



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Active Living Research and RWJF New Connections Grant Opportunities



2010 Call for Proposals—Round 10

Proposal Deadline

April 14, 2010

Program Overview

(Please refer to specific sections for complete detail.)

Purpose (See Background and The Program)

Active Living Research is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The program supports research to inform policy and environmental strategies for increasing physical activity among children and adolescents, decreasing their sedentary behaviors and preventing obesity. We place special emphasis on strategies with the potential to reach children and youths ages 3 to 18 who are at highest risk for obesity: African-American, Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian-American and Pacific Islander children, as well as children who live in under-resourced and lower-income communities. Grants funded under this call for proposals (CFP) are expected to advance RWJF's efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015.

This CFP consists of grant opportunities for specified research topics and dissertation awards. It also includes funding opportunities for *New Connections* grants made available through the *Active Living Research* program. *New Connections* grants through *Active Living Research* are for new investigators who have been historically disadvantaged or underrepresented in research activities. This includes ethnic or racial researchers who are historically underrepresented, first-generation college graduates, and individuals from lower-income communities.

Eligibility Criteria (page 18)

Preference will be given to applicants that are either public entities or nonprofit 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.

Selection Criteria (page 19)

Complete selection criteria can be found starting on page 19.

Total Awards

Approximately \$2.6 million will be awarded for grants on specified research topics, dissertation awards, and *New Connections* grants made available through the *Active Living Research* program.

Key Dates and Deadlines (See Timetable)

- **April 14, 2010 (1 p.m. PT)**—Deadline for receipt of full proposals.
- **September 2010**—Finalists notified.
- **January 15, 2011**—Funding initiated.

How to Apply (page 23)

This program only accepts proposals submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. Please direct inquiries to:

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Phone: (619) 260-5538

E-mail: awilson@projects.sdsu.edu

www.activelivingresearch.org

Background

Childhood obesity poses a serious threat to our nation's health, health care system and economy. In the United States, the obesity rate among children ages 6 to 11 is more than four times higher than it was a generation ago. During that same period, the rate has more than tripled among adolescents ages 12 to 19, and more than doubled among children ages 2 to 5. Today, nearly one-third of U.S. children and adolescents are either overweight or obese, placing them at increased risk for heart disease, type 2 diabetes and other health problems.

Social and environmental changes over the past few decades have resulted in less physical activity in children's daily routines. For instance, there has been a decrease in children's access to safe places to walk, bike and play. Fewer than 4 percent of elementary schools offer daily physical education, and there has been a significant decrease in the number of children who walk or bike to school. In addition, children are spending more sedentary time using electronic media, such as television, computer games and the Internet. As a result, few children and adolescents get the 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per day recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for healthy growth and development.

There also is growing evidence showing that environmental inequities underlie the pronounced socioeconomic disparities in youth physical activity levels. For example, children living in lower-income communities often have limited access to public recreation facilities and to quality school-based physical education, and their parents are more likely to report that fear of crime keeps them indoors.

At the same time, changes in children's food environments have increased the availability, appeal, affordability and consumption of foods and beverages that are low in nutrients but high in fat and calories. Together, lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating patterns create an energy imbalance that leads

to unhealthy weight gain. Research that analyzes the impact of interventions aimed at increasing children's physical activity levels and monitors energy expenditure is needed to inform policy and environmental strategies recommended by the Institute of Medicine, U.S. Surgeon General, and others for preventing childhood obesity.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (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 epidemic of childhood obesity by 2015 by promoting physical activity and healthy eating in schools and communities throughout the United States. RWJF places special emphasis on reaching children and youths ages 3 to 18 who are at greatest risk for obesity: African-American, Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian-American and Pacific Islander children, as well as children who live in under-resourced and lower-income communities.

The Program

Active Living Research is an RWJF national program. Its goals are to:

- establish a strong research base regarding policy and environmental factors that influence physical activity and healthy weight status in children, as well as effective policy and environmental strategies for reversing the childhood obesity epidemic;
- build a vibrant, multidisciplinary field of research and a diverse network of researchers; and
- ensure that findings are effectively communicated to inform policy debates and guide the development of effective solutions.

This CFP includes funding opportunities for: 1) grants on specified research topics; 2) dissertation awards; and 3) *New Connections* grants made available through the *Active Living Research* program.

