Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Call for Proposals—Round 8

Proposal Deadline

May 14, 2008

Program Overview

(Please refer to specific sections for complete detail.)

Purpose

Active Living Research is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). This call for proposals (CFP) is the first to reflect a new emphasis for Active Living Research. The program will now focus on supporting research to inform policy and environmental strategies for increasing physical activity among children and adolescents, decreasing their sedentary behaviors and preventing obesity. We will place special emphasis on strategies with the potential to reach racial/ethnic populations and children living in low-income communities who are at highest risk for obesity. Findings are expected to advance RWJF's efforts to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015.

This CFP focuses on four topics described in detail beginning on page 5.

Eligibility Criteria (page 15)

- 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.

Selection Criteria (page 16)

Complete selection criteria can be found on page 16.

Total Awards

Approximately $3.3 million will be awarded for research grants exploring the four topics, as well as dissertation grants. The anticipated allocation of funds is as follows:

- Topic #1: Four 12- to 36-month awards of up to $400,000 each.
- Topic #2: Four 12- to 24-month awards of up to $250,000 each.
- Topic #3: Four 12- to 24-month awards of up to $100,000 each.
- Topic #4: Four 12- to 18-month awards of up to $50,000 each.
- Dissertation Awards: Four 12- to 24-month awards of up to $25,000 each.

Key Dates and Deadlines (page 23)

- **May 14, 2008 (1 p.m. PT)**—Deadline for receipt of full proposals.
- **September 2008**—Notification of finalists.
- **December 2008**—Funding initiated.

How to Apply (page 18)

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

Amanda Wilson, *research coordinator*
Phone: (619) 260-5538
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www.activelivingresearch.org

Background

Childhood obesity poses a serious threat to our nation's health, health care system and economy. 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. Today, more than 33 percent 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 for healthy growth and development.

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, the 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 for preventing childhood obesity.

Two reports published by the Institute of Medicine in 2005 and 2007, *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance* and *Progress in Preventing Childhood Obesity: How Do We Measure Up?*, recommend research to identify effective environmental and policy approaches at multiple levels (e.g., national, state, community, institutional)

and in varied settings (e.g., school, neighborhood, community) with strong potential to improve children's physical activity, energy balance and body weight. These and newer reports describe growing evidence that environmental disparities underlie the pronounced sociodemographic disparities in youth obesity levels. For example, children living in low-income communities often have limited access to public recreation facilities and to quality school-based physical education, and their parents are more likely to cite fear of crime as a reason to keep them indoors. Thus, research is needed to identify promising environmental and policy solutions to disparities in physical activity and obesity.

This call for proposals (CFP) is the first to reflect a new emphasis for Active Living Research. The program will support studies to identify and evaluate policies and environmental approaches that have significant potential to increase children's physical activity, reduce sedentary behaviors, and reverse the nation's rising levels of childhood obesity. This program parallels RWJF's *Healthy Eating Research* program, which is building evidence to inform effective policy and environmental strategies to improve eating habits among children and adolescents *(www.healthyeatingresearch.org)*.

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 youth ages 3 to 18 who are at greatest risk for obesity: African-American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian/Pacific Islander children, and children living in under-resourced and low-income communities.*

The Program

Active Living Research is an RWJF national program managing a new $15.4-million authorization over five years for research on environments and policies that support physical activity among children and families. 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.

The program's overall aim is to provide key decision- and policy-makers with evidence to guide and accelerate effective action to reverse the rise in childhood obesity.

Research Topics

Approximately $3.3 million is available in this round of funding. Proposed studies must address one or more of the topics identified below. Target populations include children and adolescents ages 3 to 18, especially those who are at greatest risk for obesity, including racial/ethnic populations and children living in low-income communities.

Topic 1–Evaluations of policy or environmental interventions and strategies for increasing physical activity and/or reducing sedentary behaviors among youth.

(Four 12- to 36-month awards of up to $400,000 each)

Topic 2–Studies of the interactive effects of built environment and social/cultural factors on youth physical activity and/or sedentary behaviors in populations at high risk for obesity.

