiries may be directed to Helen Mathew at quality-equality2@rwjf.org.

www.rwjf.org/cfp/qe2

For more information about funding opportunities from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation visit Grant Applications at www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive Funding Alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/services.



Eligibility Criteria

Interdisciplinary teams that include investigators focused on public reporting and pay-for-performance are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to those applicants who may be either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Applicant organizations must be based in the U.S. or its territories.

Selection Criteria

Proposals should demonstrate the potential to produce high-quality, scientifically sound research. We are interested in proposals including, but not limited to: demonstration projects, retrospective studies, case studies and secondary data analyses. If you propose to study a demonstration project, at least 80 percent of the grant should fund the evaluation of the demonstration rather than the implementation. We will assess each proposal based on the degree to which it:

- contributes new literature to the existing evidence base;
- articulates a clear hypothesis or conceptual framework that guides the design of the study;
- describes a plan for systematic data collection and analysis;
- describes the project's deliverables and expected outcomes;
- provides evidence of timely access to necessary data, settings and study populations;
- provides evidence of the contribution of a particular approach to the study question;
- is original to this call for proposals and not part of previous studies;
- documents that the experience, qualifications and time commitment of the investigator(s) and key project staff are adequate for conducting the proposed project; and
- justifies the budget request and timeline.

Total Awards

Up to \$4 million is available for grants of up to three years for policy-relevant research.

- *For Topic 1*—A maximum of two 3-year grants of up to \$400,000 each, and a maximum of six 2-year grants of up to \$200,000 each will be awarded.
- *For Topic 2*—A maximum of two 3-year grants of up to \$400,000 each, and a maximum of six 2-year grants of up to \$200,000 each will be awarded.

How to Apply

Proposals for this program must only be submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system at <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/qe2>.

www.rwjf.org/cfp/qe2