



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
**Investigator Awards in
Health Policy Research**



2009 Call for Applications

Application Deadline

March 25, 2009

Program Overview

(Please refer to specific sections for complete details.)

Purpose

The *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program supports educational and other nonprofit institutions where highly-qualified individuals propose to undertake broad studies of America's most challenging policy issues in health and health care. Grants of up to \$335,000 each are awarded to institutions to support investigators from a variety of disciplines for innovative research projects that have national policy relevance.

Eligibility Criteria (page 5)

Applications must be submitted by an educational institution or nonprofit organization that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3), located in the United States, or its territories, with which the proposed investigator is affiliated.

- We welcome applications from investigators in the health, social and behavioral sciences, as well as other fields.
- We seek a diverse group of applicants, including minorities, early-career researchers and individuals who work in nonacademic settings.
- Past Investigator Awardees and teams of more than two researchers are ineligible to apply.

Selection Criteria (page 5)

Complete selection criteria can be found on page 5.

Total Awards

- Approximately 10 awards will be made in this grant cycle.
- The maximum award is \$335,000, which includes personnel, other direct costs and indirect costs calculated at a rate of up to 12 percent.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **March 25, 2009 (5 p.m. ET)**—Deadline for receipt of letters of intent.
- **June 12, 2009**—Applicants notified by e-mail saying whether they have been selected to submit a full proposal.
- **July 28, 2009**—Deadline for receipt of full proposals.
- **December 15, 2009**—Notification letter e-mailed to applicants saying whether they have been selected as finalists.
- **April 1 to September 1, 2010**—Acceptable project start dates.

How to Apply (page 8)

This program accepts paper applications only.

Complete instructions on how to apply can be found on page 8. Tips on how to develop a competitive application and samples of past, successful letters of intent are available at www.investigatorawards.org/applications.

If you have questions, please contact the national program office (e-mail preferred):

Lynn Rogut, *deputy director*

E-mail: depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu

Phone: (732) 932-3817

www.investigatorawards.org

Background

There is no shortage of complex health challenges facing the United States. Increased longevity is accompanied by a rise in chronic conditions. Too many Americans are uninsured, millions have insufficient access to care and suffer from untreated illness and disabilities, and health and treatment disparities abound. Obesity rates among children and adults are too high; we have shortages of health care personnel, and delivery and financing systems are difficult to navigate. These and other dilemmas are compounded by escalating demand for services and pressures to control spending.

Research that takes a multidisciplinary perspective can enhance our understanding of these challenges, find innovative ways to address them and inform the process of policy-making. Through the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research* program, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has invested more than \$37 million in research over the last 16 years on a wide range of health and health care problems facing America. Descriptions of previously-funded projects and their products can be found at www.investigatorawards.org.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research is part of the Human Capital Portfolio, reflecting our long-standing investments that seek to build and maintain a strong and diverse leadership and workforce in health and health care, as well as to help develop specific fields.

The Program

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research program supports researchers whose cross-cutting and innovative ideas promise to contribute meaningfully to improving health and health policy in America. Each year, the program awards 24- to 48-month grants of up to \$335,000 to fund approximately 10 new research projects that have national policy relevance.

We seek a diverse mix of investigators to undertake studies that:

- explore underlying values, historical evolution and interplay among the social, economic and political forces that shape health, health care and health policy in the United States;
- apply new perspectives from a variety of disciplines to analyze the organization, delivery and financing of health care services, workforce issues and public health challenges;
- develop innovative ideas that hold promise for contributing to better policy-making; and
- synthesize existing work in ways that expose its policy significance and advance the understanding of key issues.

Please note: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research program funds projects with a broader scope than traditional National Institutes of Health or National Science Foundation grants. Data-driven health services research that focuses on a narrowly-defined research question is inappropriate for this program, as are pilot projects that are designed to evaluate clinical care in a specific geographic area or to demonstrate service delivery programs or financing strategies.

Eligibility Criteria

We welcome applications from educational institutions or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located in the United States, or its territories on behalf of investigators in fields such as anthropology, business, demography, economics, engineering, ethics, genetics, health and social policy, health services research, history, journalism, law, medicine, nursing, political science, psychology, public health, science policy, social work, sociology and others who are affiliated with the applicant institution. While investigators who are not affiliated with such an organization may submit a letter of intent, those who are asked to submit a full proposal must obtain an organizational sponsor for their projects. Full proposals will be accepted only from educational institutions or other 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. We seek a diverse group of applicants, including minorities, early-career researchers and individuals who work in nonacademic settings such as research firms and policy organizations. *Past Investigator Awardees and teams of more than two investigators may not apply.*

Selection Criteria

Proposal evaluation is based upon:

- relevance of the research to national policy and its potential to inform and improve policy-making;
- contribution and potential significance of the project to the theoretical underpinnings and knowledge base of health, health care or health policy;
- extent to which the research represents an innovative perspective on health, health care or health policy;
- soundness of the project's conceptual framework (the ideas, concepts, theories and bodies of knowledge informing the proposed approach) and methodology;
- feasibility of the research;
- likelihood that the findings will be useful to policy-makers and other leaders;

- capability of the investigator to undertake and complete the project on schedule; and
- the investigator's research record, and for pairs of investigators, prior experience working together.

