



Request for Proposals

The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research (NCGVR)

Fourth Request for Proposals

Deadline for Receipt of Letters of Interest:
8:00 p.m. EST, February 7, 2022

Contents

Part 1. Introduction	1
NCGVR's Overall Strategy	1
NCGVR's 2022 RFP	1
About NCGVR	2
Part 2. Program Description	2
Preferred Approaches for NCGVR Research	2
Priority Research Categories	3
Priority Category 1. Descriptive or Basic Research	3
Priority Category 2. Applied or Policy Research	4
Study Categories That NCGVR Will Not Fund	5
Part 3. Information for Prospective Applicants	6
Available Funding	6
Eligibility	6
Dissertation Awards	6
Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards	7
Allowable Direct and Indirect Costs	7
Key Activities and Timeline	8
Part 4. Application Instructions	8
Dissertation Awards	8
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Awards	10
Part 5. Terms and Conditions	14
Appendix. Budget Template and Budget Narrative	17
Budget Narrative Requirements	17
References	18

Part 1. Introduction

The mission of the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research (NCGVR) is to fund and disseminate nonpartisan scientific research that offers the public and policymakers a factual basis for developing fair and effective gun policies. An early mandate for NCGVR's independent Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was to seek testimony from a variety of organizations and individuals about gun policy and gun violence research priorities. A consistent message from these diverse stakeholders was that the federal government has underinvested in gun violence research for at least two decades, with the result that the public and policymakers lack basic information on which to base their decisions about gun policies and violence prevention.

Since its inception in 2018, NCGVR has awarded more than \$21 million in grant funding across 44 projects investigating a wide array of gun violence prevention topics. Moreover, the federal government has begun committing \$25 million annually to restart a program of research within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to improve our understanding of gun violence and its prevention.

As was planned at its inception, NCGVR will end its operations in 2023, and this request for proposals (RFP) will, we expect, be its last, funding only one-year awards for dissertation support and postdoctoral fellowships.

NCGVR's Overall Strategy

NCGVR seeks to fund research that will produce scientific knowledge that can be used to **save lives and reduce injuries due to gun violence** while minimizing harms to gun owners and other stakeholders. In developing this RFP, the NCGVR RAC has drawn on research priorities suggested not just in the testimony it received from multiple organizations but also in the findings of earlier studies about where critical gaps in knowledge exist (e.g., National Research Council, 2005, 2013; RAND Corporation, 2018) and in the many suggestions offered to the committee by gun policy researchers.

In addition to its focus on areas in which critically important information is not yet available, NCGVR's RAC has concluded that the scientific research it funds must have direct relevance to firearm violence reduction **in the United States** and must pursue a rigorous scientific research protocol. Within these parameters, the committee wants its portfolio of funded research to include projects examining a range of outcomes—for instance, firearm injuries, suicide, defensive gun use, firearm crime and its prosecution, and public attitudes.

NCGVR's 2022 RFP

This is the fourth, and likely final, RFP issued by NCGVR. For this RFP, NCGVR has narrowed the scope of research topics it will include for funding; this was done to accommodate the fact that NCGVR will end in June 2023, and all research projects must be completed by that time. Awardees for this fourth RFP will be asked to propose one-year research projects on gun violence topics of interest to NCGVR. Two types of awards will be available through this RFP:

1. **Dissertation awards** will be one-year awards open to individual students.
2. **Postdoctoral awards** will be one-year awards open to individuals or existing research groups that wish to offer funding to a postdoctoral fellow.

Candidates may propose applied or descriptive research projects on urban gun violence, suicide, mass shootings, officer-involved shootings, firearm-related domestic violence, firearm violence prevention, or gun policy. Please refer to the sections "Priority Category 1. Descriptive or Basic Research" and "Priority Category 2. Applied or Policy Research" below for more guidance on areas of interest to NCGVR.

