

# 2022 Call for Proposals

## Systems for Action: Systems and Services Research to Build a Culture of Health

July 13, 2022  
3pm ET

**Systems for Action**  
**National Coordinating Center**  
*Systems and Services Research to Build a Culture of Health*

colorado school of  
**public health**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

- **Overview of the RWJF Systems for Action Program**
- **Overview of the 2022 Call for Proposals**
- **How to Apply**
- **Q&A**

- **Session is being recorded**
- **Link to slides and recording will be sent to all registrants:**  
<http://systemsforaction.org/funding-opportunities-2022>
- **All attendees are muted during the webinar**
- **Submit your questions using the Q&A box**

## Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



**Carolyn Miller, MA, MS**  
Senior Program Officer  
Research, Evaluation & Learning



**Jacquelynn Y. Orr, DrPH**  
Program Officer  
Research, Evaluation & Learning

## University of Colorado – National Program Office



**Glen Mays, PhD, MPH**  
Director  
Professor and Chair, Dept of Health  
Systems, Management and Policy



**Carrington Lott, MPH**  
Program Manager



**Lanee Bounds**  
Business Services Program Manager



**Saddyna Belmashkan, MPH**  
Communications Coordinator

# Helping medical, social & public health systems work better together to achieve health equity

## Systems for Action

*Systems and Services Research to Build a Culture of Health*

S4A supports rigorous research to identify novel mechanisms for aligning delivery and financing systems in **medical care, public health, and social & community services** in ways that improve **health** and **wellbeing**, promote **efficiencies** in resource use, and advance **health equity**



[www.systemsforaction.org](http://www.systemsforaction.org)

## Research Agenda

Delivery & Financing System Alignment  
for a Culture of Health

Updated June 2019

# 2022 Call for Proposals

## We seek research studies that:

- Focus on an important **health equity** problem and the affected communities/populations
- Study an innovative strategy for aligning **medical, social, and public health systems** to solve the problem
- Evaluate the **feasibility and/or impact** of alignment using a scientifically rigorous research design. Impact studies should evaluate the **causal effects** of the alignment strategy on the health equity problem.
- Evaluate the extent to which the alignment strategy demonstrates potential or success in dismantling forms of **structural racism and inequity** embedded within delivery and financing systems
- Propose a **research team** with theoretical, methodological, and operational expertise that is directly relevant to the system alignment strategy and the proposed scientific approach
- Incorporate authentic **community engagement methods** into the study
- Plan specific **research translation activities** that help relevant community stakeholders use the resulting scientific knowledge to align medical, social, and public health systems
- Special interest in studies that address one or more of the **5 areas for future development** (see funding opportunity brochure), including studies that incorporate one or more recommendations identified by the [RWJF National Commission to Transform Public Health Data Systems](#).

See Funding Opportunity Brochure: <https://anr.rwjf.org/viewCfp.do?cfpId=1637&cfpOverviewId=>

## Special areas of interest:

- Dismantling structural racism embedded within delivery & financing systems
- Expanding the availability and quality of social services and supports within the community, rather than focusing narrowly on screening & referral to existing resources
- Reallocating and repurposing resources from the medical sector to address gaps in capacity within the social services and public health sectors
- Giving social sector and public health sector stakeholders, and other community stakeholders, greater voice & authority in collaborative multi-sector work.
- Enhancing the quality and completeness of communication & information exchange between sectors
- Engaging the public health sector more meaningfully and deliberately in multi-sector collaborative efforts
- Implementing recommendations identified by the [RWJF National Commission to Transform Public Health Data Systems](#), including creating equitable data governing structures; capturing accurate granular data on race, ethnicity, language and other social constructs; and ensuring that data systems capture and address structural racism and other forms of inequity.;

See Funding Opportunity Brochure: <https://anr.rwjf.org/viewCfp.do?cfpId=1637&cfpOverviewId=>

