



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Healthy Eating Research

Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity

*Grants for
Junior Investigators
Exploring Food
Environments and
Policies in Selected
Community Settings*

2006 Call for Proposals—Special Solicitation

Brief Proposal Deadline

February 13, 2007

Program Overview

(Please refer to specific sections for complete detail.)

Purpose

Healthy Eating Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, supports research on environmental and policy strategies to promote healthy eating among children to prevent childhood obesity, especially among the low-income and racial/ethnic populations at highest risk for obesity. Findings are expected to advance the Foundation's efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015.

This special solicitation inaugurates a new funding opportunity from RWJF: *New Connections* grants through the Healthy Eating Research program. New Connections grants are for *junior investigators* from historically disadvantaged and underrepresented communities who have completed their doctorate or terminal degree within the last seven years. **This round of funding focuses on children's food environments and policies in selected community settings: preschool, child-care, school and after-school environments, as well as nearby food outlets.**

Total Awards

A total of up to three New Connections grants will be awarded for two types of research grants:

- Small-scale studies to identify and evaluate promising food environment and policy changes with the potential to prevent obesity among children. (12- to 24-month awards of up to \$100,000)
- Analyses of macro-level policy or system determinants of food environments and policies that relate to the targeted community settings. (12- to 24-month awards of up to \$75,000)

Eligibility Criteria (page 12)

Investigators must:

- have completed a doctorate or terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.D., J.D.) within the past seven years. Doctorate or terminal degrees must have been obtained after September 1, 2000;
- be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or its territories;
- be affiliated with or sponsored by a university or an organization that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is not a private Foundation under Section 509(a) of the Code. The sponsoring institution must agree to receive and administer the grant;
- be from a group that has been historically disadvantaged and underrepresented in the research activities supported by RWJF. This includes people from ethnic or racial minorities, first-generation college graduates and people from low-income communities;
- hold a position as a faculty member or other research position in a university setting, or hold an equivalent position in a non-university setting, such as an independent research organization;
- demonstrate evidence of research skills relevant to the proposed study;
- propose a project that spans 12 to 24 months in duration; and
- devote at least 25 percent of their time to the project.

Selection Criteria (page 12)

Complete selection criteria can be found on page 12.

Deadlines

- **February 13, 2007 (3 p.m. ET)**—Deadline for receipt of brief proposals submitted online.
- **April 10, 2007**—Select applicants will be invited to submit full proposals.
- **May 23, 2007 (3 p.m. ET)**—Deadline for receipt of full proposals submitted online.

How to Apply (page 15)

All proposals must be submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. Please direct inquiries to:

Kathy Kosiak, *research coordinator*
Phone: (800) 578-8636
E-mail: HealthyEating@umn.edu

For information about this special solicitation, please visit www.rwjf-newconnections.org.

Background

Childhood obesity poses a serious threat to the health of our nation. Over the past four decades, obesity rates in the United States have more than quadrupled among children ages 6 to 11, more than tripled among adolescents ages 12 to 19 and nearly tripled among children ages 2 to 5. Almost 9 million U.S. children over 6 years of age are considered obese. Cumulative changes in children's food environments in recent decades have increased the availability, appeal, affordability and consumption of low-nutrient, energy-dense foods and beverages. Few children eat the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables, and many consume excess fat and calories. In addition, physical activity has been engineered out of children's daily routines, making it even more important to improve children's access and exposure to healthy foods in order to achieve the energy balance required for a healthy body weight.

The Institute of Medicine report *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance* concluded that corrective environmental and policy changes are potentially the most powerful—but currently the least well-understood—strategies for addressing childhood obesity. At present, little is known about the most important environmental influences that affect children's eating patterns and weight, or about the most feasible and effective policies for improving children's food environments. *Healthy Eating Research* aims to reduce this knowledge gap by supporting research to identify and evaluate the policies and environmental approaches that have the greatest potential to improve children's diets and to reverse the nation's rising levels of childhood obesity. This program complements *Active Living Research*, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) that is building evidence to inform effective policy and environmental strategies to increase physical activity among children and adolescents.

