RSNA Research & Education Foundation
Request for Application (RFA)

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

RFA Posted Date	June 1, 2022
RFA Number	REI-2022-HD
Funding Opportunity	RSNA Emerging Issues Grant
Funding Opportunity Topic	Interventions/Solutions to Healthcare Disparities
Announcement Type	New

Funding Opportunity Purpose

The RSNA R&E Foundation has an opportunity to respond to urgent healthcare needs and expand into new areas that contribute to the fields of radiology and radiation oncology. The creation of a new Emerging Issues Grant will provide the Foundation with the opportunity to develop a new funding structure to address timely and urgent needs related to healthcare disparities.

The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) is highly invested in supporting a mechanism to rapidly and effectively address emerging issues that threaten the health and well-being of disparate populations.

The RSNA R&E Foundation is seeking proposals to address healthcare disparities research in 2022. This new grant is intended to encourage novel exploratory interventions to mitigate the negative impact of healthcare disparities in the fields of radiology and radiation oncology. The purpose of this grant is not intended to discuss the existence or presence of healthcare disparities but rather to provide mitigation and dissemination strategies. Grant applications should be designed to have an accelerated timeline relative to current Foundation research grants to enable funding for this urgent need.

August 1, 2022

Application Deadline

Full applications must be submitted through the RSNA R&E Foundation online grant site**.** Eligibility requirements, application instructions, and other details are in the RFA full text announcement. Applications that do not comply with the instructions will not be accepted for review.

Application Instructions

August 2022 (date TBD)

Scientific Merit Review

Applicant Notified of Funding Outcome	October 1, 2022
	Applicants will be notified of the funding outcome by email communication. Awardees must comply with the grant policies and procedures.
Earliest Start Date for Funded Grants	October 25, 2022
Contact	Keshia Osley
	Assistant Director, Grant Administration
	grants@rsna.org,⏐630-571-7816

FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose

Health and healthcare disparities refer to preventable differences in burden of disease, injury, or access to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations. Disparities also occur among groups that lack health insurance coverage and access to quality care, leading to poor health outcomes. The specific purpose of this RSNA funding opportunity is to help foster the development of investigators and practitioners who are fully conscious of healthcare disparities, and more importantly, be able to take steps to identify opportunities, design interventions, evaluate these interventions, and disseminate information. The goals of the programs are to alleviate or eliminate various forms of healthcare disparity to achieve equitable care for all.

Background

Healthcare disparities have been a chronic pervasive problem in all areas of medicine, including radiology. Cancer screening is one of the premier examples where screening rates vary substantially based on race, sexual orientation, financial capacity, and rural residence, likely related to lack of access and health literacy. The management of stroke or cardiovascular disease and access to therapeutic interventional care also differs based on the patient's race and gender.

The RSNA R&E foundation is seeking research proposals to address healthcare disparities research in 2022. This new grant is intended to encourage new exploratory intervention to mitigate the negative impact of healthcare disparity.

Potential topics include but are not limited to
1) Interventions to improve healthcare disparities related to stroke diagnosis and treatment
2) Interventions to improve healthcare disparities related to cancer screening, diagnostic workup, or cancer care
3) Interventions to improve healthcare disparities related to cardiovascular or other vascular disease

Research Objectives and Scope
The proposal should include background information about the current status of the specific healthcare disparities, the proposed interventions to mitigate the adverse effects of disparities, and methods to measure the effectiveness of the intervention.

The development of a framework to address healthcare disparities of the current proposal and potential strategies to scale the intervention to a larger population are desired. Proposals using artificial intelligence tools for identifying and addressing healthcare disparities are welcome.

Multi-disciplinary collaborations that include community partners is highly encouraged, such as engagement with safety net hospitals to address access to care and health literacy. The proposal can expand to include healthcare disparity education and outreach efforts.

Award Information

Application Types Allowed
Currently accepting new applications

Anticipated Number of Awards
To be determined, based on applications.