## Key characteristics of successful proposals:

- Alignment strategies that engage **all three sectors**: medical care, public health, and social services (see Systems for Action FAQs).
- Clear & convincing logic model describing how the alignment strategy will address health equity problems and dismantle **structural racism and inequities**.
- Rigorous, clearly-specified **scientific research approach**, data sources, measures, and analytic methods.
- A focus on measuring & achieving **system-level change** in dismantling structural racism and inequities embedded in delivery & finance systems.
- A strong strategy for helping others access and use study findings: **designing for dissemination**



## Two Categories of Awards

### 1. Developmental Studies

- Receive up to **\$100k** in funding for pilot testing and feasibility testing
- Up to **12 months** to conduct the research and translation/dissemination activities
- Up to 5 studies selected for funding

### 2. Impact Studies

- Receive up to **\$500k** in funding to evaluate impact
- Up to **36 months** to conduct the research and translation/dissemination activities
- Up to 4 studies selected for funding
- Must have a completed pilot study of the proposed system alignment approach with results that document the feasibility of the approach and its acceptability to key stakeholders.

All funds should be used primarily to support research activities rather than to support implementation of the proposed alignment strategy.

- **CFP landing page:**  
<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2022/systems-for-action--systems-and-services-research-to-build-a-culture-of-health.html>
- **Full 11-page funding opportunity brochure:**  
<https://anr.rwjf.org/viewCfp.do?cfpld=1637&cfpOverviewId=>
- **S4A Frequently Asked Questions:**  
<http://systemsforaction.org/call-proposals-faqs-2022>
- **S4A Research Agenda:** <http://systemsforaction.org/projects/research-agenda>
- **Descriptions of previously funded S4A research studies:**  
<http://systemsforaction.org/our-research>

# 2022 Call for Proposals

## Carefully read the **full 11-page** Funding Opportunity brochure

Funding Opportunities

### Systems for Action: Systems and Services Research to Build a Culture of Health

2022 Call for Proposals

Release Date: July 6, 2022 | Application Deadline: Multiple

SHARE



#### AWARD CATEGORIES

The full proposal application deadline for both award categories is October 5, 2022 (3pm ET). Applicants must read the following descriptions to determine which award category (Development Studies or Impact Studies) they will apply for, and apply only to that specific award category:

[Developmental Studies](#)

[Impact Studies](#)

#### Purpose

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) works to build a Culture of Health that ensures everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy by removing obstacles such as poverty and discrimination, providing access to quality education, good jobs with fair pay, affordable housing, safe environments, and effective health care. The historical and contemporary manifestations of systemic racism and injustice play powerful roles in sustaining obstacles to health, transmitting them across generations, and making them resistant to remedies. Social determinants of health such as those related to housing instability, food insecurity, social isolation, financial strain, and interpersonal violence remain dominant causes of preventable disease and injury.

Systems for Action (S4A) is a signature research program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) that helps to build the evidence base for a Culture of Health by rigorously testing new ways of connecting the nation's fragmented medical, social, and public health systems. New strategies and

#### Application Deadline

October 05, 2022, 3:00 p.m. ET

[APPLY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES](#)

#### Application Deadline

October 05, 2022, 3:01 p.m. ET

[APPLY FOR IMPACT STUDIES](#)

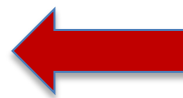
#### Key Materials

[Preview a sample proposal of Development Studies before submitting →](#)

[Preview a sample proposal of Impact Studies before submitting →](#)

[Full Funding Opportunity \(PDF\) →](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions →](#)



## Note the Six Selection Criteria on **Pages 6 and 7**

### SELECTION CRITERIA

***Innovative Systems Alignment Approach:*** The application describes an innovative approach for helping actors within social service systems, medical care systems, and public health systems work together to dismantle forms of structural racism and inequity embedded within these systems. The systems alignment approach engages actors from all three types of systems. A clear theory of change is described and/or visualized for how the alignment approach is expected to improve health and health equity for population groups that experience structural racism and health inequities. For applicants applying to the Impact Studies award category, pilot test results must demonstrate the feasibility and acceptability of the systems alignment approach and its potential to dismantle forms of structural racism and inequity.

