



Evidence for Action

Investigator-Initiated Research to Build a Culture of Health

An Informational Session on the Evidence for Action

Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity Call for Proposals

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University of California
San Francisco



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Today's Speakers



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Agenda

- An Introduction to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) & Evidence for Action (E4A)
- What We're Looking For – Program Fit
- Application & Review Process
- Eligibility & Funding
- Grantee Expectations & Perspectives
- Q&A

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation





Why We Updated the Call for Proposals

- The Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity CFP reflects a more explicit focus on racial equity.
- **Racial equity** refers to the conditions in which race or ethnicity no longer predict a person's ability to live a healthy life.
- Racial equity research requires attention to *what topic* is being studied, *how* the study is conducted, *who* the research benefits, and *who* is involved in the process.

Program Fit



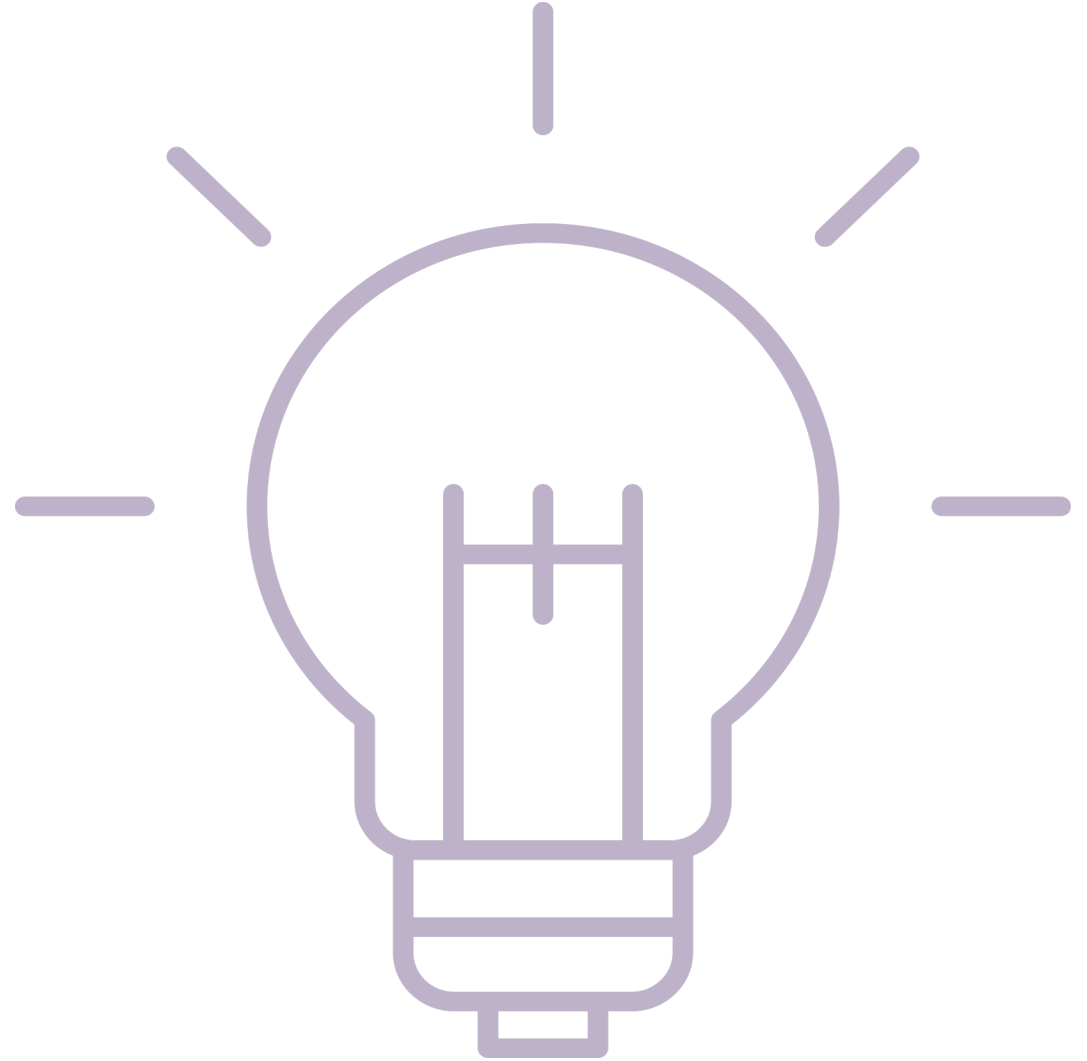
What We're Looking For

- We fund studies that can “move the needle” on health and racial equity.
- This includes evaluations of interventions that have the potential to interrupt or remedy unjust systems and practices.
- It also includes research to inform novel solutions to structural and systemic racism.



Evidence that Informs & Drives Action

- The research question was developed in response to community needs and priorities.
- Those who will use the research are engaged in the project.
- Dissemination of findings reaches decision-makers, impacted communities, and other stakeholders.