The application process involves two steps, beginning with the submission of short letters of interest (LOIs) describing the proposed research. NCGVR's RAC will review these letters and request full proposals from among the LOIs. Selected LOIs will be those describing research that the committee believes offers the greatest likelihood of producing

rigorous scientific information that will help to inform fair and effective gun policies—and thereby reduce deaths and injuries. Full proposals can be submitted only by applicants invited by the RAC to do so after all LOIs are reviewed.

All proposals must be submitted by the deadlines listed in “Key Activities and Timeline,” below.

About NCGVR

NCGVR was established as an independent philanthropic organization, with seed funding from Arnold Ventures. Additional major donors include Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.; the Missouri Foundation for Health; the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation.

NCGVR is governed by the independent RAC. The role of the RAC is to ensure the intellectual quality, research effectiveness, and academic independence of the NCGVR program. It serves as the decisionmaking and oversight body that issues RFPs, selects grantees, and oversees all approved research under NCGVR. The RAND Corporation provides administrative and staff support to the RAC.

Grant funding for all NCGVR research is provided through a donor-advised fund operated by a reputable, independent public charity. NCGVR, through RAND, advises the fund when and to whom to issue research funding.

Additional information about NCGVR and its funding, advisory committee membership, governance documents, and RFPs may be found at www.ncgvr.org.

Part 2. Program Description

NCGVR will fund scientific research on topics likely to provide valuable information needed by the public and policymakers in their efforts to create programs and policies that will save lives and prevent violence. NCGVR seeks proposals for dissertation and postdoctoral projects that use rigorous scientific methods and that forthrightly acknowledge the limitations of these methods and the projects’ data sources. More information on standards of scientific

rigor that will be considered by NCGVR can be found below in the “Evaluation Criteria” section.

Preferred Approaches for NCGVR Research

Improved Data

NCGVR prefers to fund dissertation and postdoctoral research that will improve the quality and availability of data on gun policy or violence topics. Research that integrates data from law enforcement agencies, public health departments, researchers, courts, prosecutors, and other systems may facilitate important new insights for reducing gun violence. Identifying ways to increase data availability and comparability across jurisdictions—as well as to enhance the communication and collaboration between jurisdictions—holds the potential to improve knowledge and operations related to firearm violence prevention. In addition, projects that include novel data collection, create data sets that synthesize data from multiple sources, or make existing data more accessible to other researchers are encouraged.

Multidisciplinary Approaches

Similarly, NCGVR prefers to fund research that integrates perspectives from multiple disciplines. NCGVR encourages proposals that, to the extent possible, demonstrate that perspectives from multiple disciplines are considered and represented. This may be accomplished, for example, through multidisciplinary research teams or dissertation committees.

Collaborations

NCGVR encourages collaborative research that meaningfully includes relevant practitioners and communities in the planning, implementation, and interpretation of intervention and evaluation research. NCGVR is especially interested in proposals that incorporate the perspectives of communities affected by gun violence, by including individuals or organizations from those communities in true collaborative efforts.

Although addressing each of these concepts is not required for all proposals, proposals that

address any or all of these concepts are strongly encouraged by NCGVR.

Priority Research Categories

For this RFP, NCGVR seeks proposals on a wide range of topics. This section provides a summary of those priorities.

NCGVR will fund two types of studies:

(1) descriptive or basic research studies and
(2) applied or policy research. Research in the **descriptive or basic research category** will improve our understanding of the characteristics of various aspects of firearm violence. Research in the **applied or policy research category** will inform effective interventions or strategies for reducing gun violence by studying interventions or conducting policy analysis.

Priority Category 1. Descriptive or Basic Research

This priority area largely entails descriptive research that will fill knowledge gaps about NCGVR's five main areas of interest: urban gun violence, domestic gun violence, mass shootings, gun suicides, and officer-involved shootings. These topics are described below.

