

**RSNA Research & Education Foundation
Request for Application (RFA)**



OVERVIEW INFORMATION

RFA Posted Date	July 27, 2024
RFA Number	REI-2024-WF
Funding Opportunity	RSNA Emerging Issues Grant
Funding Opportunity Topic	Addressing the Radiologist Workforce Shortage: Maintaining Quality, Safety, and Service Standards while ensuring a Sustainable Radiologist Workforce
Announcement Type	NEW
Funding Opportunity Purpose	<p>The RSNA Research & Education Foundation (R&E Foundation) is invested in ensuring that the current and next generation of radiologists are able to meet the needs of our continuously evolving profession.</p> <p>In response to rising workloads and the evolving healthcare landscape, this Emerging Issues grant opportunity is aimed to award grants to projects that address critical workforce challenges in Radiology while simultaneously maintaining or enhancing quality of care.</p> <p>The purpose of this grant is not intended to discuss the existence or presence of workforce challenges, but rather to provide a framework for mitigation and dissemination of specific strategies.</p>
Application Deadline	September 27, 2024
Application Instructions	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.
Scientific Merit Review	October 2024
Applicant Notified of Funding Outcome	December 2024 Applicants will be notified of the funding outcome by email communication. Awardees must comply with the grant policies and procedures.
Contact	Keshia Osley Assistant Director, Grant Administration grants@rsna.org 630-571-7816

FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose

Radiologist workloads continue to increase as radiology plays an increasingly critical role in driving clinical care pathways. Demand for radiologists has never been higher and workforce retention and recruitment has never been a higher priority for radiology departments everywhere. While all proposals addressing the overarching theme of workforce challenges in radiology are welcome (including proposals to increase recruitment of other job roles in radiology beyond radiologists), this RFP prioritizes research that focuses on at least one of the following areas:

1. Workforce Pipeline Development: strategies to increase interest in radiology careers.
2. Workforce Diversity Initiatives: efforts to increase representation of underrepresented minorities in the radiologist workforce.
3. Emerging Practice Models: Strategies to incorporate technology (including AI) and research on innovative workflows and staffing models including the incorporation of non-radiologists.
4. Addressing radiologist workforce issues in Safety Net Hospitals
5. Research on radiologist workload optimization that incorporates measures of productivity, quality, and noninterpretive tasks into total work output and benchmarks.

Industry partner collaborations are encouraged.

Applications should include well-defined aims and measurable indices of radiology practice both pre- and post-proposal, and may employ key driver diagrams, and demonstration of progress to goal using run charts or other quantitative tools.

Award Information

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 will be awarded for a one-year period. While applications for subsequent funding are welcome, approval will be dependent upon successful completion of milestones.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on the following:

- Innovation
- Expected impact of the intervention on the investigators' institution/s radiology operations, 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

Applicants (Principal Investigator) of all levels are welcome to apply, including residents and private practice members. Applicants must be an RSNA member 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.

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 percentage 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.

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. Location of Study:

Specify the primary institution, department, and country where the education project will take place. List secondary institutions, departments, and countries if applicable.

C. Resources and Environment:

Describe the facilities, support services, educational resources and/or other services that will be available for this project.

IV. Budget

A. Detailed Budget:

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. Other Sources of Support (pending and received):

Other non-conflicting sources of support for the proposed activity are encouraged and should be identified.

C. Award Payment Information:

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* *Digital signatures allowable*

- Department Chair
- Grant Administrator
- Grant Applicant

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:

- Significance and Innovation:
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

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.