Award Budget
Application budgets with direct costs of up to $100,000 will be considered.

Award Project Period
Grants of one year will be awarded. Funding for a subsequent year will be dependent upon successful completion of specific project milestones.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on the following:
- Innovation
- Expected impact of the intervention on the investigators' institution/s patient population/s and on the general public
- Knowledge of and experience within the specific topic
- Investigators with affiliation or demonstrated collaborative efforts with community partners
- Well-defined and researched needs assessment that articulates current gaps
- Metric-based outcomes analyses that demonstrate achievement of objectives
- Scalability/expandability
- Content monitoring, update strategy and sustainability
- Timeline and Milestones to completion (will be used to determine if subsequent funding is merited)

Eligibility Information

Applicant (Principal Investigator) must be an RSNA Member (at any level) at the time of application and throughout the duration of the award. If the applicant is a non-dues paying member, one or more of the co-investigators must be a dues-paying member.

Applicants must hold a faculty or equivalent position in a department of radiology, radiation oncology, or nuclear medicine within an educational institution.

Other investigators may include:
- Co-PIs from the same or other institutions
- Individuals outside of radiology
- Community partners
- Other professionals as needed

Application Instructions

I. Summary of Proposed Research Plan

This section, when separated from the rest of the application, should serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed project. The summary should include the long-term goals of the proposed research to the radiologic community. Abstract not to exceed 500 words.

A. Title
B. Abstract
C. Short Abstract

II. Applicant(s)

A. Professional Data:
  i) Institution
  ii) Department
  iii) Faculty position/rank
  iv) Time allocated to the proposed project, and to other duties. Specify percent and time frame.

B. Biosketch:
  NIH-style biosketch, limited to 5 pages.
  Please see https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm for the NIH biosketch blank form, instructions, and sample. Please use the non-fellowship biosketch for all R&E grant applications.

C. Other Investigators/collaborators:
  Other investigators/collaborators who will contribute significantly to the project should be listed. Include a description of their background, experience and expertise, and the role(s) they will play in the proposed research project. To the extent possible, collaborators should be actively involved in each stage of the project, from initial application through analysis and reporting on the final product.

  Biosketch: NIH-style biosketch, limited to 5 pages, or each investigator/collaborator with a major role in the project.

III. Research Plan

A. Detailed Research Plan:
  Not to exceed 5 pages. Use 0.5" margin" and size 11 Arial font. Figures and tables are included in the five-page limit. Additional pages may be included for references. Appendices may be included; however, appendices should not be used as an extension of the detailed education plan.

The detailed research plan should consist of the following:

Introduction:
- Rationale and purpose: describe why the project should be undertaken.
- Specific Aims and Objectives
- What makes the proposal unique?
- What are the intended outcomes or expected results? Will the proposed project result in a deliverable product/intellectual property?
- Previous Experience: Relevant preliminary work/prior experience of investigator.

Project Plans:
- What specific activities will be done to achieve the project objectives?
- Present a specific timeline of events to detail measurable milestones toward success of the completed project.
- Outcomes
- Dissemination: Describe how the result / intervention will be made available to RSNA members.

Evaluation
- Evaluation is one of the most common areas of weakness in grant applications; considerable attention must be paid to this area in all successful applications. How will the outcomes of the project be assessed in terms of the purpose and objectives? Can the outcomes be quantitatively assessed? What are the data structures to support such quantitative measurements?

Research Assurances
- Research grant projects may involve human subjects and require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact their institutional IRB office to inquire if IRB approval is required for the proposed project and to publish subsequent manuscripts. Provide the status of IRB for this project. Applicants do not need research assurance approvals at the time of application; however funded grant recipients will be required to submit appropriate approval notifications before grant funds are released.

References

B. <u>Location of Study</u>:
Specify the primary institution, department, and country where the education project will take place. List secondary institutions, departments, and countries if applicable.

