

2008 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline

July 16, 2008



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Evidence for Improvement: Evaluating Quality Improvement Training Programs

Purpose

Public health and health care workers have many opportunities to acquire Quality Improvement (QI) training. However, limited evidence exists about whether and how these training programs increase the ability of these individuals to successfully engage in work to improve health and health care. Information about the impact of such programs on organizational culture and patient outcomes is also scarce. This information gap *may* lead to under-investment in effective QI training opportunities and over-investment in training that is not effective. This call for proposals (CFP) solicits evaluations of existing QI training programs to produce evidence that will inform decision-making about whether and how to invest in QI training.

We are interested in information that permits cross-program comparisons. With input from all funded evaluators as to what staff and patient outcomes are most directly linked to QI training, we will standardize outcomes across projects to facilitate such comparisons.

So that results from these evaluations will inform the *field* of QI research, applicants should also propose to lend insight into cross-cutting questions such as:

- What are the essential components of effective QI training?
- What mechanisms for introducing QI training will result in widespread adoption and use in clinical settings?
- What characteristics and experiences predispose learners to successfully acquire proficiency in QI?

For more information on our work in Building Human Capital, visit the Web site at www.rwjf.org/programareas/humancapital.

Eligibility Criteria

We encourage researchers from all disciplines—including multidisciplinary teams—to respond to this solicitation. Doctoral degrees are not required. Preference may be given to public agencies, public charities and/or organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Applicant organizations must be based in the United States or its territories at the time of application.

No members of the evaluation team may be employed by the QI Training program they propose to evaluate. We will, however, request a letter of support from the QI training program to be evaluated to help assure that the applicant has permission to access data necessary for analysis.

Selection Criteria

A panel of experts in QI research and practice will review the proposals. They will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Perceived usefulness of the information produced to guide decisions of public and private health care providers (including dentists, nurses, physicians, nutritionists and physical therapists) and their employers.
- Ability of the research plan to produce objective findings, including negative or statistically insignificant results.

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Key Dates and Deadlines

- **June 3, 2008 (2 p.m. ET)**
Informational Web conference.
- **June 12, 2008 (2 p.m. ET)**
Informational Web conference.
- **July 16, 2008 (3 p.m. ET)**
Deadline for receipt of proposals.
- **January 2009**
Start of grants.

For complete information about this call for proposals, selection criteria or proposal process visit the Web site listed below.

Inquiries

Inquiries by e-mail are preferred. Calls will be accepted Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

E-mail: EQIThehelpdesk@sra.com

Phone: (800) 978-8309

www.evidenceforimprovement.org

For more information about funding opportunities from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation visit Grant Applications at www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive Funding Alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/services.



- Ability of the research plan to capture intended and unintended impacts of training programs on individuals, teams and organizations.
- Appropriate proposed use of qualitative and/or quantitative methods of analysis.
- Indicated willingness to adapt study plans to accomplish RWJF objectives, including use of standard outcome measures.
- Commitment to timely production/dissemination of evidence.

We may ask selected applicants to revise their proposal based on feedback from RWJF and reviewers.

Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project. In keeping with RWJF policy, grant funds may *not* be used to subsidize individuals for the costs of their health care, to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities. Grantees do not need to budget for travel to RWJF for meetings.

Evaluation and Monitoring

We expect grantees to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports, as well as periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. We may ask project directors to participate in conference calls and in-person meetings and give progress reports on their grants.

Total Awards

This initiative will support up to five projects with budgets of up to \$350,000 for a time period of no more than three years.

How to Apply

Proposals for this program may be submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system at <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/pqi>.

All applicants should log into the system and familiarize themselves with 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(s). In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late or incomplete proposals.

Applicant Web Conference

A Web conference for potential applicants will be held on June 3 and June 12 from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET to provide an overview of this solicitation and offer an opportunity to ask questions. To register and receive log-in information, please send an e-mail to EQIThehelpdesk@sra.com. In your e-mail, please include your name, organization and e-mail address. You will receive log-in information in advance of the Web conference.

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