Section 1. Grants on Specified Research Topics

Proposed studies must address one of the topics identified below. Populations of interest include children and youths ages 3 to 18, especially those who are at greatest risk for obesity, including African-American, Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian-American and Pacific Islander children, as well as children who live in under-resourced and lower-income communities.

Detailed descriptions for each topic are provided below, including examples of studies. Studies need not be limited to these examples. *Active Living Research* relies on the expertise and creativity of researchers to generate the best ideas for policy-relevant studies.

Topic 1—Evaluations of policy or environmental interventions and strategies for increasing physical activity or reducing sedentary behaviors among youths. *(Three 12- to 24-month awards of up to \$300,000 each)*

State and local governments, school districts and private organizations are planning or implementing a wide variety of policies and interventions aimed at preventing obesity and/or increasing opportunities for physical activity among youths. There is a need to evaluate the most promising interventions to determine which are worthy of broader application.

Most environmental and policy intervention settings are where young people live, play, study and travel. Settings of particular interest include before- and after-school programs, schools, preschools, public recreation environments, playgrounds, neighborhoods, transportation systems and homes. Multicomponent or multilevel interventions are eligible for evaluation under this topic.

Interventions can target behavior change in youths only, or they can aim to alter physical activity or sedentary behavior among children and families. Primary outcomes must be measured in children

and/or adolescents, and economic evaluations of interventions are encouraged. Interventions limited to educational or physical activity programs delivered to individuals are of low priority unless the intervention being evaluated is designed to change “upstream” policies that would lead to widespread adoption of evidence-based programs.

Examples of possible study topics include:

- Evaluation of low-cost environmental interventions for improving physical activity during school recess in under-resourced schools and preschools. Previous studies in other countries have demonstrated effectiveness of painting game designs on playgrounds and providing sports equipment and supplies during recess.
- Evaluation of Safe Routes to Schools programs, especially as related to their implementation and outcomes among the ethnic and racial groups at greatest risk for obesity, as well as in under-resourced and lower-income communities.
- Evaluation of policies designed to improve quality and quantity of physical education specifically targeted to schools in under-resourced or lower-income communities.
- Evaluation of policy or environmental interventions to increase physical activity of children with disabilities, implemented in settings that serve these populations.

Topic 2—Economic analyses to assess feasibility and advisability of policy or environmental interventions that affect youth physical activity or sedentary behaviors.

(Three 12- to 24-month awards of up to \$100,000 each)

Environmental and policy changes in transportation, land use, park and recreation, education, and child care sectors have been recommended to increase youth physical activity and reduce risk of obesity. Decision-makers routinely consider economic costs and effects

of policy decisions, but there are few economic analyses of active living related policies. Economic studies of policies and environmental changes that can potentially reduce racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in physical activity or access to activity-friendly environments will be favored. Economic outcomes can be broadly defined.

Examples of possible study topics include:

- Costs of implementing and maintaining various types of bicycle facilities.
- Cost effectiveness analyses of pedestrian and bicycling facilities, considering transportation, health and energy outcomes.
- Cost effectiveness analyses of a bike commuter tax benefit, compared with transit and ride-sharing programs.
- Perceived economic value of living near parks and trails, mixed-use zoning, traffic calming, sidewalks or bike facilities, or aesthetic enhancements such as street trees or other greenery. (These are often referred to as hedonic pricing or contingent valuation studies).

Topic 3—Analyses of macro-level policies and environmental change strategies with strong potential to increase physical activity or reduce sedentary behaviors among youths.

(Two 12- to 24-month awards of up to \$50,000 each)

Macro-level “upstream” policy and environmental factors work at the highest levels of influence and have impact at multiple levels (e.g., state, community, school). Examples of macro-level policies include transportation and land use policies, crime control practices, preschool licensing criteria, and school wellness policies. Regulation and market forces can represent potentially powerful levers for increasing physical activity, such as community economic development practices, affordable housing incentives, and fee structures for after-school programs.

Proposals should clearly describe the nature of the policy and its relevance to youth physical activity. Studies may address projected effects of policy adoption, evaluate options to enhance implementation or enforcement of policies, or collect data that could affect the decision-making process.

