



Funding Opportunity Announcement

Title: Multi-Site Research or Evidence-Based Practice Grant

Purpose and Goals: The purpose of this grant is to provide support for investigators to collaboratively conduct (1) research or (2) evidence-based practice projects that span multiple sites or institutions, consistent with the Foundation priorities. Preliminary data on the topic of interest are typically available to support the need for a multi-site approach to tackling a given problem, signaling the need for an expanded implementation approach.

Funding Amount: Up to \$200,000

Deadline(s): Standard due dates; January 30, June 30, October 30

Letter of Intent: Letters of intent (LOI) are optional but **strongly encouraged** to be submitted at least 21 days in advance of application due date. LOIs shall be emailed to Foundation@aana.com and include the Principal Investigator name, Organization, Title, and Brief Summary of the topic, with the Subject Line: Letter of Intent.

Application Submissions: Applications are to be submitted online through the electronic [Grants Management and Application Site](#).

Background and Scope

The mission of AANA Foundation is to advance the science of anesthesia through education and research. AANA Foundation aims to support investigators across the CRNA development lifecycle from student residents through program directors and established research faculty. Programs are designed to develop research careers in nurse anesthesia. AANA Foundation funds research, evidence-based practice, and education grants.

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Research projects are rigorous, systematic investigations that aim to test theories and answer specific questions that have potential to generate generalizable knowledge and may be quantitative and/or qualitative. Such projects are expected to be consistent with Foundation research priorities.

Evidence-based practice projects are focused on addressing a specific practice question, acquiring evidence on that practice, assessing the quality of the evidence, applying the evidence to specific practice context, and assessing the outcomes to determine if the practice should be implemented for other patients or contexts.

Investigators often struggle to conduct research or evidence-based practice projects that are high-impact when activities are limited to one context or institution. The intent of this funding is to offer an opportunity to enhance the potential for generalizable research findings and large-scale practice impacts by implementing the same research or evidence-based practice activities across multiple sites. Multi-site projects offer an ability to increase the number of participants and clinicians engaged, address low-frequency events, enhance the diversity of clinical settings, and promote investigator collaboration.

Multi-disciplinary teams are encouraged. The Principal Investigator shall have oversight of the full project, with leadership identified for each participating site (i.e., site investigator). Specific strategies for coordinating a team approach are to be employed (e.g., oversight board, operations teams, site teams). “Sites” can include a variety of settings but are generally expected to represent different institutions, health systems, or clinics, with a separate Site Investigator responsible for each participating site. Applicants are expected to delineate the criteria and justification for site selection, attending to feasibility. Given the complexity of multi-site approaches, applicants are expected to include protocols for ensuring consistent activities across sites (e.g., staff training, operations protocols, coordinated data collection, monitoring procedures).

AANA Foundation has identified a broad range of research priorities. In addition to an interest in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Foundation has an interest in research addressing healthcare policy, the science of anesthesia, education, and clinical practice, which can be found [here](#).

Funds have also been reserved for research projects in different topic areas, supported by generous sponsor donations:

- Pain, peer assistance, and wellness research
 - Art Zwerling Fund
 - Montana ANA Pain Management Fund
- Veterans’ health and mental health/post-traumatic stress disorder
 - Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
 - Steve Mund

- Office-based research
- General research and evidence-based practice
 - Hershhal Bradshaw
 - John Garde
 - National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

Award Period

The award period is expected to be 24 months.

Eligibility

Eligible investigators include Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists (CRNAs) within 5 years of having received their DNP/DNAP or PhD, including new faculty. The applicant investigator must be an AANA Member. Eligible organizations include institutions of higher education; nonprofit organizations; for-profit organizations; and nonprofit/for-profit/government-owned health systems.

Application and Submission Information

Applicants are to follow all instructions delineated in the application guide, available through the link on the Foundation website. A letter from an academic advisor describing commitment to mentorship is required.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs include salary, consultancy, equipment, supplies, travel, and other miscellaneous direct costs. Indirect costs are allowable for research projects only and are capped at 15%.

