Evidence-Based Practice Grant

Application Content Overview

Please review the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the grant program that you are applying to before submitting an application to ensure the program is currently open to applications and understand all program requirements.

This application content overview provides high-level information about the type of information that will be expected to be included in the online application. **Please see the electronic application portal, when available, for specific instructions on format.** Templates referenced in this overview will be made available in the electronic application portal.

The application content overview pertains to the following AANA Foundation Grant Programs:
- Evidence-Based Practice Training Grant
- Career Development Evidence-Based Practice Grant

All grant applications must be submitted electronically to the portal and adhere to the guidelines noted there. To enter the portal, you will need to complete an electronic Pre-Screen Form that provides information on the Principal Investigator and Organization applying for funding. Once the Pre-Screen is submitted, you will receive instructions on how to establish a profile in the electronic application portal with a username and password and proceed with your application.

Applications are expected to have the following content.

Title

Use a descriptive title that highlights the purpose and goals of the EBP project.

Funding Rationale

Please tell us why the AANA Foundation should fund your project. In crafting the rationale, consider the AANA Foundation mission, evidence-based practice priorities, potential impact, and the priorities stated in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Abstract and Relevance Statement

- The abstract should include a short description of the project, highlighting the problem, EBP question, evidence search and synthesis process, project design, implementation and evaluation plan, and anticipated impact.
- The abstract should be able to stand alone in describing your project and be written in a way so that the content is accessible to a variety of audiences.
- In one to two sentences, the relevance statement should indicate anticipated importance and applicability to policy and/or practice in nurse anesthesiology.

Specific Aims

- The specific aims summary should stand alone and is the most important single section of your proposal.
- The summary should begin by briefly addressing the topic, stating what is currently known, the problem and its significance, gaps to be addressed, goals of the EBP project, and potential impact of the work.
- Clear and specific aims should be stated (typically 2-3), numbered or separated into bullet points. Aims should be short, concise statements (1 to 3 sentences) about the objectives that you plan to accomplish and the expected outcomes. Consider whether your stated specific aims are logical and achievable and if they adequately address your implementation strategy.
- Complete the specific aims page with a brief statement of why the work is innovative, the potential outcomes, and the expected impact of the work on the nurse anesthesiology profession.

EBP/QI Strategy

The EBP/QI Strategy section contains 4 subsections including Problem Statement and EBP/QI Question, Evidence Search and Synthesis, Project Design, and Implementation and Evaluation Plan. Use these subheadings to organize this section of the proposal. Use in-text citing with AMA Manual of Style 11th edition format and a separate Reference attachment.

A. Problem Statement and EBP/QI Question (20% of the EBP/QI Strategy Section)

- The goal of this subsection is to answer the "so what" question with respect to the planned evidence-based practice or quality improvement project.
- Begin this section by providing the context of what is already known about the practice problem and what the challenges are with a brief, clear, and concise background discussion.

- Follow this discussion by addressing the importance of the problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposal addresses. Describe the data and sources that validate the problem.
- Describe the patients, interventions, comparisons, and outcomes. Present the EBP question.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve the quality of clinical practice in the field of nurse anesthesiology.
- Describe how your design and approach to the problem will lead to sustained impacts on policy or practice in the field of anesthesia.

B. Evidence Search and Synthesis (30% of the Research Strategy Section)

- The goal of this subsection is to describe the methods you will employ to search the scientific evidence and synthesize findings. Describe any novel approaches or methodologies to be employed.
- Describe how you will conduct an internal and external search for evidence and the type of evidence to be reviewed.
- Describe how you will appraise the level and quality of each piece of evidence (e.g., experimental, quasi-experimental, non-experimental, consensus opinion, experiential; high/good/low quality).
- Describe how you will summarize the individual evidence and synthesize findings, including if any statistical approaches will be employed (e.g., meta-analysis).
- Describe how you will develop best evidence recommendations.
- Make it clear what is innovative and rigorous about the approach to evidence synthesis.

C. Project Design (20% of the Research Strategy Section)

- The goal of this subsection is to describe the rigor of the design of your project and how the design was developed.
- Identify the recommendations for the practice setting to be implemented.
- Explain how the strength, consistency, risk, fit, and acceptability of the best-practice recommendations was assessed, including level of safety risk, and how this informed the project design.
- Describe the objectives and tasks of the project to implement the best-practice recommendations.
- For Quality Improvement projects, describe the Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle or other framework used to improve care (e.g., Six Sigma, Root Cause Analysis), addressing areas like safety, effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency, and equitability.
- Identify the implementation targets to be addressed (e.g., electronic health records, workflow, policies or procedures, others).
- Explain how the project design was informed by and is responsive to stakeholder input.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success.

