



program results reports



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Each year the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation produces more than 200 reports on the results of its funding to share findings and results and to build on the knowledge of achievements, difficulties, and lessons learned from our past grantmaking.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) believes in supporting programs that have measurable impact on the health of Americans and the quality of care they receive. For almost 40 years, we've worked with dedicated, expert partners who strive for meaningful and timely change. While progress may be slow, the steps taken can be invaluable to those who share our goal of helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need.

We are passionate about our responsibility to share information and foster understanding of the impact of our past grantmaking—what works, what doesn't and why.

Since 1996 we've produced more than 130 Program Results Reports on national programs, more than 4800 describing individual projects, and more than 150 profiles of scholars and leaders whose essential work we have supported.

Program Results Reports (formerly called Grant Results) describe RWJF's interest in the area and strategy for addressing the problem for those working in the field or interested in undertaking similar efforts. They explain the problem addressed; the activities undertaken; the results or findings from the work; lessons for the field; any post-grant activities—by the grantee or RWJF—and they include a bibliography of material produced during the project or program.

“Foundations need to be held accountable for the grants they make and grantees must answer for what they produce with Foundation funds. Program Results are an important tool because they provide evidence of project results and summarize lessons learned from Foundation-supported projects. This knowledge then makes its way into the communities of scholars, practitioners and policy-makers who work in the fields of health, health care and health policy.”

Alan B. Cohen, Sc.D.
National Program Director
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Scholars in Health Policy Research
Boston University Health Policy Institute



In 2010, we also started producing Progress Reports on a small number of programs and large projects when they are at a mid-point in their lives. The reports are conversational in tone and are based on interviews with RWJF and program/project staff describing results to date, challenges being confronted, lessons learned and plans for the future.

OUR PURPOSE

Program Results Reports serve four purposes:

- To create a historical record of research, applied interventions and lessons learned for program staff, grantees and partners.
- To document and describe the findings and lessons of our grantees' work and encourage reflection on them.
- To communicate the work of the Foundation openly to the public.
- To assemble a comprehensive body of work serving many purposes including education, guidance, research, evaluation and analysis.

HOW THE REPORTS ARE PRODUCED

The Program Results Reporting Unit (PRRU), a joint effort of the Foundation's Communications and Research & Evaluation Departments, produces these reports.

For the first eight-plus years, two RWJF officers—one an experienced evaluator and the other an experienced journalist—led the unit. In 2010, upon the retirement of the evaluator, the journalist took over this responsibility. She is now the director of the Research Resources Center.

Once a project or program has completed its work, she assigns it to a writer who reviews reports and publications from the initiative. The writer also interviews the project/program director and, if appropriate, the Foundation's program officer, to glean lessons from the work and to clarify and illuminate important aspects of what was accomplished.

An editor/reviewer then reads the entire file of materials against the report to be certain that the writer has not misconstrued or incorrectly described the work, and edits the report accordingly. PRRU ensures clarity and accuracy through further review by the unit's director, the RWJF program officer and then the program/project director. The report then is copy-edited and posted to our website.

A similar process is followed for Progress Reports.

A FOCUS ON LEARNING

It's our responsibility as America's largest philanthropy devoted to improving health and health care to share the results and findings of our grant-supported work and the lessons we've learned—about both what works and what doesn't—to foster improved work in the field. Researchers, policy-makers, journalists, educators or future grantees will find that the Program Results Reports are useful tools to illuminate relevance and understanding of a problem and the work that's been done by the partners who share our vision.

“... public admissions of failure are rare to the point of near—nonexistence. But there is one major exception—the practice of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of posting... reports on grants completed, as well as some grant clusters... some of which report unsuccessful initiatives, usually providing only the facts of the grant without expressing a judgment that particular grants failed.”

The Foundation: A Great American Secret; How Private Wealth is Changing the World,
by Joel L. Fleishman