

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Active Living Research: *Diversity Partnership Grants*



Proposal Deadline: July 22, 2005

THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION®

OVERVIEW

Active Living Research is a \$12.5-million program to stimulate and support research that will identify environmental factors and policies that influence physical activity. This national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is making additional funds available in 2005 to supplement the program's existing grants. The goals of the *Active Living Research* Diversity Partnership Grants are: 1) to enhance the quality and scope of existing *Active Living Research* research projects by providing funds that will expand one or more aspects of the study and add an investigator with special background and understanding of understudied populations and/or communities; and 2) to diversify the field and enhance the careers of qualified investigators who are committed to the study of active living environments and policies.

People from lower socioeconomic levels and some racial and ethnic minority groups often are found to be less physically active, overall, than other groups in the United States. Research that can contribute to understanding and eliminating inequalities in physical activity is a high priority. It is likely that research on high-risk populations can be improved by the participation of investigators whose life experience provides them with relevant understanding of populations at high risk for physical inactivity. Increasing the diversity of the community of investigators has the potential to enhance the quality of active living research, and the Diversity Partnership Grants are designed to help achieve this goal.

The proposed Diversity Partnership Grant must be closely connected with the ongoing research of an existing *Active Living Research* grant, but should specify additional analyses and potentially additional data collection. One possible enhancement could involve the collection and analysis of data regarding nutrition environments.

The Diversity Partnership Grant will be issued in the name of the home institution of the added investigator, with the added investigator named as principal investigator and the principal investigator of the existing *Active Living Research* grant named as co-principal investigator on the new grant. The proposal should be submitted as a collaborative effort of the proposed added investigator and the principal investigator of the existing grant.

As part of this research experience, the proposed added investigator must be given the opportunity to work closely with the investigative team on the existing *Active Living Research* grant, to contribute intellectually to the research of the existing grant, and to enhance her/his research skills and knowledge regarding active living research. The principal investigator of the existing grant must understand that the purpose of the award is to enhance the quality of the existing research, as well as the research skills and career of the added investigator. Each Diversity Partnership grantee will produce at least one product in the form of either a scientific manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal (for which the added investigator is first author) or a grant proposal to be submitted to NIH or a comparable funding source (for which the added investigator is the principal investigator).

The Diversity Partnership Grants are not intended to provide an alternative means of supporting individuals who already receive support through any other Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

funding mechanism. Individuals from the existing *Active Living Research* grants may not be transferred to a Diversity Partnership Grant to increase the availability of funds to the existing grant, nor may funds be used to extend the tenure of someone currently funded under an existing *Active Living Research* grant.

This grant opportunity is intended for added investigators who are committed to improving physical activity levels among members of understudied, diverse communities. Investigators who come from groups that are historically disadvantaged (e.g., educationally, economically or racially/ethnically) or underrepresented in scientific research and who have unique contributions to make to the scope and quality of existing *Active Living Research* projects are especially encouraged to apply. Investigators must have, at a minimum, a doctoral or other terminal degree in their field to qualify as an added investigator.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Active Living Research plans to make up to \$200,000 in Diversity Partnership Grant funding available during 2005. Proposals may request up to \$40,000, for one-year grants, or up to \$80,000 (total) for two-year grants. In order to enhance as many existing grants as possible, RWJF does not expect to make more than one supplemental grant to any existing grantee. Funding periods for Diversity Partnership Grant awards may extend beyond approved funding periods for existing *Active Living Research* grants.

TIMETABLE

July 22, 2005 (4 p.m. PDT)

Deadline for receipt of all applications and supporting documents (described on page 5). To request a formal application packet, contact *Active Living Research* by e-mail at alr@projects.sdsu.edu or by calling (619) 260-5537.

September 19, 2005

Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for funding.

November 2005-January 2006

Acceptable start dates/initiation of funding.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The proposed Diversity Partnership Grant must be closely connected to an existing research grant that:

1. Is currently funded through either the *Active Living Research* Round 2 or 3 Call for Proposals (Round 4 and Dissertation Grants are not eligible).
2. As of the anticipated start date, has at least 12 months left before funding expires. If the existing grant does not have at least 12 months remaining, the principal investigator may request permission from *Active Living Research* for a no-cost extension of the existing grant if funds remain to support the extension. *This requirement is to insure there is sufficient time remaining to allow the added investigator to participate substantively in the work of the existing grant.*

The award may not be split among more than one added investigator. The added investigator need not be located at the same institution as the principal investigator of the existing *Active Living Research* grant. However, the application should describe how mentoring and meaningful involvement in the existing project will occur despite geographic distance.

LEGAL STATUS

Diversity Partnership Grants are separate grants requiring a proposal, budget, project support forms and reporting that are separate from the existing grant.

HOW TO APPLY

The application must be a collaborative effort of both the added investigator and the principal investigator of the existing *Active Living Research* grant. The added investigator should be named as principal investigator on the Diversity Partnership Grant proposal. The principal investigator of the existing grant should be named as co-principal investigator of the Diversity Partnership Grant. If justified, a co-principal investigator on the existing grant could be the co-principal investigator of the Diversity Partnership Grant. The home institution of the added investigator should be named as the proposed grantee for the Diversity Partnership Grant.

