



Research 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 that you 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.

This application content overview pertains to the following AANA Foundation Grant Programs:

- Research Training Grant
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship Grant
- Career Development Research Grant
- Research Program 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 research.

Funding Rationale

Please tell us why the AANA Foundation should fund your project. In crafting the rationale, consider the AANA Foundation mission, research 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, purpose, aims, design, methods, analytic strategy, anticipated impact, and plans for future research.
- 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 anesthesia.

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 research, hypotheses to be tested, 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 test your hypotheses.
- 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 anesthesia profession.

Research Strategy

The research strategy section contains 5 subsections including Significance, Innovation, Approach, Investigator and Environment. 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 section.

A. Significance (25% of the Research Strategy Section)

- The goal in this subsection is to answer the “so what” question with respect to the planned investigation.
- Begin this section by providing the context of what is already known in the area of inquiry and what the challenges are with a brief, clear, and concise background discussion supported by a literature review.
- Follow this discussion by addressing the importance of the problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposal addresses.

- Describe any preliminary studies that you have conducted that are informing the proposed research.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice in the field of nurse anesthesiology.
- Describe how your methodologic and analytic approach to the problem will lead to sustained impacts on policy or practice in the field of anesthesia.

B. Innovation (15% of the Research Strategy Section)

- The goal of this subsection is to describe what is new and unique about the proposed investigation and why it is innovative.
- Address how the work challenges and/or seeks to shift the current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Discuss any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Make it clear what is new and cutting-edge about the approach to the problem.
- Describe any planned inventions/patentable discoveries to be developed with support from the grant and expectations for generating income.

C. Approach (50% of the Research Strategy Section)

- The goal of this subsection is to describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- The strategy, methodology and analysis should be directly traceable to your specific aims and hypotheses.
- If you have performed preliminary studies, have study data, and/or experience pertinent to the application discuss this information in this section under a subheading titled, "Preliminary Studies."
- You may use subheadings in the Approach section for each Aim, and have further sub-headings such as Design, Methods, Sample, Setting, Intervention, Variables, Procedures and/or Analysis Plan. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies and benchmarks for success with respect to achieving the specific aims.
- Establish the feasibility of the work and how you will manage any high-risk aspects of the study particularly those related to use of human subjects.
- ***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 research proposed will further such development.
 - Describe how the grant would enable you to develop your research career.

- Describe any further knowledge and skills you need to acquire to successfully complete the research project; for example, related to research design, experimental methods, analytic approaches, or dissemination and implementation.
- Describe how you will acquire that knowledge and those skills (e.g., coursework, webinars, scientific meetings) in an appropriate timeline to inform the research 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. Investigators (5% of the Research Strategy Section)

- The goal of this subsection is to illustrate how the principal investigator, collaborators and other researchers are well suited to the proposed project.
- If you are a new or early-stage investigator, discuss the training/experience you possess that is applicable to the study.
- If you are an established investigator, speak to your record of accomplishment in the field of study.
- If the project involves a collaborative effort, address the complimentary and integrated expertise of the investigators as it relates to the proposal.
- ***For Research Training Grants, Career Development Grants, and Post-Doctoral Fellowships only:*** Provide information on the Mentor, including mentor experience, expertise, and capabilities to provide mentorship unique to the investigator's career development and research project.
- ***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.

E. Environment (5% of the Research Strategy Section)

- The goal of this subsection is to describe how the environment in which the study will be performed contributes to the probability of successful completion.
- Demonstrate that the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available are adequate for the project proposed.
- If appropriate, discuss how the project will benefit from unique features of the environment, subject population or collaborative arrangements.

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 Research Training Grants, Career Development Grants, and Post-Doctoral Fellowships, a Mentor Biosketch must be submitted. For State-Academic Partnership Grants, Biosketches from State Association key personnel 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 Research Strategy section with numbers to include references for statements; e.g., ¹. In a separate section, provide numbered references that correspond to the in-text numbered citations in the Research 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 allowable for research grants only and are capped at 15%.

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 Data and Safety Monitoring Plan for clinical investigations.
- iii. A copy of the instructions from a commercial radioimmunoassay kit.
- iv. A copy of the research instrument (for surveys, questionnaires, etc., or data collection tool).
- v. A copy of a letter from individuals and/or departments providing support for the proposed research.

For Research Training Grants, Career Development Grants, and Post-Doctoral Fellowships 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.

For State-Academic Partnership Grants only: Include a letter from the collaborating State Association. The letter should describe the Association's commitment to provide funding (up to \$50,000). Describe how the research proposed fits the priorities of the State Association and meets the nurse anesthesiology policy and practice needs in the state.

For Innovation Grants only: Describe any inventions to be developed with grant funding. An invention is any potentially patentable discovery conceived and reduced to practice in the performance of an AANA Foundation-funded award. Describe plans for revenue generation and sharing of Net Royalty Income derived from the invention with AANA Foundation.

Affirmation

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