Research Approaches & Designs

- We prioritize research evaluating the health and racial equity impacts of interventions (e.g., policies, programs, practices).
- Interventions do not necessarily have to be developed with the aim(s) of impacting health and/or racial equity.
- For evaluation studies, we have a strong preference for designs that support causal inference.
- When possible, differential effects on different subgroups (heterogeneous treatment effects) should be evaluated.
- Research should reflect the tenets of the Equitable Evaluation Framework.

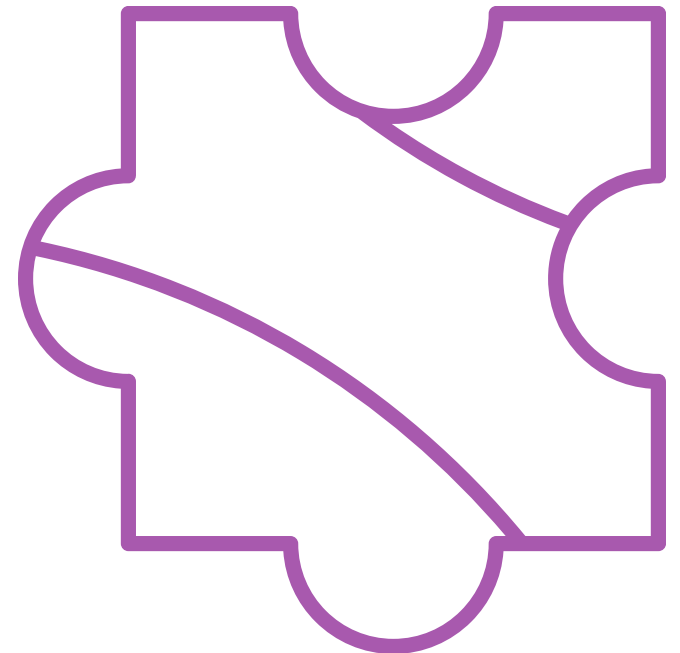


Research Approaches & Designs

- Funding is also available for earlier stage research *explicitly focused on advancing racial equity*.
- Examples might include:
 - Projects that identify promising interventions in response to community needs and priorities;
 - Pilot studies on the effectiveness or feasibility of novel interventions;
 - Implementation studies of approaches that advance racial equity; or
 - Development and validation of new key measures of racial equity.

What's Not A Good Fit

- Research with limited or implausible practical implications
- Descriptive or exploratory research
- Literature reviews
- Validation of screening tools
- Program implementation & operation costs



Application & Review





Selection Criteria

- Relevance
- Actionability
- Methodological rigor
- Inclusion of health outcome measures
- Feasibility
- Qualifications of the team



Methodological Approach

- Evaluations of interventions should use designs that support causal inference, powered to detect meaningful and plausible effect sizes.
 - e.g., randomized control trials, natural experiments, quasi-experiments
- The research approach - quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods - should be appropriate for answering the proposed research question(s).
- Methodological rigor will be evaluated by the standards appropriate to the study design and approach.