RWJF is committed to tackling childhood obesity and the threat it poses to the health of our nation's children and families. The Foundation's goal is to reverse the rise in childhood obesity rates by promoting healthy eating and physical activity in schools and communities throughout the United States. **We place special emphasis on reaching the children at greatest risk for obesity: African-American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian/Pacific Islander children, and children living in low-income communities.**

RWJF also is committed to attracting and supporting researchers who can expand the diversity of perspectives that inform RWJF programming. Through the *New Connections Initiative*, RWJF encourages scholars from historically disadvantaged and underrepresented communities to apply for research funding on topics of interest to RWJF. Investigators from historically

disadvantaged and underrepresented communities include individuals from ethnic or racial minorities, low-income communities, first-generation college graduates, or others who have historically been underrepresented in the research disciplines supported by RWJF.

A Collaborative Effort Between Healthy Eating Research and the New Connections Initiative

This *special solicitation* inaugurates a new funding opportunity from RWJF: New Connections Initiative grants through the Healthy Eating Research program.

The Healthy Eating Research program is a five-year, \$16-million national program that supports research to identify and evaluate the policies and environmental strategies that have the greatest potential to improve healthy eating among children to prevent childhood obesity, especially among the low-income and racial/ethnic populations at highest risk for obesity. The program's goals are to inform the public and policy debate by funding high-quality research and growing the field of researchers engaged in these studies. Findings are expected to advance RWJF's efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015.

New Connections grants through Healthy Eating Research will have the same overall goals, but with an added emphasis on attracting *junior investigators* from historically disadvantaged and underrepresented communities. ***Junior investigators are those who have completed their doctorate or terminal degree within the last seven years. To be eligible for funding through this special solicitation, junior investigators must have completed their degrees after September 1, 2000.***

Participation in this program is open to individuals who hold faculty or other research positions in university settings or equivalent positions in non-university settings, such as independent research organizations.

Healthy Eating Research will provide funding for up to three New Connections *junior investigator* awards with this special solicitation. Each grant will be for 12 to 24 months. All projects must last at least 12 months. Funding may not exceed \$50,000 in each 12-month period.

New Connections grantees funded through Healthy Eating Research will be part of a broader network of grantees from both programs. Grantees will participate in a networking symposium held at RWJF, which will include New Connections grantees from previous years, as well as from other study topic areas. Grantees also will be invited to participate in the annual Healthy Eating Research grantee meeting.

New Connections grants through Healthy Eating Research will support the career development of investigators who are at the early stages of an independent research career. These researchers will be offered technical assistance and a structured mentoring program.

We envision that this opportunity will enhance research careers and establish a diverse and multidisciplinary network of researchers committed to finding solutions to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic, especially among children at greatest risk for obesity and related health problems. This offering also will advance the field by building a strong research base on policy and environmental determinants of healthy eating and body weight in children, as well as effective policy and environmental strategies to reverse the trend in prevalence of childhood obesity in populations at greatest risk.

All applicants must submit a proposal for a research project, including research aims and hypothesis, research plan and study design, timeline and budget. Studies may be conducted as supplements to existing studies. Co-funding is welcome. Sources and amounts should be fully described in the application.

All grants are awarded to the applicant's home institution. All affiliated academic or other institutions are required to submit financial reports and other grant-related information on behalf of the investigators.

Products

Junior investigators are expected to submit at least one paper from their Healthy Eating Research project to a peer-reviewed journal and will be encouraged to develop proposals for follow-on research grants and applications.

Mentoring Program

The Healthy Eating Research program will provide *junior investigators* with structured and formal mentoring opportunities to help enhance their research skills and development as successful, competitive independent investigators. Grantees also will receive assistance in developing an individually tailored mentoring program, including access to a pool of consultants. Upon receiving the grant award, and in conjunction with the Healthy Eating Research program, each grantee will select a primary mentor based on expertise appropriate to the grantee's specific research project and broader career development needs. The mentor and investigator will meet initially during a mentor/investigator training workshop and will develop goals, an organized plan, timeline and communications strategy.

During the course of the grant, consultants will be available for technical assistance, as needed. For example, technical assistance mentors could provide support for: strategies to recruit study subjects, survey development, data collection measures, statistical analysis, publication writing, presentation skills and grant-writing skills for follow-up funding. The primary mentor and staff at the Healthy Eating Research national program office (NPO) would help the grantee tap into the resources of the technical assistance team.