Examples of possible study topics include:

- Case studies of the process of adopting zoning code reform or evaluations of the outcomes of zoning code reform oriented to creating more pedestrian oriented designs.
- Evaluation of policies related to child playgrounds and other play areas in federally-funded housing developments (e.g. HOPE VI) and the implementation of those policies.
- Evaluation of the process of adopting joint-use agreements or evaluation of the outcomes of agreements that allow the joint use of recreation facilities by schools and park and recreation departments.
- Analysis of policies proposed to prevent gentrification or displacement of lower-income residents when neighborhood walkability, aesthetics or park access is improved.

Topic 4—Quantitative meta-analyses of the relationships between built environment or social environment variables and physical activity; built environment or social environment variables and sedentary behavior; or built environment or social environment variables and obesity.

(Three 12-month awards of up to \$75,000 each)

Due to the growth of the literature related to environmental factors and active living, meta-analyses are now possible on a wide range of variables. Analyses of specific environmental variables are expected to be of more value to decision-makers and practitioners than generalized variables such as activity-friendliness. Proposed analyses specific to youth physical activity are

required, and meta-analyses that examine a variety of population subgroups defined by age, socioeconomic status or race and ethnicity will be favored. A key purpose of meta-analyses is to quantify effect sizes, compare effect sizes across variables and examine moderators of effect sizes. Special attention should be paid to the selection of physical activity outcome variables. Prospective grantees are encouraged to consult the literature database developed by *Active Living Research* available at www.activelivingresearch.org/resourcesearch/literaturedatabase.

Topic 5—Evaluations of youth advocacy efforts to support active living.

(Two 12-month awards of up to \$200,000 each)

Citizen advocacy, including training and support for youth advocacy, is a critical component of the policy process and there is little empirical study of these efforts in the active living field. This is an area where the collaboration of community organizations with experts in policy studies, political science and law could make important contributions.

Proposals are invited for quasi-experimental evaluations of systematic approaches to stimulating and supporting citizen advocacy that includes a focus on youths. Proposals will be favored that target communities at high risk for childhood obesity, including those with high rates of childhood obesity; those with ethnically and racially diverse populations; and under-resourced, lower-income or rural communities. Proposals also should have approaches that could be institutionalized and should evaluate approaches with strong potential to be implemented in other localities.

Evaluation approaches can be qualitative or quantitative, though mixed method evaluations will be preferred. Some evaluation of the impact of the advocacy intervention on the citizen-advocate's readiness to advocate and their interactions with

decision-makers is encouraged. Assessment of the perceptions of decision-makers who interacted with citizen-advocates is also encouraged. It is not expected that evaluations of policy adoption or implementation will be available in most cases. It is expected that qualitative case studies will have lower budgets than studies with quantitative data collection.

Examples of possible study topics include:

- Evaluation of ongoing advocacy efforts for childhood obesity prevention targeting communities at high risk for childhood obesity, as described above.
- Evaluation of an after-school curriculum that teaches adolescents to assess safety and walkability of the neighborhood around schools, then supports them to present their findings to city officials.
- Evaluation of community organization programs seeking improved school policies regarding physical activity that incorporate training and support of student-advocates.

Topic 6—Case studies of active living policy changes in communities at high risk for childhood obesity, including those with high rates of childhood obesity; those that represent the ethnic and racial groups at greatest risk; and under-resourced, lower-income or rural communities. Case studies that examine the impact of active living policy changes on youths with disabilities also will be considered.

(Two 12-month awards for single case studies of up to \$50,000 each and two 12-month awards for multiple case studies of up to \$100,000 each)

Documenting successful examples of policy change that meet the needs of high-risk communities and are relevant for promoting youth physical activity could provide guidance to decision-makers and community organizations in other localities. Case studies also help generate hypotheses and may suggest new research questions that can lead to scientific advancements.

Policies adopted and implemented by governmental and nongovernmental organizations can affect physical activity by creating changes in the physical environment, altering incentives that support active living, improving aesthetics such as planting trees or removing graffiti, or improving access, quality or quantity of activity-related programs in schools or communities.

These case studies will systematically examine and document the process of significant policy-change attempts and communicate examples of and reasons for their success in adoption and implementation. It is preferable that each case study test one or more conceptual models about the change process. However, at a minimum, each study should evaluate the policy-change process using recognized, qualitative methods. Studies of multiple cases usually provide more generalizable results than single case studies. Therefore, such studies are encouraged where feasible and logically related. Studies of multiple cases should use a common protocol to facilitate cross-case comparisons. Case studies should include the perspectives of multiple stakeholders and the roles of both institutional and personal influences on the change process. The focus should be on documenting the change process itself, and the outcome may be the adoption or implementation of the active living-related policy. Projects are not expected to quantitatively evaluate the changes in physical activity as a result of the policy change.