Actionability

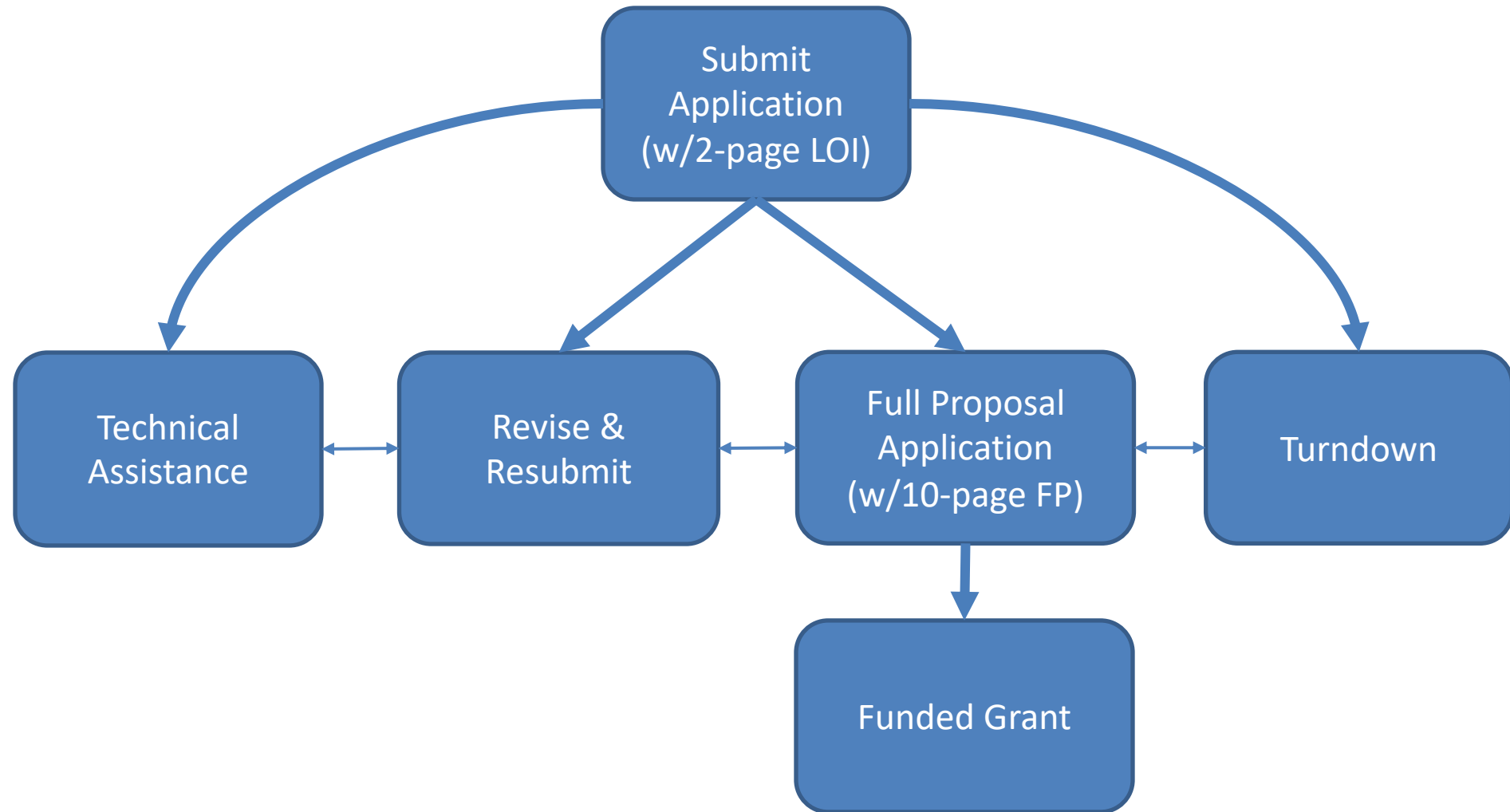
- Findings should inform real-world action and decisions that can advance health and racial equity.
 - Timing and conditions are “right.”
 - Positive, negative, or null findings are all informative.
- There must be a plan and commitment to disseminate findings to decision-makers, communities, and other stakeholders.



Qualifications of the Team

- Teams should be diverse and composed of partners with methodological, subject matter, and practice expertise.
- These various forms of expertise should ensure that research projects are both grounded in theory and reflect real world conditions and dynamics.
- Project teams should have plans for power sharing and a commitment to an equitable research process.

Review Process & Outcomes





Technical Assistance

- Design Consultation
 - E4A team member works with applicants to improve the rigor, feasibility, and impact of the proposed study.
- Matching Service
 - Facilitate partnerships between organizations implementing interventions and researchers.



Funding

- There is no budget cap.
 - Typical E4A funding is in the \$300-\$500k range.
 - Budgets are weighed against the likely contribution and importance of the work.
- We have a strong preference for grant periods of between 18 to 36 months
 - Durations of up to 48 months are permitted if justified.

Grantee Expectations & Perspectives





Grantee Expectations

- Pre-register studies.
- Commit to disseminating findings beyond academic settings during the grant period.
- Partner with E4A to enhance dissemination.
- Publish manuscripts with open access.
- Actively participate in the E4A grantee network.
- Attend grantee and other RWJF/E4A events, both virtual and in-person.

Grantee Experiences



The Healthy Neighborhoods Project (HNP)

Building a Culture of Health Through the Built Environment: Adaptable Solutions to Community Well-Being

- Researching the relationship between the presence of blighted property, community violence, and various health & social outcomes experienced by residents across New Orleans.



Before HNP's "cleaning and greening" treatment



After HNP's "cleaning and greening" treatment

Grantee Perspectives



- Community Engaged & Equitable Research:
 - Including individuals that could benefit the most/are impacted the most by the research.
 - Forming partnerships with community based & serving organizations.
 - Having a research team that is familiar with the historical, cultural, and current local context.
 - Engaging participants and informing them about research activities & sharing findings through dissemination efforts.
 - Planning for long term sustainability of positive project outcomes.
 - Implementing mixed methodological approaches.

Grantee Perspectives



- Working with E4A

"I'll be truthful, see like there's a stark difference in the quality of life that people have in this city. Like when you say go into New Orleans East I have trouble actually going to that part of the city because I've had some really traumatic experiences, even though I am from that part of the city. And then, when I go somewhere that's like around St. Charles or like on the Upper/Lower Garden District, everything is within walking distance, no matter if it's niche shops or like things that are essential to people's like everyday like living, such as having access to doctors, having access to food, like art centers and whatnot just like..."

-Young Adult Focus Group Participant

Question & Answer Session





Applicant Resources

- Applicant Guide
- Frequently Asked Questions
- E4A Methods Notes
- Office Hours

Contact Us



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Thanks for joining us!

