

The Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund



2024 Grant Program Office Hours

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Welcome & Introductions

The Medical Foundation at Health Resources in Action

- Britta Magnuson, D.M.D., Senior Scientific Advisor
- Lindsey Carver, M.A., Senior Grants Officer

Agenda

Overview & Application Requirements

- Program Mission & Scope of Supported Work
- 2024 Cycle Timeline
- Eligibility
- New Program Additions
- Submission Requirements
- Selection Criteria
- Budget Guidance
- Common Pitfalls to Avoid
- Reviewer Comments
- Application Tips

Questions & Answers

Program Mission & Scope of Supported Work

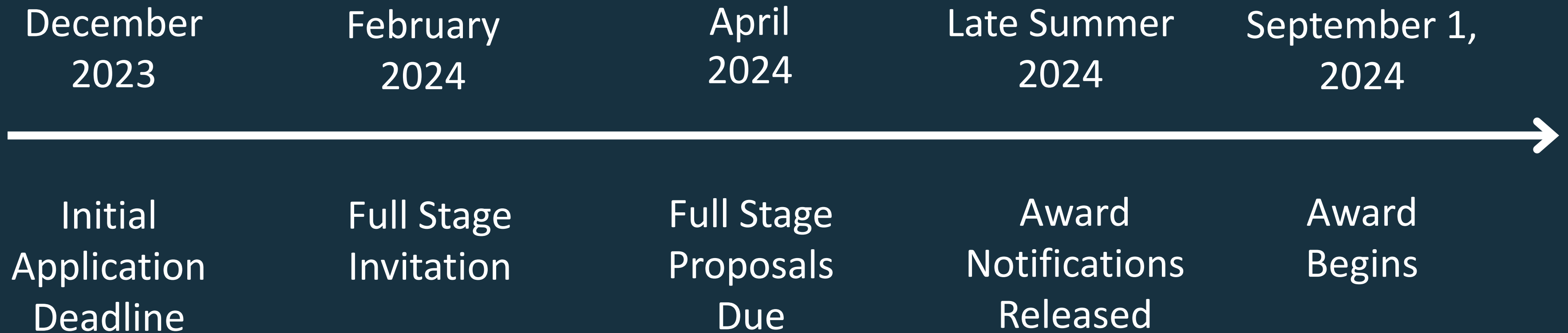
Mission

The Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund, established in 1947 by Frank M. Noonan in memory of his mother, continues its proud tradition of supporting improvements in the quality of life for children with disabilities. Eligible organizations and target populations must be within the Fund's geographic area of interest of Greater Boston.

Scope of Supported Work

The Noonan Research Fund supports innovative clinical and service system research, pilot, and evaluation projects in the greater Boston area, designed to improve the quality of life for children and adolescents with disabilities as reflected in the target population description.

2024 Cycle Timeline



Eligibility

Applicant or Project Team

- Seniority and/or area of expertise do not affect eligibility
- Must hold a position at a nonprofit institution or organization within the Fund's geographic area of interest
- "Nothing about us without us"
- Neither an academic faculty position nor an advanced degree is required nor considered preferentially
- U.S. citizenship not required
- While not required for funding consideration, the Noonan Fund may support new or continuing collaborations on projects between academic institutions and/or other non-profit institutions

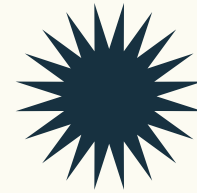
Participant Population

- Children and adolescents with a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional diagnosis who require a combination of special and or interdisciplinary services, individualized supports, therapies, or other forms of services or supports that are of lifelong or extended duration.
- Geographic area of interest
- Inclusive of women and minority groups

Exclusions

- Basic science, direct service, primary prevention projects, device development, drug trials
- Capital Costs

New for This Year



There are now three categories for projects:

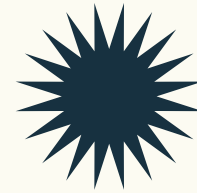
Pilot projects

Research Projects

Evaluation Projects

Early-Stage Investigators

Continuing from Last Year



One award will be prioritized toward proposals for which
the lead organization is a
community-based organization

Submission Requirements

Initial Proposal

- A. Application Face Sheet (form)
- B. Table of Contents (form)
- C. Project Summary (form)
- D. Non-Technical Overview (form)
- E. Organization and Collaborator(s) Profile (form)
- F. Initial Project Proposal (maximum of 2 pages, excluding references cited):

- Background and Significance
- Specific Aims
- Potential Impact
- Project Design and Methods
 - Population
 - Comparison group
 - Intervention (if applicable)
 - Procedures, Methods, and Outcomes
 - Consultants or Collaborators
 - Dissemination Plan

G. Bibliography/Works Cited

H. Project Timeline and Milestones

I. Applicant's Biosketch or Resume

Full Proposal

Additional Requirements

Full Proposal (maximum of 10 pages, excluding references cited)

Letters of Collaboration

Budget Forms

- Ensure that personnel are supported
- Provide rationale for supplies and additional costs
- Include adequate supports for participation: transportation costs, reimbursable expenses, time away from work/school

Budget Guidance

- \$160,000 over 2 years
- Funds need to be equally distributed across each year of funding
- 20% indirect costs are allowable
- Funds may be used to support personnel, participant enrollment, small equipment purchases, supplies, travel, and other direct expenses that are needed for the project completion.