***Rigorous Scientific Approach for Evaluating Feasibility or Impact:*** The application describes an approach for evaluating the feasibility or impact of the proposed systems alignment approach on relevant health, economic, and/or social outcomes using scientifically rigorous research designs, analytic approaches, sampling, measures and data



## Note what to include in your proposal narrative on **Pages 8 and 9**

The proposal narrative should include a discussion of each of the areas described above under **Selection Criteria**, including: (1) a statement of study aims, their significance, and their responsiveness to the objectives of this solicitation; (2) a description of the systems alignment approach to be studied, and the medical care, public health, and social service systems to be aligned; (3) a description of the research design and scientific approach to be used in evaluating either feasibility or impact of the proposed systems alignment approach, including information on data sources and measures, comparison groups, analytic methods, sampling strategies and statistical power [if applicant is applying for the Impact Studies award category, this section must also describe the existing pilot test results and provide a link to a publication, report, working paper, or research brief]; (4) a description of how the study will identify the potential or actual success of the alignment approach in dismantling forms of structural racism and inequity by more equitably distributing power, influence and resources across collaborating health and social organizations; (5) a description of key personnel on the research team and their relevant qualifications and experience, including individuals with expertise in medical care, public health, and social services systems; (6) a description of working partner engagement methods to be used, including engagement of communities experiencing structural racism and inequity, and the medical, social, and public health systems that serve these communities; (7) a description of the



- **Public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code**
- **Based in the United States or its territories**
- **Multi-organizational consortia must have a single eligible organization designated as the primary applicant**

**Sept 6, 2022 (3PM ET):** Optional 1-page Letter of Intent via [online LOI](#) link:

- Title
- Brief description of the proposed research
- Listing of the participating investigators and institutions
- Indicate whether applying for Developmental Award or Impact Award
- Not binding
- Not required but will assist the program office with reviewers

**Oct 5, 2022 (3PM ET):** Full application via the [RWJF online system](#)

- Applicant information
- Title and Project Summary
- Proposal narrative
- Budget worksheet & budget narrative
- Supporting documents: (1) CVs for key personnel up to 5; (2) timeline; (3) letters of support from each collaborating organization, including each organization providing access to data; and (4) pilot test results documentation (impact studies only)

# Important Dates - one more time

- **September 6, 2022 (3pm ET)**

Deadline for receipt of one-page optional LOI, submitted at:

[https://ucdenver.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1ApmDu6zvhc1gp0](https://ucdenver.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ApmDu6zvhc1gp0)

- **October 5, 2022 (3pm ET)\***

Deadline for receipt of full application via RWJF online system

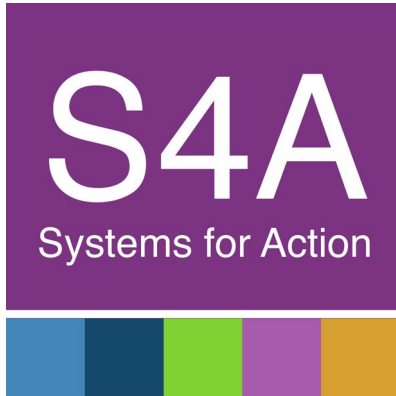
<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2022/systems-for-action--systems-and-services-research-to-build-a-culture-of-health.html>

- **January 15, 2023:** Grant start date (subject to change)

*\*All proposals or applications must be submitted via the RWJF online system. All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the 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, late submissions will not be accepted.*



# Questions?



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[www.systemsforaction.org](http://www.systemsforaction.org)

systemsforaction@cuanschutz.edu

 @Systems4Action

***Systems for Action*** is a National Program Office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a collaborative effort of the Colorado School of Public Health, administered by the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, CO.



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