Areas of Interest

- **Urban gun violence:** This topic area focuses on addressing the significant gaps in our understanding of urban gun violence, its causes, and prevention; how individuals acquire firearms, especially illegally; the factors associated with increased risk for illegal gun use; and studies of the prevalence and characteristics of nonlethal firearm violence.
- **Domestic gun violence:** Relatively little is known about the context of domestic violence incidents, the subgroups most affected by them, precipitating events, when and where the firearm was acquired, and what role firearms play in dominating or controlling intimate partners, among other related questions.

- **Mass shootings:** Research on mass shootings may improve our understanding of trends and predictors of mass shooting and school shooting events; the acquisition of firearms used in mass shootings; details about the shooter, including motivations, target selection, training or preparation, and communication of intent by shooters in advance of their attacks; and risk factors most strongly associated with mass shootings that can improve prevention efforts.
- **Gun suicides:** Research is needed to improve understanding of specific risk factors for firearm suicide to better inform public policies. Research on the link between suicide and access to guns, its meaning, and how best to communicate this information to the public is needed (Morgan et al., 2018). Research is needed on the risk profiles of people most likely to die by firearm suicide, the origin of firearms used in suicides, and the time between purchase or acquisition and suicide attempt. New approaches to establishing the risk of suicide associated with the purchase, ownership, or access to firearms and a better understanding of the magnitude of means substitution could provide a stronger basis for interventions to reduce suicide.
- **Officer-involved shootings:** This topic includes both officer-involved shootings of civilians and firearm injuries received by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties. NCGVR encourages research on both fatal and nonfatal incidents that involve officers.

Crosscutting Themes

Many lines of inquiry are crosscutting—relevant to more than one of the areas of interest, above. Here we highlight several such crosscutting themes of particular interest to NCGVR.

- **Gun ownership and acquisition:** This area includes how and why individuals own or acquire firearms and what the effects of this ownership may be, including the role of armed citizens in preventing or escalating

violence; conditions under which gun ownership, or the prevalence of gun ownership in a community, deters or promotes crime; and how to improve the measurement of defensive gun use and its prevalence.

- **Firearm markets:** We also lack basic information about firearm markets, both legal and illegal. More research is needed into firearm acquisition; the number of firearms changing hands legally and illegally over a specific period; the sources and costs of firearms acquired by prohibited possessors or used in crimes; variation in the organization and operation of illegal firearm markets serving different geographic regions or buyers; and the life cycle of different types of firearms, especially those eventually used in gun violence.
- **Nonlethal firearm injuries:** We have little understanding of the prevalence and trends in nonlethal firearm injuries, but that information could contribute to new and better understanding of gun violence (National Research Council, 2005, 2013). Work in this area includes the proportion of firearm assaults resulting in injury, the prevalence of and trends in nonlethal firearm injuries, and what conduct or criminal convictions are associated with increased risk for nonlethal but illegal gun use.
- **Risk and protective factors:** Although there has been good work done on individual risk and protective factors associated with suicide and some other outcomes, more research is needed on family, community, social, and environmental factors that increase or decrease risk of urban violence, domestic violence, suicide, mass shootings, and officer-involved shootings.

Priority Category 2. Applied or Policy Research

Areas of Interest

Topics in this priority area include applied research on existing and emerging policies, programs, or interventions to reduce gun suicide and violence and

studies of existing or proposed regulations or policies designed to prevent or reduce gun violence.

- **Intervention research:** Although a large number of interventions have been designed to disrupt firearm violence and suicide, few have been sufficiently studied to suggest their efficacy, effectiveness, or generalizability to other settings or providers. Research on such interventions as implemented by families or community groups, police and prosecutors, schools, or health care providers and other service systems is important for establishing which interventions will save the most lives while minimizing other possible harms. NCGVR is interested in prevention research that leverages the coordinated efforts of multiple community or service systems.
- **Policy analysis:** This area of interest includes research on the effects of federal, state, and local gun laws and policies on a range of outcomes, including violence, suicide, crime, self-defense, gun availability, officer-involved shootings, domestic violence, and criminal prosecutions. Policies here may mean local, state, and federal laws or organizational policies—for example, in law enforcement agencies.