A variety of methodologies could be used for these case studies including analyses of existing data and collection of new qualitative data through interviews or surveys. Applicants should assure access to relevant documents and stakeholders. Collaboration with policy-makers or community organizations is encouraged. The deliverables will be a research brief written for non-scientists and a scientific article reporting the results of the case studies.

Section 2. Dissertation Awards

Dissertation awards are a priority for *Active Living Research* because they help build the evidence base and increase the number of investigators in this new field of study. Doctoral candidates in any field or discipline may request up to \$25,000 total for up to two years as support for their doctoral dissertations. Projects must have clear relevance to the overall mission of *Active Living Research*, and to informing environmental and policy strategies for preventing childhood obesity by increasing physical activity among youths. However, projects do not have to address the specific topics in this CFP.

(Approximately three 12-month grants of up to \$25,000 each)

Section 3. New Connections grants through the Active Living Research program

This funding opportunity is offered through collaboration with the RWJF *New Connections* program and grants are made available through the *Active Living Research* program. This funding opportunity is for new investigators from groups that have been historically underrepresented in the research activities supported by RWJF.

(Approximately four 12- to 18-month awards of up to \$75,000 each)

About New Connections

The Foundation's *New Connections* program is designed to expand the diversity of perspectives that inform RWJF programming and introduce new researchers and scholars to the Foundation, while simultaneously building evidence relevant to advancing RWJF programming objectives. The *New Connections* program invites investigators from groups that have been historically underrepresented in the research activities supported by RWJF—such as ethnic or racial researchers who are historically underrepresented, people from lower-income communities, and first-generation college graduates—to address specific questions posed by one of the Foundation's programming areas. For the purpose of this CFP, only new investigators,

defined as individuals who received their doctorate or terminal degree within the last seven years, are eligible for funding.

Grantees funded through *New Connections* grants by the *Active Living Research* program will be part of a broader network of grantees representing both the *New Connections* and *Active Living Research* programs. In addition to receiving listserv access, grantees will be eligible to participate in all RWJF *New Connections* training and networking events. Grantees also will be eligible to receive mentoring, networking and statistical support provided by *Active Living Research* program-sponsored activities. The *New Connections* network includes underrepresented scholars from all disciplines who share the Foundation's research interests.

Mentoring Opportunities

Grantees funded through *New Connections* grants by the *Active Living Research* program also will have access to a range of technical assistance and mentoring opportunities. Effective mentoring can support and enhance research careers, foster the development of a diverse and multidisciplinary network of researchers, and advance the field by building a strong community of researchers who are working with communities at high risk for childhood obesity.

In addition, applicants for *New Connections* grants through the *Active Living Research* program are required to identify a mentor in their applications. Applicant-identified mentors should submit a letter of support with the applicant's proposal.

Mentors will participate with their grantees in an initial orientation conference call led by *Active Living Research* to review mentoring roles and responsibilities. Honoraria for mentors cannot exceed \$2,000, based on four days of work at the RWJF standard rate of \$500 per day. These costs, and any project-related travel costs, must be included in the proposal.

Small-Scale Studies

Small-scale studies might identify and evaluate environmental determinants of children’s physical activity levels, or they might evaluate changes to physical activity environments or policies in a variety of settings to investigate the impact on children’s physical activity levels.

For example, small-scale studies could include the following:

- “Natural experiments” and other studies that evaluate the impact of environmental changes taking place on national, state, community or institutional policy levels.
- Secondary analyses of existing data sets (such as cross-sectional or longitudinal analyses) to analyze the impact of natural variation in environments or policies related to physical activity.
- Measurement-development studies to:
 - develop, adapt, test and validate tools and methods that can be used to identify and evaluate physical activity policies and environments and their impact in a variety of settings; and/or
 - adapt or develop practical, validated audit tools:
 - 1) to measure built environment attributes expected to be related to physical activity, sedentary behavior or obesity; and
 - 2) that can be used by practitioners and community members to assess environments in relevant settings, such as preschools, day-care centers, neighborhoods, parks and transportation systems. The studies should focus on communities at high risk for childhood obesity, including those with high rates of childhood obesity; those that represent the ethnic and racial groups at greatest risk; and under-resourced, lower-income or rural communities.