The application must be submitted to *Active Living Research* no later than July 22, 2005 (4 p.m. PDT). Decisions about awards will be announced on September 19, 2005.

All interested applicants must request a formal application packet from *Active Living Research*. To do so, please contact the program by e-mail (alr@projects.sdsu.edu) or by calling (619) 260-5537 well in advance of the deadline. Complete instructions will be enclosed with the application packet, including forms for signature by grantee institutions.

The request for a Diversity Partnership Grant must be a proposal that makes a clear case for the supplemental project, the ways in which it complements the existing grant and the qualifications of the applicant. Documents to be enclosed include the following, as more fully described in the application packet:

1. A cover page, including contact information about the added investigator, the added investigator's home institution, and the principal investigator of the existing grant.
2. A description of no more than 12 pages, double-spaced, prepared by the added investigator in collaboration with the principal investigator of the existing *Active Living Research* grant. The description must include:
 - a. A summary or abstract, a description of the current status of the work plan for the existing grant, and a timeline of the existing *Active Living Research* project (1-3 pages).
 - b. A description of the added research component proposed by the added investigator, including specific aims and policy relevance, background/rationale (no literature review needed), research design and methods, and products/dissemination (6-8 pages).
 - c. A description of how the added investigator will participate in the existing research project and how the background, experience and interests of the added investigator will enhance the specific research goals of the existing *Active Living Research* project (1-3 pages).
 - d. A description of how the research experience will expand and foster the independent research capabilities and career of the added investigator (1-2 pages).

- e. A description of at least one product of the Diversity Partnership Grant (and a timeline for producing same) in the form of either:
 - i. A scientific manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, with the added investigator as first author.
 - ii. A grant proposal for future funding to be submitted to NIH or a comparable funding source, with the added investigator being the principal investigator (1/2 page-1 page).
3. A biographical sketch of the added investigator, including education and training, research experience, publications, recent presentations, and any grants received to date (1-3 pages).
4. A detailed work plan, budget and budget narrative. Follow budget guidelines found on the RWJF Web site:
http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/RWJF_BudgetPrepGuidelines_1103.pdf.
The budget should include \$1,610 for travel to the Active Living Research annual grantee meeting and annual conference for each year of the grant.
5. A statement by the principal investigator of the existing *Active Living Research* grant in support of the applicant that describes the focus and mechanisms for incorporating the added investigator into the work of the ongoing grant. In the case of added investigators who are new to the study of active living environments and policies (three or fewer years in the field), the statement also should describe a plan for mentoring the added investigator.
6. A letter of support from a relevant colleague or supervisor of the proposed added investigator. If the added investigator is employed at an organization other than the home institution of the existing *Active Living Research* grant, the letter should come from a senior investigator at the home institution of the added investigator.
7. A full curriculum vitae for the added investigator.

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of proposals submitted.

Proposals should be submitted via courier or mail and received by the NPO no later than July 22, 2005 (4 p.m. PDT) to:

Leslie S. Linton, J.D., M.P.H., *Deputy Director*
Active Living Research
San Diego State University
3900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 260-5544

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Evidence that participation in the Diversity Partnership Grant will enhance the knowledge, skills and/or research career of the added investigator, and that, in the case of new investigators, meaningful mentoring will be offered.
2. The potential for the partnership created/facilitated by the Diversity Partnership Grant to promote a greater understanding of how environmental and policy factors affect physical activity levels of understudied, at-risk populations and to provide publishable research.
 - The potential for the added investigator to improve the quality of the existing *Active Living Research* grant.
 - The scientific merit of the proposed added research component.
 - The qualifications of the proposed individual, including career goals, prior research training, research potential and any relevant background and experience. *Active Living Research* is particularly interested in improving the quality of research of understudied populations and will consider the ability of an added investigator—by virtue of background, experience and commitment—to enhance understanding of understudied populations.
 - Preference will be given to added investigators with demonstrable interest and potential to make research related to active living a major focus of their career.
3. Evidence that the proposed partnership will itself be of high quality, including, but not limited to:
 - Clear delineation of what the added investigator wishes to contribute to the existing grant.
 - Clear delineation of how the principal investigator of the existing *Active Living Research* grant can contribute to the subject matter of the Diversity Partnership Grant.
4. Evidence that the manuscript or grant proposal led by the added investigator is likely to be produced within a reasonable time following completion of the Diversity Partnership Grant.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Diversity Partnership grantees will be subject to monitoring and reporting requirements of *Active Living Research* and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

If the added investigator has to withdraw before the end of the Diversity Partnership Grant, replacement of the individual and continuation of the award generally will not be an option, and unexpended funds ordinarily will need to be refunded to RWJF. In the event that the added investigator transfers to another institution and appropriate arrangements can be made to continue the relationship with the existing *Active Living Research* grant, continuation of the award may be negotiated. However, the continuation would require submission of new proposal documents in negotiation with the National Program Office.

Please refer questions to:

Leslie S. Linton, J.D, M.P.H., *Deputy Director*
Active Living Research
E-mail: llinton@projects.sdsu.edu
Phone: (619) 260-5544

ABOUT RWJF

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, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. The Foundation seeks to:

- Assure that all Americans have access to quality health care at reasonable cost.
- Improve the quality of care and support for people with chronic health conditions.
- Promote healthy communities and lifestyles.
- Reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

For more information, visit www.rwjf.org

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