Crosscutting Themes

As with descriptive and basic research, some research topics of interest to NCGVR are crosscutting between the two areas of interest in the **applied or policy research category**.

- **Efficacy:** Research on the efficacy of policies or interventions establishes how effective they could be under ideal circumstances, such as in a randomized controlled trial where considerable resources are available to ensure the fidelity with which the intervention is implemented. NCGVR is interested in supporting efficacy research designed to test interventions or theories of causal mechanisms that affect gun violence outcomes.
- **Effectiveness:** At the heart of research in this category is an assessment of the effectiveness

of the programs, policies, or other types of interventions. Effectiveness in this context can be understood as the expected effects of a policy or intervention as it is implemented in real-world settings in which the efficacy of the intervention is likely to be reduced by real-world implementation fidelity, modest resourcing, and other challenges.

- **Implementation:** NCGVR is interested in research characterizing how interventions or policies are being implemented, monitored, or enforced, as well as implementation challenges that emerge and how implementation differences affect outcomes of interest.
- **Costs and benefits:** Gun policies and interventions affect multiple stakeholders with diverse interests and may entail a wide range of costs and benefits that will affect their feasibility. Research is needed to better understand the full range of costs and benefits of policies, including methodological research on how better to measure and understand these costs and benefits.

Study Categories That NCGVR Will Not Fund

NCGVR discourages LOIs in the following categories, as they will be determined to be nonresponsive to this RFP:

- **Pilot studies designed to inform later research:** NCGVR will not provide funding for projects that are primarily intended to plan and design a future, larger research project. NCGVR welcomes proposals that may lead to future research, but development of that future research cannot be the primary goal of the NCGVR-funded project.
- **Demonstration projects, educational programs, or other provision of services without a strong scientific research design likely to produce generalizable knowledge about the services:** NCGVR will not provide funding solely for program development or implementation. Any programs or services receiving NCGVR funds must be a required part of a

research project that has scientific discovery as its primary objective.

- **Technology development research:** NCGVR will not provide funding that will primarily be used to invent, create, or design new technology or to fabricate technology already under development. NCGVR *will* consider funding research that concerns the use of technologies, such as studies that evaluate the use of new and existing technologies by, for instance, police, schools, or individuals at risk of committing or being victimized by firearm violence. Similarly, NCGVR will consider funding studies of public attitudes, acceptance, or adoption of new technologies, such as smart guns or firearm storage devices.
- **Research on the treatment or rehabilitation of shooting victims:** NCGVR will *not* provide funding for research designed to improve the medical, psychological, or other treatment of shooting victims. NCGVR *will* consider research to evaluate programs that are implemented in, or in partnership with, hospitals and other medical care providers and are designed to prevent firearm suicide and other firearm violence.
- **Projects involving gun policy advocacy activities:** NCGVR will not provide funding for advocacy activities, including lobbying or public influence campaigns designed to change public policy. Projects proposed by or in collaboration with advocacy organizations must demonstrate a research approach that is objective and persuasively balanced. NCGVR *will* support investigators' efforts to broadly disseminate the findings of their NCGVR-funded projects.
- **Projects focused on firearm violence or policy outside the United States, unless that research has clear relevance to firearm policy or violence prevention in the United States:** NCGVR will not fund work that primarily investigates firearm use or violence in foreign countries, or the effects of U.S. firearm laws on foreign countries, unless that research is likely to provide valuable insights

into how to save lives and reduce injuries in the United States. NCGVR *will* consider funding research focused on foreign countries when applicants can make a compelling case that the project will have clear implications for injury prevention in the United States.

