

2024 Systems for Action Call for Proposals *Systems and Services Research to Address Systemic Racism*

January 9, 2024 | 3pm ET

Systems for Action

National Program Office

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 2024 Call for Proposals (CFP)
- How to Apply
- Q&A

- Session is being recorded
- Link to slides and recording will be sent to all registrants:
<https://systemsforaction.org/applicant-resources>
- All attendees are muted during the webinar
- Please submit your questions using the Q&A box

Systems for Action Leadership

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



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Research, Evaluation & Learning



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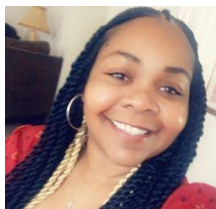
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Helping medical, social & public health systems work better together to achieve health equity

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

Research Agenda

Delivery & Financing System Alignment
for a Culture of Health

Updated June 2019

2024 Call for Proposals

- Focus on strategies to disrupt and dismantle the health effects of **systemic racism** that operate through medical, social & public health systems.
- Identify an innovative strategy for aligning medical, social, and public health systems to disrupt & dismantle forms of systemic racism (i.e. the **alignment strategy**)
- Evaluate the **feasibility or impact** of the alignment strategy using a scientifically rigorous research design. Two Award Categories:
 1. **Developmental Studies:** preliminary research, feasibility & pilot testing of the alignment strategy
 2. **Impact Studies:** estimate the impact/effectiveness of the alignment strategy in disrupting the health effects of systemic racism
- Implement robust **research translation activities** to help relevant community partners use the resulting scientific knowledge to align systems beyond the study settings

Topic #1: Understanding Systemic Racism Embedded in Medical, Social, and Public Health Systems

- Studies should improve our understanding about specific forms of systemic racism that operate within or affect medical, social and public health systems, and fill important gaps in scientific knowledge about these forms of racism and how to disrupt them.
- Studies must focus on specific forms of systemic racism where the body of existing scientific evidence is insufficient to motivate and inform strategies for disrupting them. Studies must identify important gaps in scientific knowledge and evidence about forms of systemic racism, describe how these gaps will be addressed by the proposed new research, and indicate how the new research will inform the development of new system alignment strategies to address systemic racism.
- Studies should address the following key components: (1) elucidate how forms of systemic racism operate and persist within and across medical, social, and public health systems; (2) quantify the impact of these forms of racism on the health and wellbeing of affected populations; and (3) explore potential pathways and opportunities for dismantling and/or disrupting these forms of racism and their adverse health effects.

See Pages 2-3 of Funding Opportunity Brochure: <https://anr.rwjf.org/viewCfp.do?cfpld=1718&cfpOverviewId=>

Topic #2: Addressing Resource Inequities Across Systems

- Studies should evaluate novel strategies for equitably allocating and sharing resources across medical, social, and public health systems in order to support collaborative solutions to systemic racism.
- Studies may focus on solutions to forms of systemic racism that make it difficult for minority communities and minority-serving institutions to secure equitable amounts of funding, staffing, and other resources needed to meet community needs.
- Studies may test novel financing mechanisms, payment models, staffing models, or other resource-sharing models that help medical, social and public health systems work together to address forms of systemic racism.
- Studies may also test solutions to "wrong pocket problems" that arise when the costs and benefits of collaborative work are distributed unevenly among medical, social, and public health system partners.

Topic #3: Strengthening the Voice and Authority of Marginalized Communities in Systems Alignment Strategies

- Studies should evaluate strategies for strengthening the voice and influence of marginalized and racialized communities in determining how medical, social, and public health systems operate and work together to address forms of systemic racism.
- Studies may test novel governance models such as governing board representation and authority, novel community deliberation and decision-making mechanisms such as participatory budgeting strategies, novel approaches to public reporting and disclosure requirements, and other innovative approaches to community oversight and accountability.
- Studies should include a focus on engaging people with lived experience related to systemic racism in developing solutions.

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 systemic 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 systemic racism and inequities embedded in delivery & finance systems.
- A commitment to prioritizing community-initiated and community-engaged study approaches by incorporating individuals with knowledge of the communities experiencing forms of systemic racism and individuals with expertise in approaches for dismantling systemic racism.
- 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 preliminary research, pilot and feasibility testing
- Up to **12 months** to conduct the project
- Up to 5 studies selected for funding

2. Impact Studies

- Receive up to **\$500K** in funding to estimate impact of alignment strategy
- Up to **36 months** to conduct the project
- Up to 4 studies selected for funding
- Applicants should provide documentation of preliminary results or pilot test results of the proposed system alignment approach with results that document the feasibility of the approach and its acceptability to key stakeholders.