Small-scale studies also may include correlational studies; limited original data collection; pre-test or baseline evaluations prior to planned environmental or policy changes; and post-test evaluations when baseline data are available. An adaptation of existing measures to unique populations or communities also may be conducted.

Analyses of Macro-Level Policies and Environmental Approaches

(See description under Research Topic 3 on page 7)

Quantitative meta-analyses of the relationships between built environment or social environment variables and physical activity; built environment or social environment variables and sedentary behavior; or built environment or social environment variables and obesity.

(See description under Research Topic 4 on page 8)

Case studies of active living policy changes in communities at high risk for childhood obesity, including those with high rates of childhood obesity; those that represent the ethnic and racial groups at greatest risk; and under-resourced, lower-income or rural communities. Case studies that examine the impact of active living policy changes on youths with disabilities also will be considered.

(See description under Research Topic 6 on page 10)

Overall Study Guidelines for Grants on Specified Topics, Dissertation Awards and New Connections Grants Through the Active Living Research Program

- For intervention evaluation studies, youth physical activity outcomes should be measured objectively. *Active Living Research* encourages supplemental survey- or observation-based measures of specific components or domains of physical activity or sedentary behaviors, such as walking or biking to school, physical activity in parks or at school, physical activity for leisure, sedentary time or screen time.

- *Active Living Research* also encourages the use of common measures whenever possible to facilitate comparisons of results across studies and to support pooled analyses. Past grantees have adopted common measures, available at www.activelivingresearch.org/resource/research/toolsandmeasures. The Web site provides full access to numerous environmental and policy measures using a variety of methods that have evidence of reliability and/or validity. We encourage applicants to identify existing measures that might be adapted to meet the needs of target populations.
- Applicants are encouraged to include objective measures of physical activity and estimated contribution to energy expenditure related to interventions. However, given the limited scope and short duration of these projects, measures of changes in weight, body mass index or body composition are not required. Inclusion of measures of youth sedentary behaviors is strongly encouraged. Secondary measures of particular interest include academic achievement and parent behaviors that could influence children's physical activity.
- To facilitate wider use of high-quality objective physical activity measures, *Active Living Research* is offering extended loans of Actigraph accelerometers. The loan program is available to grantees and non-grantees, subject to availability. For more information, please contact Chad Spoon at cspoon@projects.sdsu.edu.
- When appropriate, studies should assess variables likely to affect the impact and feasibility of the policy and environmental changes being studied (e.g., demographic variables, cultural and community characteristics, other contextual variables).
- Applicants should seek input from relevant stakeholders—such as policy-makers, school or community leaders, parents and children—to help ensure feasible and policy-relevant project goals and outcomes. Proposals should describe the input received from these stakeholders in designing the study and framing the research questions, and the

strategies that will be used to communicate research results. Applicant teams should include at least one representative of the community or stakeholder group targeted (e.g., community leader, policy-maker) as a regular adviser. This will help ensure research and policy analyses reflect critical institutional, community and policy needs and issues, and that grant results are communicated using the methods and channels most likely to reach the intended audiences.

- Controlled experimental or quasi-experimental intervention studies must show promise for generalization to real-world community environments.
- Studies focused solely on behavior change at the individual level, health education interventions, childhood obesity treatments, and physical activity programs or curricula *will not be funded*.
- Awards are made directly to the grantee's home institution. Indirect costs (up to 12 percent) are included in the total project awards.
- Proposed projects may be conducted as supplements to existing studies. Project co-funding is welcome, and sources and amounts must be fully described in the proposal. The added value of the proposed research grant should be clearly described.

Guidelines Specific to New Connections Grants Through the Active Living Research Program:

- Honoraria for project mentors cannot exceed \$2,000, based on four days of work at the RWJF standard rate of \$500 per day. These costs and any project-related travel costs must be included in the proposal.

Eligibility Criteria

For Grants on Specified Topics, Dissertation Awards and New Connections Grants Through the Active Living Research Program:

Preference will be given to applicants that are either public entities or nonprofit 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. The focus of this program is the United States; studies in other countries will be considered only to the extent that they may directly inform U.S. policy.