Terminology

For the purposes of this CFP:

- **Healthy eating** to promote health and maintain an optimum body weight involves eating the types and amounts of foods, nutrients and calories recommended in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, while limiting low-nutrient, high-fat and high-sugar foods and beverages.
- Children's **food environments** refer to their physical environments, such as preschool, child-care, school, and after-school settings, as well as nearby food outlets (e.g., corner stores and restaurants) where children make food purchases before, during and after school. These settings influence children's food choices and intake through food access, availability, characteristics (e.g., energy density and portion size) and promotion (e.g., price, placement and packaging). These settings also are affected by broader macro-level influences and policies, such as food assistance programs, government regulations, agricultural policies and economic factors.
- **Food policies** operate in many settings and at many levels. Examples include restrictions on the sale of low-nutrition foods and beverages in schools, nutrition standards for foods available in schools and child-care facilities, and commodity food regulations.
- **Child-care settings** include child-care centers and child care provided in homes. Early childhood education settings, such as preschool and Head Start programs, also are included in this CFP.

About this Special Solicitation

Outside the home, children's diets are influenced by foods provided in community settings, such as preschool and child-care facilities, schools, after-school programs and food outlets located near schools, where children and youth make purchases on their own. Of the nation's 21 million preschool children, 13 million are in child-care facilities. More than 54 million U.S. children attend school, and 6.5 million youth are in after-school programs located in schools, parks and recreational centers, YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs. African-American and Hispanic children are more likely than other children to participate in after-school programs. Fifty-five percent of

high-poverty urban schools provide summer school programs. Because these organized settings reach millions of low-income children, and because a substantial portion of daily food and caloric intake may occur within these environments, they are important venues for addressing childhood obesity. These settings also reach millions of children through federal food assistance programs that provide meals and snacks to youth, such as the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Afterschool Snack Program. Many of these settings also offer high-calorie, low-nutrition foods and beverages. In addition, children may make frequent purchases of foods and beverages at neighborhood stores and restaurants before and after school. Even small changes in excess caloric intake in these settings where children gather could have meaningful effects on children's risk of obesity.

The recent Institute of Medicine report *Progress in Preventing Childhood Obesity: How Do We Measure Up?* noted that, while schools are the current focus of many childhood obesity prevention efforts, it is also important to focus on improving the nutritional quality of foods and beverages in preschool, child-care and after-school programs. The report also emphasized the importance of evaluating policies and intervention programs. The report concluded that the lack of systematic monitoring and evaluation has hindered the development of an evidence base to document effective childhood obesity prevention approaches.

Research studies should focus on identifying food-related environmental and policy approaches with strong potential to improve children's eating and body weight, especially in the low-income and racial/ethnic populations at highest risk for obesity.

Funding and Types of Studies

Up to three *junior investigator* awards are available in this round of funding for policy-relevant research grants in two major categories:

- Small-scale studies to identify and evaluate environmental determinants or evaluate promising changes to food environments or policies in selected community settings.
- Analyses of macro-level policy or system determinants of food environments and policies that impact children's dietary behavior in these settings.

Projects may be conducted as supplements to existing studies. Co-funding is welcome. Sources and amounts should be fully described in the application.

1. Small-scale studies to identify and evaluate changes to the food environment or policies in selected community settings—preschool, child-care, school and after-school environments and nearby food outlets—with potential to improve healthy eating and contribute to reversing the epidemic of childhood obesity.

- **12- to 24-month awards of up to \$50,000 per year, with a maximum award of \$100,000.**

Research may include:

- studies to identify the modifiable environmental correlates of obesity-related dietary behaviors and obesity in children and youth;
- studies evaluating environmental interventions or policy changes in the targeted settings;
- experimental studies manipulating environmental cues or conditions;
- opportunistic studies designed to learn from natural variation in existing food policies and environments;
- correlational studies using existing databases; and
- measurement development studies to develop, test and validate tools and methods that can be used to identify and evaluate food policies and environments.

Small-scale studies may include correlational studies, rely on secondary data analyses or limited original data collection, and be experimental studies, laboratory simulations or measurement development studies. They also may include baseline evaluations prior to planned changes in the settings targeted by this special solicitation, post-test evaluations when baseline data are available, and supplements to externally funded evaluations to add or improve measures related to healthy eating, food environments, policies and/or economic outcomes.