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

Key CFP Resources

- **CFP Landing Page:**
<https://www.rwjf.org/en/grants/active-funding-opportunities/2023/systems-for-action--systems-and-services-research-to-address-systemic-racism.html>
- **Full 11-Page Funding Opportunity Brochure:**
<https://anr.rwjf.org/viewCfp.do?cfpld=1718&cfpOverviewId=>
- **S4A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**
<https://systemsforaction.org/frequently-asked-questions>
- **LOI Templates:** <https://systemsforaction.org/funding-opportunities>
- **S4A Research Agenda:**
<https://systemsforaction.org/research-agenda>
- **Descriptions of Previously Funded S4A Research Studies:**
<https://systemsforaction.org/grantee-research-projects>

Key CFP Resources

- Weekly CFP Office Hours: <https://systemsforaction.org/applicant-resources>
- If you are a community-based organization (rather than a university or research institution), you can utilize a variety of technical assistance resources and supports available through the [S4A System Alignment Innovation Hub](https://www.tacinc.org/project/the-systems-alignment-innovation-hub/).

<https://www.tacinc.org/project/the-systems-alignment-innovation-hub/>

Email: saih@tacinc.org

2024 Call for Proposals

Carefully read the **full 16-page** Funding Opportunity brochure

Systems and Services Research to Address Systemic Racism

GRANTS > ACTIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES > SYSTEMS FOR ACTION: SYSTEMS AND SERVICES RESEARCH TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC RACISM

Application Deadline

February 07, 2024 3:00 PM

[APPLY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES >](#)

Application Deadline

February 07, 2024 3:00 PM

[APPLY FOR IMPACT STUDIES >](#)

Award Contact

Glen Mays, PhD and Carrington Lott, MPH

systemsforaction@cuanschutz.edu

[View Systems for Action FAQs](#)

Introduction & Purpose

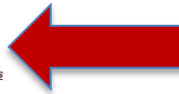
This CFP will provide funding for a new cohort of research studies to produce new, actionable evidence about how to help medical, social, and public health systems work together to address forms of systemic racism. Each study funded under this CFP must identify a specific form of systemic racism that limits health and wellbeing for affected populations; and investigate a novel systems alignment strategy for solving the problem that engages relevant representatives from medical care, public health, and social services systems. The systems alignment strategy to be studied must engage all three types of systems that comprise the health and social ecosystem in American communities—medical care, public health, and social services.

This CFP offers two distinct categories of research awards, which are distinguished based on the completion of pilot testing and feasibility testing with the proposed systems alignment strategy. Applicants must read the following descriptions to determine which category of award they are eligible for, and apply only to that category:

Developmental Research
Impact Research

[View full Call for Proposals](#)

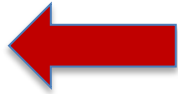
[View Systems for Action FAQs](#)



<https://www.rwjf.org/en/grants/active-funding-opportunities/2023/systems-for-action--systems-and-services-research-to-address-systemic-racism.html>

Note the Six Selection Criteria on **Pages 10 and 11**

SELECTION CRITERIA



Focus on Systemic Racism: The application describes a form of systemic racism that has important implications for the health and wellbeing of populations residing within the U.S. and/or its territories. The application clearly describes the population groups affected by the systemic racism and the current state of scientific knowledge about the systemic racism, including important gaps in evidence and uncertainties.

Innovative Systems Alignment Approach: The application describes an innovative approach for helping representatives within social service systems, medical care systems, and public

Applicants should carefully review the LOI template

2024 Call for Proposals: Systems & Services Research to Address Systemic Racism

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has released a new research funding opportunity through the Systems for Action Research Program as of December 13th, 2023. This year's funding opportunity will award studies rigorously testing innovative approaches of **helping medical, social and public health systems work together to dismantle systemic racism and address the health and social needs of people experiencing health inequities**. Each study supported by the S4A program must examine a novel approach to systems alignment that engages partners from medical care, public health, and social services systems in collaborative efforts to dismantle structural and systemic racism and improve health equity. This 2024 Call for Proposals will provide funding for a new cohort of research studies to produce new, actionable evidence for aligning across the three systems to address systemic racism.

Applicants may apply for one of two available funding categories:

- Developmental Studies (a pilot study)
- Impact Studies (should have preliminary research results)

This funding opportunity will be a two-stage proposal process with an anticipated deadline for Letters of Intent (LOI) on February 7th, 2024. Invitations for full proposals will be in late March 2024.

Register for the Informational Webinar on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 at 3pm ET [here](#).