(Four 12- to 24-month awards of up to $250,000 each)

Topic 3–Studies of the economic determinants and/or impacts of environments and policies that affect youth physical activity and/or sedentary behaviors.

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

Topic 4–Analyses of macro-level policies and environmental-change strategies with the potential to increase physical activity and/or reduce sedentary behaviors among youth.

(Four 12- to 18-month awards of up to $50,000 each)

Examples of studies are included under the detailed descriptions for each topic, beginning on page 7. Studies need not be limited to these examples. We rely on the expertise and creativity of researchers to generate the best ideas for policy-relevant studies. Applicants are welcome to propose investigative strategies that are responsive to the research topics but do not require extensive data collection (such as secondary data analyses) and can be completed for less than the maximum funding specified.

For intervention studies, youth physical activity outcomes should be measured objectively. Supplemental survey- or observation-based measures of specific components or domains of physical activity or sedentary behavior, such as walking or biking to school, physical activity in parks or at school, physical activity for leisure, sedentary time or screen time, are encouraged. Estimates of daily average changes in energy expenditure and measures of changes in body mass index (BMI) or body composition are desirable, but not required. Accelerometers that can be used to assess physical activity and sedentary time may be available for extended loan (see Study Guidelines for more details).

Active Living Research 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, and these are identified at *www.activelivingresearch.org/resourcesearch/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 and to indicate willingness to collaborate with other grantees in the adoption or adaptation of common measures.

Topic 1–Evaluations of policy or environmental interventions and strategies for increasing physical activity and/or reducing sedentary behaviors among youth.

State and local governments, school districts and private youth-serving organizations are planning or implementing a wide variety of interventions to increase physical activity and/or reduce sedentary behaviors among children, adolescents and families. Yet few of these interventions or strategies have been systematically evaluated for their impact on youth physical activity, sedentary behavior, energy balance, body composition or BMI. Active Living Research plans to support controlled or quasi-experimental evaluations of policy and environmental interventions that hold promise for being effective, are generalizable to other settings, and can inform policy change.

Most environmental and policy interventions target specific places 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. There is growing evidence that key physical activity-related attributes of these environments differ across population subgroups (e.g., urban/rural location, income and race/ethnicity of residents), so the specific relevance of interventions for the target populations should be made clear. Interventions that include changes in built environments (i.e., the man-made environments that surround us and provide the setting for human activity) may have the broadest and longest-lasting impact. Multicomponent or multilevel interventions are eligible for evaluation under this research topic if they include substantial policy or environmental interventions for increasing physical activity and/or reducing sedentary behaviors among youth.

Interventions can target behavior change in youth only, or among children and families. For population-based interventions, the relevance to youth must be clearly established, the evaluation must be designed to provide high-quality data regarding impact on youth, and primary outcomes must be measured in youth.

Examples of study aims include:

- evaluations of state and local policies limiting sedentary behavior (e.g., television watching) in preschool and child-care settings and their impact on children's physical activity levels, energy expenditure or weight status;
- comparative studies of state or local policies regarding school-based physical activity, physical education and/or recess and their impact on students' physical activity levels, energy expenditure or weight status;
- evaluations of the impact of significant changes to the built environment on children's, adolescents' or families' physical activity levels, energy expenditure or weight status;
- studies of multilevel physical activity interventions to assess the independent or combined effects of park renovations and community policing to increase use of parks for children's and families' physical activity;
- studies of physical improvements combined with educational programs to promote active transportation to school; and
- studies of changes in physical activity among children whose families move to neighborhoods with varying walkability, aesthetics or access to recreation facilities. Such prospective studies would help evaluate interactive effects of psychosocial and built environment characteristics on changes in physical activity, energy expenditure and weight status of youth and families. Proposals to fund only baseline pre-move assessments of families who move will be considered, but such proposals will be strengthened by descriptions of the scientific value and expected publications from the baseline data.