- **Legal, historical, or journalistic research, unless that research is a required part of a scientifically rigorous study likely to yield generalizable information:** For instance, research on state implementation of specific laws as part of a rigorous study estimating the effect of those laws on firearm outcomes would be acceptable legal research.

Part 3. Information for Prospective Applicants

Available Funding

NCGVR expects to issue approximately \$500,000 in grant funding through this RFP, in the form of awards to support dissertation research and awards to fund postdoctoral researchers. Dissertation awards will be provided in the amount of \$25,000 each. Postdoctoral awards will be provided in the amount of \$50,000 each.

Eligibility

For both dissertation and postdoctoral awards, eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).¹ Organizations whose tax-exempt status has been suspended are not eligible.

International organizations, public universities, and public agencies that meet the same requirements as a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) public grantee under U.S. tax law and can demonstrate capacity to carry

out the research funded by NCGVR are also eligible. Grants may be made to eligible charitable organizations described in Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the IRC, including qualified religious, educational, hospital or medical research, governmental, and publicly supported charitable organizations.

Ineligible grant recipients include non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organizations, private nonoperating foundations, lobbying and 501(c)(4) organizations, political campaigns or other political entities, or any organization whose purpose is not entirely charitable. The RAND Corporation, RAND Europe, their staff, and their adjunct staff are ineligible to apply for NCGVR funding through this solicitation.

NCGVR especially encourages researchers from underrepresented communities to submit applications.

Dissertation Awards

Applicants for dissertation awards are accredited, nonprofit universities that meet the organizational eligibility criteria listed above and that agree to forgo all indirect costs and other fees for managing the grant award. These applications may list an advanced doctoral student or the chair of their dissertation committee as the principal investigator of the dissertation project award. To be eligible for a dissertation award, the student must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and have completed all coursework, must have passed all preliminary exams, and must have a dissertation research proposal on a topic related to gun violence or gun policy that has received all necessary departmental approvals by June 1, 2022. Students must have a plan to complete their dissertations and receive their degree between April 1, 2023, and September 30, 2023. Students who have already received a fellowship or grant to support the full cost to complete their dissertation are not eligible for NCGVR dissertation awards. Students may not accept additional fellowships or grant awards to support the same dissertation research supported through an NCGVR dissertation award.

Students applying for dissertation awards must be in a full-time Ph.D. or Sc.D. program, pursuing

¹ Charity recipients cannot be classified as private foundations under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 509(a). Additionally, some charities classified as “supporting organizations” under Section 509(a)(3) do not qualify. *501(c)(3)* refers to IRC Section 501(c)(3).

their first doctoral degree. Students studying outside the United States are eligible to apply. Doctoral students engaged in any research-oriented degree program that is relevant to gun policy or gun violence prevention research are eligible to apply, such as students pursuing degrees in economics, political science, psychology, sociology, criminology, demography, public health, statistics, public policy, and psychometrics. Doctoral students at the Pardee RAND Graduate School are ineligible to apply for these dissertation awards.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards

Applicants must be institutions of higher education or other nonprofit organizations meeting the organizational eligibility criteria listed above. Awards can be provided to the organization to fund research by a specific individual (an individual award) or by a to-be-named individual (a research group award).

Individual Awards

Individuals seeking postdoctoral fellowships must show evidence of high academic achievement, demonstrate a commitment to a research career, and have potential to become productive, independent investigators in an area relevant to the program description for this RFP. Applicants must have exceptional mentorship identified at the time of the award. Applicants must have earned their doctoral degree (Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent doctoral degree) within 30 months of the fellowship award date. Awards are for full-time research training only. Awards are not available for postdoctoral students during their clinical residency training, and research clinicians may not have clinical duties other than those directly related to their research training.