C. <u>Resources and Environment</u>:
Describe the facilities, support services, educational resources and/or other services that will be available for this project.

IV. <u>Budget</u>

A. <u>Detailed Budget</u>:
Since plans differ, no specific format is required for this section. However, a complete description of the projected use of funds will assist the study section reviewers in determining the project's feasibility. The budget should be a complete and detailed listing of the costs associated with the proposed program, including part-time salary support, supplies and materials, etc. Specify the following:

- Total project budget (direct costs)
- Amount Requested
- Explanation of how costs not covered by this grant will be paid (departmental funds, other grants, etc.)
- Complete budget justification

Note: The RSNA Research & Education Foundation does not pay institutional overhead costs or indirect costs. Travel expenses for the RSNA Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting may not be paid by this grant.

B. <u>Other Sources of Support (pending and received)</u>:
Other non-conflicting sources of support for the proposed activity are encouraged and should be identified.

C. <u>Award Payment Information</u>:
To facilitate fund disbursement if the grant is approved for funding, please supply the payee information and mailing address. This information is available through the institution's administration or grants and contracts office. The institution will serve as the fiscal agent.

V. **Letters**

Letters of chair and/or institutional support are required. If the project involves significant collaboration with individuals outside of the investigator's institution, letters of agreement may be included. Additional letters of support are not required or accepted.

VI. **Signatures**
- Department Chair
- Grant Administrator
- Grant Applicant and all Co-PIs

Note: Digital signatures are allowable.

GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Applications are reviewed using an NIH-style study section and the NIH overall impact scoring system of 1 (exceptional) to 9 (poor). The RSNA Study Section is comprised of experts in the radiologic sciences with specific expertise and experience in health and healthcare disparities.

One primary and two secondary reviewers will be assigned to each grant application. After initial, individual review, the study section members will convene for group discussion of each meritorious grant application and assign a final overall impact score. Study Section members will use the following review criteria to assign an overall impact score for each application.

Overall Impact:
After considering all the scored review criteria, briefly summarize the significant strengths and weaknesses of the application and state the likelihood of the project to exert a sustained powerful influence on the field. Briefly summarize the significant strengths and weaknesses of the application.

Scored Review Criteria:

- <u>Significance and Innovation:</u>
Does the research address an important and relevant problem in which imaging may play an important role? What is the likely impact on health and healthcare disparities if successful? Is the research to be considered innovative? Innovation and significance are important parameters, but not to the same degree as might be expected for a Seed or Scholar Grant.

- Approach
  Is the hypothesis clear and well developed? Are the experiments well designed and appropriate to test the hypothesis? Is the proposed statistical analysis of the data appropriate for the study design? Is there a reasonable chance of completion within the time frame of the grant? Is the budget realistic for the research proposed? Is there a suitable plan for the protection of human subjects as well as does the investigator address issues related to inclusion based on gender, minorities, and children?

- Investigators
  Is the PI capable of providing both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the proposed program? Is there evidence that an appropriate level of effort will be devoted by the program leadership to ensure successful execution? If the project is collaborative or multi-PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise?

- Environment
  Evaluate the commitment of the institution, the department and individual to provide adequate support for the applicant. Is appropriate space and equipment available? Are the support faculties such as computer services and statistical assistance adequate?

Additional Review Criteria
- Protections for Human Subjects
- Vulnerable Populations (medical students, residents/fellows etc.)

Resubmissions | Renewals | Revisions (not applicable currently)

Payment Schedule
Grant funds will be paid to the institution in two installments: Ninety percent (90%) at the time of award. The remaining Ten percent (10%) of the total grant award will be withheld by the Foundation, to be released only upon receipt of an acceptable grant final report.

Reporting
Grant recipients must submit an **interim report** 90 days before the close of the project. This interim report will determine the effectiveness and success of the program and will be used to determine if an additional year of funding will be awarded.

The **final report** must be submitted to the Foundation within 90 days after completion of the project.