Program Emphasis

- Project addresses the improvement in the quality of life for children and adolescents with chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional disabilities.
- Project must provide comment regarding how outcomes of the proposed project and/or research will advance health equity.
- Project should include intentional processes that integrate people with lived experience in the decisions being made and meaningfully engage them in research activities that are meant to address the inequities they face.

Selection Criteria

All projects will be evaluated based on:

- The potential impact of the proposed work on the intended community.
- The extent to which the proposal seeks to advance health equity and racial and ethnic equity.
- The extent to which the proposal includes and meaningfully engages people with lived experience in the research design and implementation.
- The significance and originality of the proposed project.
- The approach actively engages the population of interest throughout the project period.
- The project can be accomplished within the funding period for a two-year award based on a proposed timeline.
- The dissemination of the findings will be shared with the community/population served and other notable stakeholders.

Selection Criteria

Pilot Project

- Conceptualization of the intervention(s) to be evaluated, identified measures (structure, process, outcomes), and linkages between proposed intervention/activities, measures, and outcomes.
- The extent to which the applicant can measure feasibility, implementation, and/or effectiveness of the key intervention/activity.

Research Project

- Clarity of the stated hypotheses.
- Appropriate research design, including the selection and validity of independent and control variables, and outcomes. If qualitative research, describe in detail methodological and analytical plan for the stated research question.
- The study is sufficiently powered to answer the research question or hypothesis posed.

Evaluation Project

- The use of a formal evaluation approach. These may include measures related to the program logic model, or a quality improvement framework.
- The extent to which the applicant can evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the program
- The potential that the evaluation will lead to program improvement

Selection Criteria Continued

Applicant and/or Project Team

- The project complements or enhances the applicant's previous and future professional work
- The team is reflective of the population served and/or engaged in research
- Appropriateness of personnel or consultants with expertise in skills necessary for the project such as quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis

Proposal Quality

- Persuasive and well-organized proposal that effectively communicates how the project will address the stated need or problem

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Link between problem and the proposed methodology is unclear
- Patient/population engagement is not present
- No statement regarding health equity
- No/limited description of sample size and statistics/evaluation methods
- No clear hypothesis/aims
- Lack of clearly budgeting what is needed to execute project
- Unrealistic timeline/Questions of feasibility
- Lack of topic/analysis expert
- Including jargon and abbreviations
- Overlap in funding

Reviewer Comments

Impact & Significance

“It isn’t clear how this approach is different from programs already present”; “How does this impact and affect the population associated with the geographic area of interest?”; “Why is it thought this approach will be successful?”; “More information is needed regarding how the current approach is driving inequities, and how the proposed approach will advance health equity”

Approach

“The patients/families/parents don’t seem to have been involved in the development of XXXX”; “A significant weakness is the absence of clear hypotheses.”; “Is this approach appropriate for this age group? Do the investigators anticipate limitations due to XXXX associated with their population of interest?”; “Have the investigators thought through language/access/time barriers?”

Reviewer Comments

Sample Size & Statistics

“Sample size may be too small to yield actionable results”; “No discussion of sample size is offered, and does not include inclusion/exclusion criteria”; “No power analysis is offered indicating that the samples to be recruited will be sufficient to detect the effects proposed”; “Statistical analyses are limited”; “No information is presented as to how the experimental results will be analyzed and interpreted.”

Budget & Feasibility

“The budget accounts for \$XX,XXX for personnel. The budget should also reflect the time needed for family engagement.”; “The timeline does not indicate who will be involved in recruitment, which is time intensive.”; “Are XX number of datapoints needed? It may be helpful for the applicant to focus on fewer datapoints.”

Reviewer Comments

Project Team

“The team has background in XX but does not seem to include the appropriate family training/statistician/clinical care/community engagement background needed” ; “The proposal should include how this works builds upon their background” ; “There is no indication in the proposal regarding the relationship between the primary applicant and organization/school/community service XXX.”

Letter(s) of Collaboration

“The letter doesn’t speak to how the organization will support the ongoing work in terms of facilities/training/mentorship/resources”

Proposal Quality

“The proposal could be improved by greater linkage between the background, significance, and the approach. It is hard to follow the logic” ; “I am not able to read the caption under figure 123, the text is too small” ; “The proposal feels rushed, maybe the applicant cut and pasted wording from another application into this proposal. There are references to work in the letter and applicant resume/biosketch that don’t align with the current work.”

Application Tips

Make sure your proposal reflects the review criteria and program goals

Tell the story and provide explicit reasons and statements regarding why your approach is promising

Recruit the right team: Include appropriate collaborations and/or shared leadership if it benefits the project

Be realistic (in timeline, budgets, etc.)

Avoid jargon and abbreviations

Be concise and clear (make it easy to read!)

Point out pitfalls and include contingencies

Seek feedback (internally, externally, and across disciplines)

Questions?

Thank you for attending!