Examples of Types of Studies

- **Experimental or quasi-experimental studies**, including laboratory simulations, such as manipulating or altering the food environment through changes in pricing, portion size, packaging, container size, placement, promotion or point-of-purchase information for foods sold or offered in the targeted community settings.
- **Natural experiments and other studies** that evaluate the impact of environmental changes or national, state or local policy changes.

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- **Secondary analyses of existing datasets**, such as cross-sectional or longitudinal analyses or statistical modeling using national survey data from public or private sources.
 - **Financial or cost-benefit studies** evaluating the economic impacts of changes in food environment or policy.
 - **Measurement development studies** to develop practical, valid and reliable measures of food environments, policies or dietary behaviors in these settings.

Examples of Possible Topics

The Healthy Eating Research program relies on the creativity of researchers to generate ideas for research topics that fit the overall scope of this solicitation. The list below provides some examples of possible topics. Additional examples can be found at www.healthyeatingresearch.org. Studies need not be limited to these examples.

- Socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities in access to healthy and less healthy foods in preschool and child-care facilities, schools, after-school programs and food outlets located close to these facilities (e.g., corner stores and convenience stores, fast food outlets).
- School-based research to assess implementation and impact of newly adopted wellness policies or voluntary beverage guidelines.
- Economic analyses of the actual costs related to serving healthy meals and snacks in daycare facilities, preschools, schools or after-school programs, especially those with federal food programs.
- Examination of the federal food programs that provide meals and snacks to low-income children (e.g., Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, Afterschool Snack Program). Evaluations of innovative strategies to improve healthy eating (e.g., increase fruits and vegetables) in these programs.
- Studies validating or testing existing measures of food environments to assess their utility in diverse populations.

Study Guidelines

- The particular outcome variables for grants may vary. Given the limited scope and short duration of these projects, measures of changes in weight or body mass index are not required. However, applicants are encouraged to include objective measures of food purchases or dietary consumption and to assess variables likely to affect the impact and feasibility of the policy and environmental changes being studied (e.g., demographic variables, community characteristics, other contextual variables).

- With the exception of low-cost experimental manipulations (e.g., smaller-scale studies altering food prices, portion sizes or point-of-purchase information), it is expected that grant funds will be used only to cover the costs of evaluation, not the costs of the policy or environmental changes per se.
- Experimental studies or laboratory simulations should hold promise for generalization to real-world community environments, especially in low-income and racial/ethnic populations at highest risk for obesity.
- Studies involving data collection in schools or community settings require an agreement with the leadership of the participating organization, specific plans for consent and Institutional Review Board approval.
- Studies focused solely on behavior change at the individual level or educational and curricular interventions will not be funded. However, studies could compare the impact of environmental changes with or without nutrition education or promotion, or could isolate effective components of a multi-component intervention.

2. Analyses of macro-level policy and system determinants of food policies and environments relevant to children in selected community settings—preschool, child-care, school, and after-school settings, as well as nearby food outlets.

- **12- to 24-month awards of up to \$50,000 in either year, with a maximum award of \$75,000.**

The quality and types of foods provided to children in preschool, child-care, school, after-school and summer programs, as well as food outlets near these settings, are the result of macro-level policies (e.g., agriculture, federal food assistance programs, legal) and market forces (e.g., economic, industry, food marketing) that represent potentially powerful levers for change. These important “upstream” influences may be more difficult to modify than those operating at a more proximal individual level, but they have the potential for wider population impacts. Currently, there is little understanding of and limited research on these environmental factors and the role they could play in creating healthier food environments and policies. Research and analysis could generate imaginative policy ideas for creating healthier food environments and positively influence what and when children eat.

The aim of these analytic projects is to understand the larger environmental and policy context that influences the foods, beverages and calories consumed by children and to identify the most salient focal points for nationwide efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. Analytic methods may include, but are not limited to, historical analysis, policy analysis, legal analysis, economic analysis, market analysis, statistical modeling, use of existing databases and case study methods.

Examples of Types of Studies

Some examples of analytic studies that may be funded through this initiative are included below. More examples can be found at www.healthyeatingresearch.org. Studies need not be limited to these examples.