Topic 2—Studies of the interactive effects of built environment and social/cultural factors on youth physical activity and/or sedentary behaviors in specific populations at high risk for obesity.

A rapidly growing literature documents built environment correlates of physical activity, and there are indications that not all populations benefit from activity-friendly built environments. Social and cultural factors are likely to interact with built environment attributes to explain physical activity in youth from high-risk populations. The social environment can be construed broadly to represent such constructs as acculturation, cultural identity, social cohesion, collective efficacy, crime and fear of crime, traffic and incivilities like graffiti and trash.

Proposed studies must target one or more population groups at high risk for childhood obesity. Proposals will be favored that articulate substantial knowledge of the social and built environment factors relevant to the population or describe a systematic process for ensuring relevant factors for the population are identified and studied.

Studies also must target one or more specific settings (e.g., schools, preschools, homes), or broader community settings (e.g., parks, trails, neighborhood design, transportation systems). Proposals will be favored that evaluate multiple settings, such as how crime is related to the use of parks, school grounds and neighborhood streets for physical activity, because such studies are expected to provide a broader range of information. An alternative approach is to propose a study of one physical activity environment that would be reflected in a smaller scope and budget. Proposals must describe how the study is likely to lead to identification of policy, environmental or multilevel interventions that hold promise for being effective in increasing physical activity and/or reducing sedentary behaviors among youth in the target population.

Although it is expected that most studies funded under this research topic will be cross-sectional, new prospective studies or supplements to existing studies that would create prospective studies are eligible. If there

are opportunities for cross-sectional studies to become baseline assessments for prospective studies or evaluations of policy or environmental changes, then please describe plans for pursuing support for follow-up studies.

Population-specific conceptual models of the determinants of physical activity and sedentary behaviors are generally lacking. Therefore, applicants may need to include a developmental phase to refine population-specific conceptual models and measures. The developmental phase should include communication with investigators who have been studying the target populations, and Active Living Research can facilitate this communication. Whenever possible, population-specific measures of environments that are developed should be adapted from existing measures that are being widely used.

Examples of study topics include:

- differential association of built environment variables with youth physical activity or sedentary behavior in rural vs. urban settings, or in specific high-risk racial/ethnic populations and communities;
- relation of social and cultural factors to walking/biking to school among minority and low-income youth living in walkable neighborhoods;
- the role of acculturation in use of parks for physical activity by immigrant youth and families;
- differential use of trails and other recreation facilities depending on integration of culture in the design and promotion of facilities; and
- impact of social cohesion, perceptions of crime, pedestrian infrastructure and recreation facilities on parents' willingness to allow their children to play outdoors.

Topic 3—Studies of the economic determinants and/or impacts of environments and policies that affect youth physical activity and/or sedentary behaviors.

Policy-makers frequently use economic data and projections to guide their decisions, but economic data of relevance to physical activity policies are scarce. To help fill this gap, we invite proposals for economic studies that have clear relevance for policies or environments related to physical activity levels of children and adolescents. Studies of policies that can explain or potentially reduce racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in physical activity or access to activity-friendly environments will be favored. Economic studies should be designed to produce results that can lead to policy-based strategies for increasing physical activity, decreasing sedentary behaviors, or reducing risk of obesity among youth, especially those from high-risk populations. Proposals should identify the policies that could be informed by the study.

Examples of possible study topics include:

- cost-benefit studies evaluating the economic impacts of changes in physical activity environments or policies;
- cost impacts and cost-effectiveness analysis of current or proposed policies to boost levels of youth physical activity in preschool/school environments (e.g., requirement of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity as part of regular physical education classes, requiring daily physical activity in preschool or after-school programs);
- comparison of economic impacts (e.g., on property values) of high-walkable vs. low-walkable communities, from the perspectives of residents, homeowners, developers and local governments;
- economic analysis of the financial risks and benefits of joint use agreements between schools and parks departments on shared use of recreation space;
- economic impact of public parks and trails in low- and high-income communities; and
- economic simulation of sliding-scale fees for youth physical activity programs in public parks and private recreation providers in low-income neighborhoods.