As described in the study guidelines, applicant teams should include at least one representative of the community or stakeholder group targeted (e.g., community leader, policy-maker) as a regular adviser.

For New Connections Grants Through the Active Living Research Program:

All investigators must:

- be citizens or permanent residents 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 apply for and agree to receive and administer the grant;
- be from a group that has been historically disadvantaged or underrepresented in the research activities supported by RWJF. This includes ethnic or racial researchers, first-generation college graduates and people from lower-income communities. These examples are intended to be illustrative, not exclusive. Applicants who do not fall within one of these categories but who believe they are from an historically-disadvantaged or underrepresented background should check “other” and explain their individual circumstances in the text box available in the RWJF Grantmaking Online system;

- have completed a doctorate or terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.D., J.D.) within the past seven years (after September 1, 2003);
- devote at least 25 percent of their time to the project;
- hold a full-time faculty or other research position in a university setting, or hold an equivalent position in a non-university setting, such as an independent research organization;
- not have received previous funding from RWJF; and
- demonstrate evidence of research skills relevant to the proposed study.

Selection Criteria

For All Proposals Submitted for Grants on Specified Topics, Dissertation Awards and New Connections Grants Through the Active Living Research Program

All proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of RWJF staff, national program office (NPO) staff at San Diego State University, a national advisory committee (NAC) and other expert reviewers from diverse disciplines. The following criteria will be used to assess proposals:

- relevance of the project to one of the research topics in this round of funding and uniqueness of the project in relation to the mix of potentially fundable projects;
- relevance to the needs of children who are at greatest risk for obesity, including African-American, Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian-American and Pacific Islander children, as well as children who live in under-resourced and lower-income communities;
- proposal specifies the gaps in the scientific literature that will be addressed by the proposed study;
- use of transdisciplinary research approaches and teams to provide the variety of conceptual, measurement, study design and analytic methods needed for the best possible research;

- potential to identify promising policies and environmental changes that could promote physical activity or reduce sedentary behaviors among children and teens, and prevent childhood obesity;
- potential to help eliminate disparities in children’s access to opportunities for physical activity and access to safe places to walk, bike and play;
- articulation of a clear hypothesis, theoretical framework, conceptual model or rationale that guides the design of the study;
- description of a clear and specific plan for systematic data collection and analysis;
- evidence of access to needed data, settings and study populations;
- specificity and appropriateness of data analysis plans for quantitative and qualitative data, including estimates of statistical power;
- potential to address key knowledge gaps and contribute to scientific advancement;
- relevance and timeliness of project to inform policy action;
- degree to which the strategies are widely applicable, feasible and sustainable;
- research qualifications and experience of the applicants and appropriateness of disciplines and perspectives represented;
- appropriateness of proposed budget and project timeline; and
- plan for communicating and disseminating research results not only to scientists, but also to policy-makers and relevant stakeholders.

The NAC makes recommendations about grants to RWJF staff. All funding decisions are made by RWJF. RWJF does not provide individual critiques of proposals submitted.

*For All Grants on Specified Topics, Dissertation
Awards and New Connections Grants Through the
Active Living Research Program*

Grantees will be expected to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports. Given the benefit of measuring common outcomes across the pool of funded grants, funded projects may be asked to incorporate selected dependent, independent and contextual measures.

As part of the proposal process, finalists will be asked to disclose any financial arrangements (e.g., fees, funding, employment, stock holdings) or relationships that might call into question 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. *Active Living Research* staff and consultants will be available to provide technical assistance when needed to ensure the success of the project. At the close of each grant, the grantee is expected to provide a written report on the project and its findings. *Active Living Research* and RWJF staff will work with investigators to communicate the results of the funded projects to scientific audiences, media, policy-makers, school decision-makers, educational organizations, public health advocates, the general public and other audiences, as appropriate.

An independent research group selected and funded by RWJF will conduct an evaluation of the *Active Living 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

For All Grants on Specified Topics, Dissertation Awards and New Connections Grants Through the Active Living Research Program

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, dataset procurement, meetings, supplies, project-related travel and other direct expenses, including a limited amount of equipment deemed 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.

For Grants on Specified Topics and Dissertation Awards

Grantees are expected to participate in an annual *Active Living Research* grantee meeting and conference. Funds for up to two individuals to attend this meeting in each year of funding should be included in the proposed budget. A guideline for travel budgeting is available at www.activelivingresearch.org/grantsearch/grantseeker_resources.