- Establish the feasibility of the work and how you will manage any high-risk aspects of the implementation.
- ***For Career Development Grants Only***: Include a section on Training, Career Development, and Mentorship.
  - Describe your short- and long-term goals for career development and how the EBP project proposed will further such development.
  - Describe how the grant would enable you to develop your EBP/QI career.
  - Describe any further knowledge and skills you need to acquire to successfully complete the EBP/QI project; for example, related to research synthesis, implementation methods, analytic approaches, etc.
  - Describe how you will acquire that knowledge and those skills (e.g., coursework, webinars, scientific meetings) in an appropriate timeline to inform the EBP/QI conduct.
  - Describe the mentorship plan, including how you expect to receive mentorship (e.g., 1:1 meetings, laboratory engagements).
  - Describe planned training in the Responsible Conduct of Research.

D. Implementation and Evaluation Plan (30% of the Research Strategy Section)

- The goal of this subsection is to illustrate how you plan to implement and evaluate the best practice recommendations.
- Describe the implementation strategy and support and resources necessary to execute it. Identify strengths and potential barriers, and strategies for overcoming potential barriers.
- Identify the key outcomes to be assessed to determine if improvements have been made. Describe what successful implementation is expected to look like.
- Describe how results will be communicated to local stakeholders. For Quality Improvement projects, explain feedback mechanisms for collecting and responding to feedback from patients, providers, and other relevant staff.
- Identify potential next steps for practice, based on the findings.
- ***For Multi-Site Research Grants only***: describe how multi-site leadership and collaboration will be facilitated. Include a leadership plan that describes the roles and responsibilities of investigators at each project site, including who will lead and direct project activities at each site.

Dissemination Plan

Describe plans for disseminating findings to key audiences including academic and non-academic (e.g., provider, patient, policymaker) audiences. Dissemination efforts may include presentations, publications, or other communication documents and resources (e.g., fact sheets, briefs, infographics, webinars, podcasts, toolkits, etc.). Specify the anticipated products, timelines, and key audience(s) for each.

Biographical Sketch of Key Personnel

Include a Biosketch for each of the key personnel on the project. Key personnel contribute in a substantive way to the scientific development of the project and may or may not receive salary support for work on the grant. Key personnel may be Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators, Consultants, or occupy other significant roles on the project. *For EBP Training Grants and Career Development Grants,* a Mentor Biosketch must be submitted. Use the AANA Foundation Biosketch Template. Biosketches should include information about education and training; a personal statement with a brief description of role on the project; positions and honors; and contributions to science including any history of AANA Foundation funding.

References

Use in-text citing with AMA Manual of Style 11th edition format in the EBP/QI Strategy section with numbers to include references for statements; e.g., [1]. In a Word document, provide numbered references that correspond to the in-text numbered citations in the EBP/QI Strategy.

Timeline

Provide a visual depiction of the activities and milestones to be completed, by month, in a table format. A narrative description accompanying the table may be included. *For Career Development grants*, the timeline should include any training activities.

Budget and Budget Justification

Use the Budget and Budget Justification Template to outline costs. A narrative Budget Justification is required that provides additional information about each budget category that supports the budget request. Be as specific as possible. The AANA Foundation Grants Policy Statement and Funding Opportunity Announcements specify allowable costs for grant programs. Costs proposed should be necessary and reasonable to conduct the work described. Indirect costs are typically not allowed for evidence-based practice projects.

Human Subjects

Use the Human Subjects Template to provide information about research classification and human subjects/vertebrate animal involvement. This template specifies whether the project is classified as research, if human subjects or vertebrate animals are involved, if the project is exempt from human subjects regulations, if determination documentation is available, and if IRB/IACUC review/approval has occurred.

Appendices

Additional appendices are optional. Examples of appendices include:
i. Investigational Review Board (IRB OR IACUC) determination, verification of submission for review, or approval. (Proposals may be considered if IRB OR IACUC approval is pending. Funds will not be released until approval is received.)
ii. A copy of the instructions from a commercial radioimmunoassay kit.
iii. A copy of the research instrument (for surveys, questionnaires, etc., or data collection tool).
iv. A copy of a letter from individuals and/or departments providing support for the proposed research.

For EBP Training Grants and Career Development Grants only: Include a letter from the mentor(s). The letter should describe the mentor's commitment to serve as a mentor during the award period with a brief description of mentoring experience. Describe specific areas of expertise and how it will enhance the applicant's career development and research project. State the setting of the mentoring and types and frequency of mentoring activities to be engaged in between the mentor and applicant.

Affirmation

You will be asked to affirm your agreement with statements regarding eligibility, accuracy, and compliance with AANA Foundation policy.