

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Dissertation Grants

Assuring the Future of Public Health Systems & Services Research

A solicitation from the



with funding from the



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Revised January 8, 2009

BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2005, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded the University of Kentucky College of Public Health to develop a database for Public Health Systems & Services Research (PHSSR) in conjunction with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to strengthen the capacity to conduct research in the emerging field of public health systems. One of the project objectives was to disseminate information about the new NLM PHSSR database to the research community. The goal of our initial Call for Proposals was to assure the future of Public Health Systems & Services Research by encouraging young investigators to engage in research using datasets described in the PHSSR subset of Health Services Research Resources (HSRR). Since that initial Call for Proposals, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has provided additional funding to continue to grow the field of PHSSR. This new round of funding is intended to fund promising young investigators who will engage in research using data sets contained in the PHSR subset of NLM's Health Services Research Resources (HSRR), other relevant data sets that may be available, or data collected by the researcher.

What is PHSSR?

Public health systems & services research is an emerging field of inquiry dedicated to analysis of the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services in various communities, and examining the effect that these services have on population health status.

Several research agendas have been developed to highlight the research needed to help practice agencies and organizations better protect the public's health. The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council) has examined existing PHSSR agendas and developed lists of research needs related to each of the following public health topics:

- Organization and Structure
- Finance
- Workforce
- Technology, Data, and Methods

Proposed projects must address one or more of the research needs identified in the document prepared by the Council. This document can be found on the PHSSR site, www.publichealthsystems.org. However, all ideas for research will be considered.

TOTAL AWARDS

- We do not specify the number of awards.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

An eligible applicant will be a pre-doctoral candidate that has completed all work necessary to begin research on their final research project (dissertation, or equivalent) and will be finished with their research within two academic years of the awarding of the grant (NOTE: Grants will ideally be awarded in March or April 2010. However, grants may be awarded at a later date to promising researchers). Applicants must have a mentor at an institution with Public Health Systems & Services Research experience with the capacity to support PHSSR as documented by a letter of support and curriculum vita from the mentor. Applicants who have difficulty finding a mentor may contact Tourette Jackson at 859-218-2289 or via email PHSSR212@uky.edu , for a referral to other potential mentors.

Proposed projects are preferred to be conducted using secondary data analysis of the *PHSSR tagged database* found in the PHSSR subset of NLM's HSRR.

To find the PHSSR data subset of the HSRR database, please see http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hsrr_search/. Click "Browse" and then click on "PHSR" under topic subset. However; as previously stated, applicants are not limited to the use of these data sets. All research proposals relevant to PHSSR will be given equal consideration.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grant funds may be used for data related costs such as purchase of datasets, research assistant time, data processing, data analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel and other direct project expenses. Funds may not be used to pay the applicant's salary and/or benefits or purchase capital equipment, and funds may not be used to pay indirect costs.

Awards will be made to the applicant's university/organization and will require approval of the applicant's university/organization prior to disbursement of funds.

At the close of the funding period, project directors will be expected to publish an article regarding their findings in a special supplement of a peer reviewed journal to be named later. Mini grant recipients and mentors are expected to participate in all mentor/grantee activities and present.

KEENELAND CONFERENCE

If awarded a mini grant you are required and your mentor is encouraged to participate in all activities related to the annual Keeneland Public Health Systems & Services Research Conference, to be held **April 20-22, 2010** in Lexington, KY.

- Please make sure you are available during the aforementioned dates. The conference provides an opportunity to work on this essential service. We hope that the communication engendered will alert scholars to topics of relevance to the practice community, and that the researcher will have the opportunity for letting practice know new information that can improve public health services.
- Mini grantees are required and mentors encouraged to participate in all mentor/grantee activities. Expenses for hotel and airfare will be covered for both participants.
- Additional information can be found online at www.publichealthsystems.org on the Events and Conferences section. The conference provides networking sessions and the opportunity to present and discuss research topics.

HOW TO APPLY

For application and proposal instructions go to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Grantmaking Online at <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/uky2>

Proposals must be submitted no later than **Thursday, January 21, 2010**, by **3:00 p.m. EST**. Once your proposal is received, it will be reviewed by a team of PHSSR experts. You will be notified of whether the project was funded by the middle of February. Individual critiques of proposals submitted will not be provided. If awarded, the grant will begin April 2010, and an initial project synopsis must be completed by March 2011. Questions may be directed to:

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