



Funding Opportunity Announcement

Title: State-Academic Partnership Research Grant

Purpose and Goals: The purpose of this grant is to provide support for academic institutions to work collaboratively with state associations to conduct research projects that can inform the workforce and climate of practice of nurse anesthesia in a specific state. Projects are intended to provide evidence that has the potential to inform policy and practice but not specifically advocate for a specific policy position.

Funding Amount: Up to \$100,000+ (minimum 50% state match, up to \$50,000 in Foundation funding)

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.

The purpose of this grant is to provide support for academic institutions to work collaboratively with state nurse anesthesia associations to conduct research projects that can inform the workforce and climate of practice of nurse anesthesia in a specific

state. Projects are intended to provide evidence that has the potential to inform policy and practice but not specifically advocate for a specific policy position.

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.

State Associations representing nurse anesthesia providers work to expand the CRNA workforce and remove barriers to full practice authority. State policy context has a significant impact on the implementation of anesthesia care models, workforce satisfaction, and access to care. Research may have greater potential to inform state policy when data are available that are tailored to the state context. The intent of this funding is to provide an opportunity to pair State Associations with academic partners to address key questions that, if addressed, could inform policy at a more local level.

Research areas of interest could include, but are not limited to: examining the relationships among anesthesia service delivery care models, patient outcomes, and service utilization; urban/rural differences in CRNA service access and patient outcomes; factors affecting CRNA availability and projected workforce shortages; variables associated with CRNA recruitment and retention in underserved areas; impacts of federal policy changes (e.g., student loan policies) on local workforce; disparities in anesthesia outcomes and association with CRNA service delivery models; impacts of reimbursement policy on local care utilization; and the association between staffing models and financial viability for local hospitals.

Principal Investigators from academic institutions are expected to partner with State Associations and collaboratively generate research questions that could inform local policy and practice. A Letter of Support from the State Associations is required, indicating an intent to match funds to Foundation funding to support at least 50% of the research costs, with a Foundation contribution of up to \$50,000. Applications should clearly delineate the partnership between the academic institution and State Association, roles of investigators across the organizations, and how findings will be disseminated to influence policy and practice. Funds are not intended to directly support lobbying activities.

Award Period

The award period is expected to be 24 months.

Eligibility

Eligible investigators include Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) in academic institutions, partnering with State Nurse Anesthesia Association Presidents, typically with prior research grant experience (although not required). Eligible organizations include academic institutions of higher education that have letters of support from a State Nurse Anesthesia Organization/Association verifying interest in funding match. The Academic

Institution serves as the primary awardee. State Nurse Anesthesia Organizations provide matching funds to the Foundation for disbursement.

Application and Submission Information

Applicants are to follow all instructions delineated in the application guide, available through the link on the Foundation website.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs include consultancy, equipment, supplies, travel, and other miscellaneous direct costs. Indirect costs 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.

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 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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