Topic 4—Analyses of macro-level policies and environmental-change strategies with the potential to increase physical activity and/or reduce sedentary behaviors among youth.

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, home). The "activity-friendliness" of the built environment, as well as access to and quality of facilities and physical activity programs available to children and their families, are the result of upstream systems and policies. Examples of macro-level policies include transportation and land-use policies, crime control practices, traffic safety investments, school financing, preschool licensing criteria, Head Start, and school wellness policies at the federal and state levels. Regulation and market forces can represent potentially powerful levers for changing physical activity, such as community economic development practices, lending practices, affordable housing incentives, requirements for developers to provide infrastructure like sidewalks and parks, child-care funding, minimum wage standards, and funding and fee structures for after-school programs. Currently, there is little scientific evidence about how these upstream influences could play a role in creating healthier physical activity environments for children and their families. Analyses of macro-level factors could identify key questions for additional research and generate imaginative solutions to the childhood obesity epidemic.

Analytic methods for studies on macro-level factors may include, but are not limited to, historical analysis, policy analysis, market analysis, simulation modeling, analysis of existing databases, small experimental studies, surveys/polls and case studies. Studies may address projected effects of policy adoption; evaluate options to enhance implementation or enforcement of existing or proposed policies; or collect data that could affect the decision-making process. This may include identification of perceived pros and cons among stakeholders, including decision-makers. Applicants are encouraged to work with policy-oriented groups or advocacy organizations to define the focus of these analyses and to plan and ensure effective communication of results. Proposals designed to inform policy debates should clearly describe the nature of the policy and its relevance to youth physical activity, sedentary behaviors, energy balance or weight status.

Examples of possible topics for analyses of macro-level policies include:

- statistical simulations of the health and economic impacts of the Safe Routes to School project;
- analysis of the macro-level determinants, barriers and facilitators of adopting and implementing regulations and legislation requiring physical activity in school, after-school or child-care settings;
- analysis of the impact of increased school-day physical activity on academic achievement;
- studies of the information needs of policy-makers at the local, state and national levels related to current efforts to introduce or oppose policy changes to improve activity levels and reduce obesity in children and youth;
- analysis of policies that could reduce disparities in access to parks and playgrounds in low- and high-socioeconomic status communities; and
- projections of the impact on youth physical activity of LEED-ND (neighborhood design) certification levels, which specify standards for environmentally sustainable development at the neighborhood level that are consistent with "activity-friendly" designs.

Study Guidelines

- The outcome variables for grants may vary, with policy being the outcome of interest in some studies and measures of youth physical activity, sedentary behaviors or weight status the outcome of interest in others. Given the limited scope and short duration of these projects, measures of changes in weight, BMI or body composition are not required. However, applicants are encouraged to include objective measures of physical activity and the estimated contribution to energy expenditure. Inclusion of measures of youth sedentary behaviors is also strongly encouraged. Secondary measures of particular interest include academic

achievement and parent behaviors that could influence their 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. 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 assure 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. Applicants 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 to ensure that 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, especially in low-income and racial/ethnic populations at high risk for childhood obesity.
- Studies focused solely on behavior change at the individual level, health education interventions and physical activity programs or curricula *will not be funded*. However, studies could compare the impact of environmental changes with or without physical activity promotion, or studies could isolate effective components of a multi-component intervention.

- Whenever possible, population-specific measures of environments that are developed should be adapted from existing measures that are being widely used in the field. Using a core set of common environmental measures will facilitate comparison of results across studies and enable analyses of pooled data in the future.
- Proposals must demonstrate the ability to produce new information about important, modifiable environmental and/or policy determinants of children's physical activity levels, energy balance and/or weight status, or about policy- and environmental-change strategies with strong potential to influence children's physical activity practices and reverse the rise in childhood obesity.
- Grant funds may be used only to cover the costs of evaluation, not to cover the costs of the policy or environmental changes per se.
- Indirect costs up to 12 percent are included in the total project awards.
- Studies may be conducted as supplements to existing studies. Co-funding is welcome; sources and amounts must be fully described in the proposal.

