

March of Dimes Foundation

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General Request and Instructions for Unsolicited Public Policy Research Proposals

The March of Dimes Office of Government Affairs uses data and findings from policy research to inform the Foundation's advocacy efforts on behalf of pregnant women, infants and children. Our efforts include sponsoring relevant policy research as well as learning from research efforts funded by others.

Requests for proposals (RFPs) from policy researchers are in development on an ongoing basis. Interested researchers should keep watching this page for the latest RFPs; however, public policy research proposals are accepted at any time and without solicitation. For more information about the March of Dimes policy research activities, researchers should contact Colleen Sonosky (csonosky@marchofdimes.com), Director, Public Policy Research.

Eligible Projects/Proposals

The Foundation seeks to fund the research of individuals or organizations/entities ("Researchers") for projects directly related to **public policy issues affecting health care for pregnant women, infants and children** ("Projects"). Public Policy research areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Access to care, the scope of health insurance coverage, and quality of care for pregnant women, infants and children.
- Health care services for children with special health care needs.
- Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program and other public programs insuring pregnant women, infants, and children
- The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Healthy Start, WIC, newborn screening, and other federal and state programs providing services to pregnant women, infants, and children.
- Federal and state policies and programs to prevent birth defects, including public and professional education and birth defects surveillance programs.
- Public policy issues related to genetics, public and professional education and health insurance and employment issues.
- The relationship between health insurance coverage and the health of pregnant women, infants, and children.
- How the changing health care delivery system affects health care for pregnant women, infants, and children.

Nature of Projects Considered

Projects considered for funding may involve analysis of existing data, conduct of original surveys, preparation of case studies, or development of a scope of work for a large-scale study.



Scope of Funding

The Foundation will fund Projects for amounts not to exceed \$15,000 over the course of one year. Foundation funding for a Project may be combined with other funding obtained by Researcher from other appropriate funding resources.

Use of Project Funds

Researchers may use Foundation funding for the Project ("Project Funds") for Project staff salaries, consultant fees, data purchase, data processing, office operations, and other direct expenses associated with the conduct of the Project. Project Funds may not be used to deliver or finance health care services, construct or renovate facilities, purchase equipment, or for any such other expenses or activities which may conflict with the Foundation's policies or mission.

Researchers may not subcontract, assign, or otherwise transfer to any third party (individual or entity/organization) the Project, or responsibilities in whole or in part therefore, without obtaining the prior written consent of the Foundation.

Who May Apply

Researchers with relevant research proposals may apply for funding. Priority will be given to new Researchers who, in the two years prior to application, have completed an advanced degree in public health, public policy, economics, or other fields, or are in the process of completing such a degree. The Foundation will accept proposals from both not-for-profit and private sector Researchers. The most promising unsolicited proposals will:

- *contribute to the mission of the March of Dimes Foundation
- *be innovative
- *show potential for measurable impact and meaningful policy change

The competitiveness of the Foundation's request for policy proposals varies depending on whether there is a specific RFP at any given time. Unsolicited proposals are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Proposal Process Instructions

Researchers seeking funding should submit a written proposal to the Foundation, which is no longer than five (5) pages double spaced (not including CV's and references) and includes the following information:

1. A summary cover page with
 - *contact name/organization name
 - *complete mailing address
 - *telephone numbers and e-mail address
 - *brief purpose of funding
 - *a brief (three to four sentence) project description including a description of the **public policy relevance and impact of the research.**

Followed by

2. A description of the proposed research project which identifies that project's objectives, data sources, methodology and hypotheses, and expected outcomes, and include a statement as to how the research project will add to knowledge on issues important to the Foundation's mission, particularly in relation to its potential impact on public policy.
3. The amount of funding requested
4. A detailed project budget and schedule/timetable
5. Brief qualifications of project staff, including relevant education, work experience, publications, and other research projects underway. Individuals seeking funding as new researchers should include three (3) professional references. If funding is sought by an organization/entity, information on the organization/entity and a contact person must be provided within on the proposal.

6. Other current or pending sources of funding for project, if any.
7. A signed acknowledgment letter confirming Researcher's receipt, understanding and agreement to the conditions of this request for proposals ("RFP"), inclusive of the Foundation's *Policies and Instructions for Public Policy Research Project Funding*, which is incorporated into this RFP and made a part hereof (see links below).

Timing

The Foundation is now accepting proposals for 2009 on a rolling basis. Unsolicited proposals will be considered as they are submitted. Initial notification that the proposal has been received will be given within one week of day of receipt. Within one month of receipt, applicants will be sent one of the following:

- A letter confirming that your project will be supported and detailing next steps in the awards process;
- A request for additional information or revisions to the proposal; or
- A letter informing you that the project will not be funded.

The Foundation reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to decline to review any proposal it may receive.

Foundation Contact

Interested Researchers should contact Colleen Sonosky, Director, Public Policy Research, Office of Government Affairs, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, 1146 19th Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20036. E-mail address: csonosky@marchofdimes.com.