Research Group Awards

NCGVR recognizes that the timing of the RFP process can make it difficult for potential postdoctoral researchers to apply for NCGVR funding as individuals, because at the time proposals are due, potential applicants might not yet know where they will be working after graduation. To make the postdoctoral

fellowship awards more accessible, NCGVR will allow research groups to apply for postdoctoral fellowship funding without identifying a specific researcher for the position. This allows research groups (e.g., centers, labs, departments) to apply for NCGVR funds concurrently with the typical hiring period for postdoctoral fellows (spring semester). NCGVR defines a *research group* as a research center or lab within an institution of higher education, an academic department, or an individual with research funding for additional research project staff.

Eligible research groups are those at institutions of higher education that meet the eligibility criteria listed above. Applicants may submit multiple applications for fellows. Applicants must identify a specific research project that the fellow will work on and who will serve as the fellow's mentor on that research. NCGVR prefers that fellows are hired to work on a single research project but may consider proposals for a single fellow who works on multiple projects that are closely related.

Research groups seeking one or more postdoctoral fellowship awards must demonstrate a track record of high-quality research and dissemination in an area relevant to the program description for this RFP, a history of and commitment to mentoring new doctoral-level (Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent doctoral degree) researchers to continue in research careers, and an ongoing or newly funded research project that would benefit from the inclusion of one or more full-time postdoctoral fellows.

As with individual awards, any fellow hired under an NCGVR postdoctoral fellowship must have earned their doctoral degree within 30 months of their employment start date. Awards are for full-time research training only. Awards are not available for postdoctoral students during their clinical residency training, and research clinicians may not have clinical duties other than those directly related to their research training.

Allowable Direct and Indirect Costs

NCGVR permits grantees to request funding for all of the direct costs associated with a project, including salaries and federally required benefits for employees, travel, meetings and conferences, data

access fees, and payments to third-party consultants and subgrantees that are directly attributable to or created specifically for the purpose supported by a particular grant. NCGVR defines *indirect costs* as organizational costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one project and not exclusively attributable to or created for the project supported by a particular NCGVR grant. Indirect costs include costs of executive management (e.g., president, dean, CEO, COO, CFO) and central operational functions (e.g., accounting, HR, IT, legal), equipment that can be used by the institution for other purposes or projects (e.g., computers, telephones, office furniture), office space rental, utilities, communications, subscriptions, memberships, organizational insurance, and other costs associated with general operations.

NCGVR permits postdoctoral fellowship grantees to receive an indirect cost rate of no more than 10 percent of total direct project costs, with the exception of dissertation awards, for which indirect costs are not allowed.

Key Activities and Timeline

LOIs are due by 8:00 p.m. EST on February 7, 2022. Full proposals will be due approximately 30 days after applicants receive an invitation to submit a full

Key Activities	Timeline
Last date to pose questions related to this RFP	8:00 p.m. EST, January 31, 2022
NCGVR responses to questions	8:00 p.m. EST, February 2, 2022
LOIs due	8:00 p.m. EST, February 7, 2022
Invitations for full proposals issued by NCGVR	By the end of February 2022
Full proposals due	Approximately 30 days after receipt of an invitation to submit a full proposal
Notification of awards	May–June 2022

proposal. Questions about this RFP may be submitted to proposals@ncgvr.org.

Applicants should take each deadline’s time zone into account.

Part 4. Application Instructions

The application process for all awards includes two steps. First, an LOI describing the proposed research must be submitted by the date listed in “Key Activities and Timeline.” Selected applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal. Second, applicants who receive requests for full proposals must submit those by the corresponding deadline listed in “Key Activities and Timeline.” NCGVR will consider full proposals only from those applicants who have been invited by NCGVR to submit a full proposal, after review of their LOI.

To submit an LOI for consideration, applicants must complete an online form that is available at <https://answer.rand.org/ncgvr2022-loi> that includes the information listed for the desired type of award. Applicants will then be able to upload a single PDF document of their LOI. Once an LOI is submitted, neither the LOI nor the information in the web form can be modified.

Dissertation Awards

Dissertation award funds may be used for research-related expenses, including tuition, living expenses, travel to attend conferences or to collect data, books, and computer supplies. Recipients of the award will be required to prepare a final report on their research accomplishments at the conclusion of the funding period.