- Modeling the effects of possible changes in federal child nutrition programs (e.g., Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, and Afterschool Snack Program) on children's diet and body weight.
- Analysis of federal reimbursement available for child-care and preschool programs and disparities in access to healthy foods in these settings based on socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity and geography.
- Analysis of zoning codes and regulation policies, especially in low-income communities, to study potential impact on children's food consumption.
- Examination of economic incentives and disincentives in the form of taxes, pricing policies and subsidies to promote healthier foods to children.
- Evaluation of interventions to improve the diets of low-income children through the federal food assistance programs (e.g., commodity foods, Child and Adult Care Food Program, school meal programs, and the fresh fruit and vegetable school program).

Eligibility Criteria

Investigators must:

- have completed a doctorate or terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.D., J.D.) within the past seven years. Doctorate or terminal degrees must have been obtained after September 1, 2000;
- be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or its territories;
- be affiliated with or sponsored by a university or an organization that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is not a private Foundation under Section 509(a) of the Code. The sponsoring institution must agree to receive and administer the grant;
- be from a group that has been historically disadvantaged and under-represented in the research activities supported by RWJF. This includes people from ethnic or racial minorities, first-generation college graduates and people from low-income communities;
- hold a position as a faculty member or other research position in a university setting, or hold an equivalent position in a non-university setting, such as an independent research organization;
- demonstrate evidence of research skills relevant to the proposed study;
- propose a project that spans 12 to 24 months in duration; and
- devote at least 25 percent of their time to the project.

Selection Criteria

Proposals must demonstrate the ability to produce new information on food environment and/or policy change strategies relevant to children's obesity-related dietary practices and with strong potential to reverse the rise in childhood obesity. Special consideration will be given to strategies that will benefit children in the low-income and racial/ethnic populations at greatest risk for obesity.

Researchers are encouraged to seek input from relevant stakeholders (e.g., policy-makers, school or community leaders, parents and children) to help assure feasible and policy-relevant project goals and outcomes. Proposals should describe the kind of input received from these stakeholders in designing the study and framing the research questions. Applicants should include at least one representative of the community or stakeholder group targeted as a regular adviser to help assure that research and policy analyses reflect critical institutional, community and policy needs and issues.

To help build a multidisciplinary field of research, Healthy Eating Research seeks proposals from a variety of investigators in a range of fields, such as agriculture, behavioral science, business, economics, education, law, marketing, medicine, nutrition, political science, psychology, public health, public policy and urban planning. The perspectives of researchers who are knowledgeable about racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in community settings and food environments are especially needed.

All proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of RWJF staff, NPO staff at the University of Minnesota, a senior program advisory panel and other expert reviewers.

The committee will use the following criteria to assess proposals:

- Significance and relevance of the proposal to the goals and targeted study topics of the Healthy Eating Research program, as described in this special solicitation.
- Qualifications of the applicant, including career goals, prior research training, research potential and relevant experience as it relates to the research approach.
- Soundness of the plan for the proposed research and its scientific merit.
- Scientific rigor of the proposed research and analytic methods, including quality of data to be used.
- Uniqueness of the project in relation to the mix of potentially fundable projects.

This funding initiative has a review committee that makes recommendations about grants to RWJF staff. RWJF will make all final grant decisions.

Evaluation and Monitoring

Grantees will be expected to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports. As part of the application process, finalists will be asked to disclose any financial arrangements (e.g., fees, funding, employment, stock holdings) or relationships that might compromise the credibility or perceived credibility of the findings, mirroring the types of disclosure requested by the field's leading journals.

Grantees will be required to submit periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. At the close of each grant, the grantee is expected to provide a written report on the project and its findings. Program staff will work with investigators to communicate the

results of the funded projects to scientific audiences, media, policy-makers, decision-makers and relevant organizations and other audiences, as appropriate. An independent research group selected and funded by RWJF will conduct an evaluation of the Healthy Eating Research program. As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, grantees will be required to participate in the evaluation and may be asked to adopt limited core dependent or independent measures to facilitate cross-study comparisons.

Use of Grant Funds

RWJF grant funds may be used for project staff salaries (e.g., principal investigator, co-investigator, research assistant), consultant fees, data collection and analysis, dataset procurement, meetings, supplies, project-related travel and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment that is essential to the project.

Grant funds also may be used to cover the costs associated with project-related travel. Awardees are required to travel to an annual New Connections Initiative meeting at RWJF, as well as the annual Healthy Eating Research grantee meeting. Funds to attend these annual meetings in each year of funding should be included in the proposed budget. Budgets also should include travel to attend one additional Healthy Eating Research grantee meeting at the end of the grant period so that the investigators can present their results. The full proposal application templates contain guidelines for travel budgeting.