For New Connections Grants Through the Active Living Research Program

Applicants for *New Connections* grants made available through the *Active Living Research* program are required to identify mentors who can be paid honoraria of \$500 per day for up to four days of consultation. Any project-related travel costs for mentors must be included in the budget.

In addition to the requirement of attending at least one annual *Active Living Research* grantee meeting and conference, awardees also are required to attend one annual *New Connections* Symposium and one annual *New Connections* Clinic. Funds to attend the annual *Active Living Research* grantee meeting and conference, as well as the *New Connections* Symposium and Research and Coaching Clinic, should be included in the proposed budget. Principal investigators also may include travel expenses to present their research at one additional national professional meeting. A guideline for travel budgeting is available on the *Active Living Research* Web site at www.activelivingresearch.org/grantsearch/grantseeker_resources.

How to Apply

All proposals must be submitted online through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. To apply, use the Web links listed below.

Guidelines and information, including a list of frequently asked questions are available on the *Active Living Research* Web site at www.activelivingresearch.org/grantsearch/grantseeker_resources.

Active Living Research also will host a series of conference calls for potential applicants to answer questions about the program, as well as the proposal and selection processes. Participation in these calls is strongly encouraged, but not required. Those who wish to participate must register for the calls. (See Timetable.)

Applicants must submit a full proposal accompanied by a budget and budget narrative and additional supporting documents.

Full proposals for any of the six specified research topics or *New Connections* grants through the *Active Living Research* program will be accepted until April 14, 2010 (1 p.m. PT) and are limited to 15 single-spaced pages. Full proposals for dissertation grants will be accepted until April 14, 2010 (1 p.m. PT) and are limited to 10 single-spaced pages. Only full proposals will be accepted.

To submit a full proposal for one of the six specified research topics, please go to <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/pap17>.

To submit a full proposal for a dissertation award, please go to <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/pap18>.

To submit a full proposal for a *New Connections* grant through the *Active Living Research* program, please go to <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/papnci3>.

For more information, please contact:

Amanda Wilson, M.S.R.S., *research coordinator*

Phone: (619) 260-5538

E-mail: awilson@projects.sdsu.edu

Program Direction

Direction and technical assistance for *Active Living Research* are provided by San Diego State University, which serves as the NPO:

Active Living Research
San Diego State University
3900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: (619) 260-5534
Fax: (619) 260-1510
E-mail: ALR@projects.sdsu.edu
Web site: www.activelivingresearch.org

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- James Sallis, Ph.D., *program director*
- Carmen Cutter, M.P.H., *deputy director*
- Deborah Lou, Ph.D., *program analyst*
- Amanda Wilson, M.S.R.S., *research coordinator*
- Chad Spoon, M.R.P., *research coordinator*
- Debra Rubio, *administrative assistant*

Responsible representatives of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Celeste Torio, Ph.D., M.P.H., *program officer*
- James S. Marks, M.D., M.P.H., *senior vice president and director, Health Group*
- Jan Mihalow, M.S.M., *grants administrator*

Timetable

Optional conference calls for potential applicants for grants on specified research topics or dissertation grants:

■ **February 22, 2010 (12 noon PT) and March 23, 2010 (12 noon PT)**

Active Living Research will host two optional conference calls for potential applicants for grants on specified research topics and dissertation grants. Potential applicants can choose from the two dates indicated above. Details and registration information are posted at www.activelivingresearch.org/grantsearch/grantopportunities/teleconference.

Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions during these calls. Potential applicants interested in *New Connections* grants through the *Active Living Research* program should not register for these calls.

Optional conference call for potential applicants for *New Connections* grants through the *Active Living Research* program:

■ **March 1, 2010 (12 noon PT)**

Active Living Research will host one optional conference call for potential applicants interested in *New Connections* grants through the *Active Living Research* program. Details and registration information are posted at www.activelivingresearch.org/grantsearch/grantopportunities/teleconference.

Potential applicants interested in grants for one of the six specified research topics or dissertation awards should not register for this call.

■ **April 14, 2010 (1 p.m. PT)**

Deadline for receipt of full proposals.

■ **September 2010**

Finalists notified.

■ **January 15, 2011**

Funding initiated.

This program only accepts proposals submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. All applicants should log in to 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. In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late or incomplete 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.

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Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at

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