Applicants for dissertation awards are the institutions of higher education at which the beneficiary of the award is an advanced doctoral candidate (see “Eligibility,” above). Before submitting an LOI, doctoral candidates must confirm in writing with their university’s office of sponsored research or office of research, grants, and contracts that the university agrees to work with the student and their dissertation adviser to submit a full dissertation grant

proposal, if one is requested by NCGVR after review of the LOI.

Advanced doctoral students whose dissertation research advances NCGVR's research priorities and who wish to be considered for these awards should submit LOIs, being careful to include all the required information listed below. LOIs that violate these instructions might not be reviewed.

LOI Instructions

Applicants must complete an online form at <https://answer.rand.org/ngcivr2022-loi>, providing the administrative information listed below. Applicants should then prepare a dissertation narrative that uses one-inch margins and no smaller than 12-point font and is saved as a PDF. Section lengths are provided below, where applicable. Applicants will upload a single PDF document consisting of their LOI into the online form. Once an LOI is submitted, neither the LOI nor the information in the online form can be modified.

Applications should include the following:

1. Administrative information (entered directly into the online form)
 - a. Dissertation title (please append "Dissertation Award:" to the beginning of the title)
 - b. Doctoral candidate's name, address, phone number, and email address
 - c. University name
 - d. University address
 - e. Adviser's name, title, and department
 - f. Statement acknowledging that you meet the dissertation award eligibility criteria listed above
2. Dissertation narratives (uploaded to the online form in PDF format)
 - a. **Project description:** Describe the dissertation study design, specifying research objectives, and explain the gap(s) in the scientific literature that your objectives address, as well as procedures, analytic methods, and data sources (two pages, at most)
 - b. **Project status:** Describe what work has been completed, what remains, timeline,

and expected completion date; also indicate the date on which your dissertation project was approved or is expected to be approved, if it has not yet been (200 words, at most)

- c. **Personal statement:** Describe your academic performance and accomplishments to date, including any publications or presentations; describe how the award will facilitate completion of your dissertation (one page, at most)
- d. **Letter from the university's office of sponsored research or office of research, grants, and contracts:** The letter should indicate that the office is prepared to accept an NCGVR dissertation grant award on which it will forgo indirect costs and all other fees for managing the award (no page limit)

Full Application Instructions

Full applications will be requested by NCGVR from applicants whose LOIs were judged to be outstanding. Do not submit full application materials unless you receive a written request from NCGVR to do so.

Full proposals should be submitted via an online form (link to be provided to invitees). Applicants will be given an opportunity to update any items in the online form that have changed since submission of the LOI. All required documents except for the adviser letter of support should be combined into a single PDF document that will be uploaded to the online form. Once the proposal is submitted, it can no longer be accessed. Full proposals that violate these instructions might not be reviewed.

Required information and documents to be compiled into a single PDF document:

1. Administrative information
 - a. Applicant's name, address, phone number, and email address
 - b. University's tax ID number
 - c. A budget describing how the award money will be spent
 - d. A copy of the applicant's résumé or curriculum vitae

2. A letter from the university official who will administer the grant award acknowledging that no overhead or fees will be charged to the grant or student for this service
3. University transcripts for all courses taken by the applicant in pursuit of a degree; these may be emailed directly to proposals@ncgvr.org if required by the university
4. Dissertation narrative addressing the following (may not exceed five single-spaced pages, using one-inch margins and no smaller than 12-point font):
 - a. Use the full proposal narrative to address any comments or questions received from reviewers on your LOI
 - b. In addition, the full proposal narrative should provide more detail on elements of your dissertation previously described in the LOI: Describe the dissertation study design, specifying research objectives, and explain the gap(s) in the scientific literature that your objectives address, as well as procedures, analytic methods, and data sources