Investigators also may include travel expenses to present their research at one additional national professional meeting. Mentors and individuals providing technical assistance/consulting services to investigators will be funded separately by the Healthy Eating Research NPO; investigators will not need to cover these costs.

With the exception of funds for low-cost experimental studies, it is expected that grant funds awarded through this special solicitation will be used to cover the costs of evaluation, and not the costs of the policy or environmental changes per se (e.g., foods, training and implementation efforts). Additional in-kind or co-funding is welcome and should be described in the proposal.

In keeping with RWJF policy, grant funds may *not* be used to subsidize individuals for the costs of their health care, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities. Grants will be made by RWJF to the investigator's home institution.

How to Apply

All proposals must be submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. For detailed formatting instructions and to prepare and submit your proposal, please go to <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/bernc>.

There are two stages in the application process:

Stage 1: Brief Proposals

Applicants must submit a brief proposal of up to five pages that describes the research project, including a preliminary budget.

Stage 2: Full Proposals

Select Stage 1 applicants will be invited by letter or e-mail to submit a full proposal of up to 20 pages accompanied by a budget and budget narrative and additional supporting documents.

A Web conference call for brief proposal applicants will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2007, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. ET to answer questions about this special solicitation, as well as the application and selection processes. Participation in these calls is encouraged, but is not required. Advance registration is required and can be made through the New Connections Initiative Web site at www.rwjf-newconnections.org.

Applicant information, including frequently asked questions and applicant resources, can be found at www.rwjf-newconnections.org.

For more information about this funding opportunity, please contact:

Kathy Kosiak, *research coordinator*
Healthy Eating Research
Phone: (800) 578-8636
E-mail: HealthyEating@umn.edu

Program Direction

Direction and technical assistance for this program are provided by the University of Minnesota, which serves as the NPO.

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- Mary Story, Ph.D., R.D., *program director*
- Karen M. Kaphingst, M.P.H., *deputy director*
- Leslie Lytle, Ph.D., R.D., *senior adviser*
- Robert Jeffery, Ph.D., *senior adviser*
- Kathy Kosiak, *research coordinator*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Debra Joy Pérez, Ph.D., *program officer, New Connections Initiative*
- C. Tracy Orleans, Ph.D., *distinguished fellow and senior scientist*
- James Marks, M.D., M.P.H., *senior vice president and director, Health Group*
- Laura Leviton, Ph.D., *senior program officer*
- Jan Mihalow, M.S.M., *grants administrator*
- Kathryn Thomas, M.J., *senior communications officer*
- Prabhu Ponkshe, M.A., L.L.B., *communications consultant*

This program's senior program advisory panel is chaired by Shiriki Kumanyika, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Other Grant Opportunities

The special solicitation for New Connections grants for *junior investigators* is parallel to the Round 2 call for proposals (CFP) for Healthy Eating Research (available at www.healthyeatingresearch.org). Both the special solicitation and the CFP focus on children's food environments and policies in selected community settings: preschool, child-care, school and after-school environments, as well as nearby food outlets. Target populations include children and adolescents ages 3 to 18.

The special solicitation is open only to *junior investigators*. While investigators who are more advanced in their careers are not eligible for the special solicitation, they are eligible to apply for grants under the Healthy Eating Research Round 2 CFP. *Junior investigators* are eligible to apply for grants under both the special solicitation and the Healthy Eating Research Round 2 CFP.

Timetable

January 18, 2007 (12:30-1:30 p.m. ET)

Optional Web conference call for potential applicants. For complete details and to register, visit www.rwjf-newconnections.org. Applicants will have an opportunity to ask questions during the conference call.

February 13, 2007 (3 p.m. ET)

Deadline for receipt of brief proposals submitted online.*

April 10, 2007

Select applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

May 23, 2007 (3 p.m. ET)

Deadline for receipt of full proposals submitted online.*

July 2007

Notification to finalists.

September 1, 2007

Awards begin.

October 3, 2007

Junior investigator and mentor meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for New Connections grants funded through Healthy Eating Research.

October 3 to 5, 2007

Healthy Eating Research annual grantee meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

* All proposals must be submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with the online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. Program staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late proposals.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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.



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