Human Subjects/Animal Research Requirements

Applicants are encouraged to submit documentation of a Human Subjects Determination at the time of application, if possible, to adequately anticipate project classification (e.g., research/not research; human subjects/not human subjects) and potential needs for Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review. Once an application is approved for funding by the Foundation Board of Trustees and notice is sent to the recipient, recipients are required to submit documentation related to human subjects or animal research. If a project is determined to be research and human subjects or vertebrate animals are involved, investigators are expected to submit IRB/IACUC documentation to the Foundation within 12 months of award and before any research activities are initiated or funds are released.

The organization awarded the grant is expected to serve as the primary site for IRB review/regulatory compliance, with other sites entering into reliance agreements.

Review and Award Information

Peer reviewers for grant applications are selected from the AANA Foundation Reviewer Corps, a repository of qualified peer reviewers. Reviewers are assigned to review specific applications based on relevant expertise.

The first level of review is conducted by a peer review panel, comprised of members from the Reviewer Corps. This Primary Review is focused on scientific merit and the potential for impact.

The second level of review is conducted by the Research and Scholarly Activities Committee (RSAC) and the Board of Trustees (BOT). This Programmatic Review reflects on scientific merit and impact judged in the primary review and places additional focus on alignment with Foundation research priorities.

The Foundation uses a 9-point rating scale (1 = exceptional, 9 = poor) for each scored criteria and overall impact score. Narrative justification for each review criteria is required that outlines strengths and weaknesses.

Individual Review Criteria include:

- Overall impact: Degree to which the project will result in a sustained and powerful influence on the field (numeric score 1-9; justification)
- Importance: Including significance and innovation (numeric score 1-9; strengths and weaknesses)
- Rigor and feasibility: Including approach and study timeline (numeric score 1-9; strengths and weaknesses)
- Expertise and resources: Including investigators and environment (sufficient or not sufficient; strengths and weaknesses)

A Final Overall Impact Score Overall is also issued (rating scale 1 to 9, x 10 for scores ranging from 10 to 100), including all individual criteria considered as a whole (not necessarily an average of numeric scores), averaged across all peer reviews.

Funding decisions may include Approve, Approve with Stipulations, or Reject.

Applicants are notified of the funding decision by a letter issued by the Foundation CEO and Research Director. Approved grants are issued a Notice of Award with terms and conditions.

Anticipated Award Date

Four to six months after application deadline.

Administrative Requirements

All grant recipients must comply with policies outlined in the AANA Foundation Grantmaking Policy.

Documentation of Human Subjects Determination or IRB/IACUC Approval is required for funding (see the Human Subjects/Animal Research Requirements section for more details). Grant recipients will receive a Notice of Award outlining the terms and conditions of the award. Grant recipients are required to follow all policies outlined in the AANA Foundation Grantmaking Policy.

Prior approval is required for reallocation of budget items exceeding 25% of the total budget category, significant changes (e.g., in scope, PI, cost), and no cost extensions. If additional research that would efficiently leverage and complement the project is identified, the recipient would need to apply for additional funds.

Awards of \$10,000 or less are typically distributed in full after appropriate award documents are submitted. Awards of over \$10,000 are typically distributed in increments after the recipient submits appropriate documents. Funding policies are outlined in full in AANA Foundation Grantmaking Policy.

Publication of results in peer-reviewed scientific or professional journals is expected. Recipients are encouraged to submit an abstract application for presentation at the AANA Foundation Poster Session at the AANA Annual Congress and publish results in the AANA Journal or other scientific publication.

Data from investigator-initiated research awards supported by the AANA Foundation are owned by the investigator. The investigator will own copyright to the data. Title to any Invention shall reside with the recipient or the recipient's institution. Inventions will be reported to the AANA Foundation by the recipients of the grant. See AANA Foundation Grantmaking Policy for more details and guidelines related to net royalty income.

Recipients are required to submit Annual and Final Progress Reports and Final Expenditure Reports. Failure to submit complete, accurate, and timely final reports indicates the need for closer monitoring by AANA Foundation. Lack of compliance may result in award delays or enforcement actions, including return of unexpended funds and prohibition from receipt of future grant awards.

Foundation Contacts

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