Register for the Informational Webinar on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 at 3pm ET [here](#).

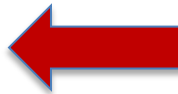
[View Funding Opportunity Brochure](#)

[Apply Here](#)

Download:

[Developmental Study LOI Template](#)

[Impact Study LOI Template](#)



Download LOI Templates for Developmental and Impact Awards: <https://systemsforaction.org/funding-opportunities>

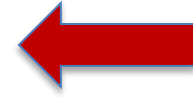
Note what to include in the LOI in the Template

Project Title: (your project title goes here)

Proposal I.D.: (your proposal ID goes here—found in the upper right corner of any screen in this online system)

Applicant Name: (your project director's name goes here)

Legal Name of Applicant Organization: (legal name of applicant organization goes here)



1. Systemic Racism Focus:

- Describe the specific form(s) of systemic racism your proposed research study will address, including the population group(s) affected by this racism.
- Describe how this systemic racism operates within or affects medical, social and public health systems.
- Briefly summarize the current state of scientific knowledge about this form of systemic racism and its connection to medical, social and public health systems, noting important gaps in evidence that your proposed research will address. If your proposal addresses Special Topic #1 from the CFP document (page 3), your LOI must identify important gaps in scientific knowledge about your chosen form(s) of systemic racism, and you must describe how your proposed research will close these gaps.
- We recommend devoting up to 1 page to this section.

2. Systems Alignment Approach:

- Describe your proposed approach for helping representatives within social service systems, medical care systems, and public health systems work together to dismantle or disrupt the form(s) of systemic racism noted above. Your systems alignment approach must engage representatives from all three types of systems. See the S4A program's FAQ page for more information about how these systems are defined, including delivery systems and financing systems.
- Describe your theory of change or logic model for how the alignment approach is expected to improve health and health equity for population groups that experience systemic racism. Include any references to scientific evidence and/or practical/lived experience that support your theory of change and scientific premise.
- For applicants applying to the Impact Studies award category, briefly summarize your preliminary research results and/or pilot test results that demonstrate the feasibility and acceptability of your proposed approach and its potential to dismantle or disrupt forms of systemic racism and inequity. Include references to documents that summarize your preliminary research results and/or pilot test results.
- If your LOI addresses Special Topic #1 from the CFP document (page 3), you may not yet have a systems alignment approach to describe in this section. Instead, describe how your proposed research will inform the development of new system alignment approaches that have the potential to dismantle or disrupt forms of systemic racism.
- We recommend devoting up to 1 page to this section.

- 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

Application Process

February 7th, 2024(3PM ET): Required Letter of Intent deadline via the [RWJF online system](#)

- Title
- Brief description of the proposed research
- Listing of the participating investigators and institutions
- Indicate whether applying for Developmental Award or Impact Award
- Brief description of Systemic Racism Focus
- Brief description of Systems Alignment Approach
- Brief description of Scientific Approach
- Brief description of Expertise and Community Engagement

March 25th, 2024: Invitations sent to applicants to submit a full application

May 22nd, 2024 (3PM ET): Full proposals deadline 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)

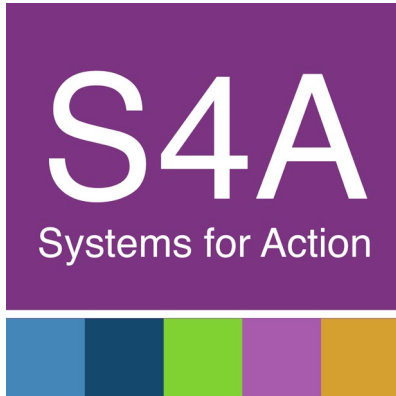
September 15th, 2024: Grant Start Date (Subject to change)

Important Dates - One More Time

- **February 7th, 2024 (3pm ET)**
Deadline for required LOI via [RWJF online system](#)
- **March 25th, 2024**
Applicants invited to submit a full proposal
- **May 22nd, 2024**
Deadline for receipt of full application via RWJF online system
<https://www.rwjf.org/en/grants/active-funding-opportunities/2023/systems-for-action--systems-and-services-research-to-address-systemic-racism.html>
- **September 15th, 2024:** 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

systemsforaction@cuanschutz.edu

 [@Systems4Action](https://twitter.com/Systems4Action)



Transit and Treatment: Aligning Systems to Address Substance Abuse in Connecticut

Wednesday, Jan. 24 | 12pm ET

This S4A study tests how a transit system can enhance substance abuse treatment outcomes and reduce provider-level treatment costs for substance abuse.

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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