Use of Grant Funds

The maximum award of \$335,000 includes personnel, other direct costs and indirect costs to be calculated at a rate of up to 12 percent.

Investigators must be prepared to commit substantial time to the project. Grant funds are to be used primarily for project salary support for the principal investigator(s). In circumstances where salary support may be available from other sources, a larger portion of the budget may be allocated to research-related expenses. Following RWJF practice, we expect all investigators to participate in national meetings designed to share their work with others whom the program supports. We require investigators to submit annual reports, which are necessary for grants management and monitoring.

Program Direction

The Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey serves as the national program office (NPO) and provides direction and technical assistance for the program:

Institute for Health, Health Care Policy,
and Aging Research
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
55 Commercial Ave., Third Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1340
E-mail: depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu
Phone: (732) 932-3817
Fax: (732) 932-3819
www.investigatorawards.org

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- David Mechanic, Ph.D., *program director*
- Lynn Rogut, *deputy director*
- Cynthia Church, *program administrator*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- David Colby, Ph.D., *vice president, Research and Evaluation*
- Lori Melichar, Ph.D., *senior program officer, Research and Evaluation*
- Linda Wright Moore, M.S., *senior communications officer*
- Christine Phares, *grants administrator*

A national advisory committee (NAC) of experts drawn from such fields as medicine, public health, economics, nursing, political science, sociology, law, history, journalism and the behavioral sciences assists in proposal review and makes funding recommendations to RWJF.

How to Apply

The NPO must receive applications no later than 5 p.m. ET on March 25, 2009.

Applicants may submit only one application annually. No more than two investigators can work on a given project.

To apply, please submit **seven collated sets** of the following:

- A brief cover letter printed on organizational letterhead. A sample can be viewed on the program's Web site at www.investigatorawards.org/applications.
- A four-page, double-spaced letter of intent printed on plain paper using 10-, 11- or 12-point font.
- A full curriculum vitae for each principal or co-investigator (up to two per project).
- A completed Application Summary Sheet for each investigator, downloaded from the program Web site at www.investigatorawards.org/applications.

Before you write your letter of intent, please read the tips on how to develop a competitive application and the samples of past, successful letters of intent that are available on the program Web site at www.investigatorawards.org/applications.

The double-spaced letter of intent must include:

- the title of the proposed research project;
- a brief description of the problems being addressed and their policy significance;
- the specific research questions and issues to be explored;
- a summary of the approach and activities to be undertaken and how the proposed study could illuminate the questions you seek to understand;
- a statement of what is innovative or creative about the proposed research;

- the anticipated contribution of the proposed study to improving health policy and the potential audience(s) for the work;
- a brief description of your qualifications and track record; and
- the project length (24 to 48 months) and estimated budget (\$335,000 maximum, including indirect costs of up to 12 percent).

We do not need an itemized budget at this stage. Cited references are optional and may be included on a separate page.

After we review all letters of intent, we will invite a limited number of applicants by June 12, 2009 to submit full proposals.

The number of grants we award will depend on the nature, quality and estimated budgets of applications received, with approximately 10 awarded annually.

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of letters of intent or proposals submitted.

Send your application package by overnight delivery or regular mail to:

Ms. Lynn Rogut, *deputy director*
RWJF Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research
55 Commercial Ave., Third Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1340

In fairness to all applicants, we will not consider letters of intent that arrive later than 5 p.m. ET on March 25, 2009. Please ensure that your application arrives before the deadline. We will not accept applications sent by fax or e-mail.

If you have questions, please contact the NPO (e-mail preferred) at depdir@ifh.rutgers.edu or call (732) 932-3817.

Funded Projects

You may access a complete list of projects funded through this program and their products at *www.investigatorawards.org*.

Timetable

We solicit applications for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research each year. The schedule for 2009–2010 is:

- **March 25, 2009 (5 p.m. ET)**

Deadline for receipt of letters of intent.

- **June 12, 2009**

Applicants notified by e-mail saying whether they have been selected to submit a full proposal.

- **July 28, 2009**

Deadline for receipt of full proposals.

- **December 15, 2009**

Notification letter e-mailed to applicants saying whether they have been selected as finalists.

- **April 1 to September 1, 2010**

Acceptable project start dates.

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 more than 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.



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Route 1 and College Road East
P.O. Box 2316
Princeton, NJ 08543-2316

January 2009