Eligibility Criteria

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.

Selection Criteria

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 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 low-resource communities and children in low-income and racial/ethnic minority populations at highest risk for obesity.
- 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 and energy balance 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.
- 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.
- Plan for communicating and disseminating research results not only to scientists, but also to policy-makers and relevant stakeholders.

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

Evaluation and Monitoring

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

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.

Grantees are expected to participate in an annual grantee meeting. Funds for up to two individuals to attend one grantee meeting in each year of funding should be included in the proposed budget. Budgets also should include travel to attend an additional grantee meeting at the end of the grant period so that grantees can present their results. A guideline for travel budgeting is available on the Active Living Research Web site at *www.activelivingresearch.org/alr/grantsearch/grantseeker_resources.*

How to Apply

Proposals for both Research Topics and Dissertation Awards 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 (FAQs), are available on the Active Living Research Web site at *www.activelivingresearch.org/alr/grantsearch/grantseeker_resources*. Active Living Research also will host two 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 do wish to participate must register for the calls. (See Timetable.)

Research Topics
In this round of funding, Active Living Research will accept proposals for research projects requesting up to $400,000 total for between 12 and 36 months for Topic 1; proposals requesting up to $250,000 total for between 12 and 24 months for Topic 2; proposals of up to $100,000 total for between 12 and 24 months for Topic 3; and proposals of up to $50,000 for up to 18 months for Topic 4.

Applicants must submit a full proposal accompanied by a budget and budget narrative and additional supporting documents. Full proposals for any of the four research topics are limited to 15 single-spaced pages.

To submit a full proposal for one of the four research topics, please go to *http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/pap13.*

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 youth. However, projects do not have to address the specific topics in this CFP.

Only full proposals will be accepted. Dissertation full proposals will be accepted until May 14, 2008 (1 p.m. PT).

To submit a full proposal for a dissertation award, please go to *http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/pap14.*

For more information on the program, please contact:
Amanda Wilson, M.S.R.S., *research coordinator*
Phone: (619) 260-5538
E-mail: *awilson@projects.sdsu.edu*

Other Funding Opportunities

Researchers are encouraged to periodically check the Web sites of Active Living Research *(www.activelivingresearch.org)* and Healthy Eating Research *(www.healthyeatingresearch.org)* for the latest information on other funding opportunities. The two programs also will have joint funding opportunities in the future. A joint CFP from Active Living Research and Healthy Eating Research is planned for Spring 2008.

An additional CFP from Active Living Research and RWJF's New Connections Initiative is planned for Summer 2008. It will support research consistent with the Active Living Research mission by investigators from under-represented groups. Announcements of those opportunities will be available on both Web sites.

Program Direction

Direction and technical assistance for Active Living Research are provided by San Diego State University, which serves as the national program office (NPO).

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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*
- Irvin Harrison, M.A., *administrative coordinator*
- LeeAnn Adan, *administrative assistant*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- C. Tracy Orleans, Ph.D., *distinguished fellow and senior scientist*
- Laura Leviton, Ph.D., *special advisor for evaluation*
- Kathryn Thomas, M.J., *senior communications officer*
- Celeste Torio, Ph.D., M.P.H., *program officer*
- Stephanie Weiss, Sc.M., *research associate*
- Jan Mihalow, M.S.M., *grants administrator*
- Prabhu Ponkshe, M.A., L.L.B., *communications consultant*

Notes

Timetable

- **March 24, 2008 (12 noon PT)** and **April 24, 2008 (12 noon PT)**
  Optional conference calls for potential applicants. Details and registration information are posted at *www.activelivingresearch.org*. Applicants will have an opportunity to ask questions during calls.

- **May 14, 2008 (1 p.m. PT)**
  Deadline for receipt of proposals.

- **September 2008**
  Notification of finalists.

- **December 2008**
  Funding initiated.

Proposals must be submitted online 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 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 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

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