Applicants must also submit a letter from their adviser or chair that is sent directly from the adviser to proposals@ncgvr.org, noting the name of the applicant in the subject line. The letter should

1. confirm the applicant's eligibility to receive this dissertation award, including that the applicant's dissertation research proposal will have been approved by June 1, 2022, and expected date when a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree will be conferred on the applicant
2. describe the applicant's progress on their dissertation work and potential to successfully complete the dissertation by June 2023
3. describe the applicant's outstanding characteristics or performance that makes them a worthy recipient of this dissertation award
4. describe the adviser or chair's role in monitoring the applicant's work and present evidence of both the department's and the dissertation committee chair's abilities to mentor doctoral candidates through the completion of their degrees

Evaluation Criteria

Dissertation award decisions will be made by the NCGVR RAC, after considering the applicant's scholarly excellence, the significance of the applicant's dissertation research objectives, the quality of the research design, the feasibility of the project and schedule, the applicant's qualifications, the advisers' nominating comments, and the applicant's potential to make a significant contribution to gun violence prevention research or gun policy research.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Awards

NCGVR makes one-year postdoctoral research fellowship awards to support the research training of individuals who show great promise of becoming independent and productive researchers in an area related to the program description contained in this RFP.

Postdoctoral research fellowship award funds may be used for research-related expenses, including tuition, living expenses, travel to attend conferences or to collect data, books, and computer supplies. Recipients of these awards may be asked to meet by phone with an NCGVR scientist several times over the year to discuss progress and will be required to prepare a final report on their research accomplishments at the conclusion of the funding period.

For both individual and group postdoctoral awards, applicants are the universities or nonprofits at which the beneficiary of the award will receive advanced research training (see "Eligibility," above). Before submitting an LOI, fellowship candidates (individuals or groups) must confirm in writing with their university's office of sponsored research or office of research, grants, and contracts that the fellow will have a full-time research training position for the duration of the award.

Individual applicants must also have one or more mentors who confirm that they will provide ongoing support to the fellow in pursuit of the project they propose to pursue during the award funding period. Research group applications should identify one or more mentors who will provide ongoing

support to the fellow hired into that position in pursuit of the proposed project.

All applicants must complete an online form at <https://answer.rand.org/ngvvr2022-loi>, providing the administrative information listed for each type of award below. Applicants should then prepare a project narrative that uses one-inch margins and no smaller than 12-point font and is saved as a PDF. Section lengths are provided below, where applicable. Applicants will upload a single PDF document consisting of their LOI into the online form. Once an LOI is submitted, neither the LOI nor the information in the online form can be modified.

Individual application instructions are provided below, followed by research group application instructions.

Individual Postdoctoral Fellowships

LOI Instructions

Applications should include the following:

1. Administrative information (entered directly into the online form)
 - a. Postdoctoral research project title (please append "Fellowship Award:" to the beginning of the title)
 - b. Postdoctoral researcher's name, address, phone number, and email address
 - c. University name
 - d. University address
 - e. Mentor's name, title, and department
 - f. Statement acknowledging that you meet the postdoctoral research fellowship award eligibility criteria listed above
 - g. Start date of one-year period over which award is requested (earliest possible start date is June 15, 2022, and the latest is October 1, 2022)
2. Project narrative (uploaded to online form in PDF format)
 - a. **Project description:** Provide the title of the research project and a brief discussion of the study, explain the significance of this work and where the data for it will come from (if applicable) (two pages, at most)
 - b. **Project status:** Describe what work has been completed, what remains, timeline,

and expected completion date (200 words, at most)

- c. **Personal statement:** Describe (1) your academic performance and accomplishments to date, including any publications or presentations; (2) your postgraduate research experience, to date, and the position you will hold at the university during the postdoctoral research fellowship award funding period; and (3) how the award will facilitate the completion of your postdoctoral research (one page, at most)
- d. **Letter from the university's office of sponsored research or office of research, grants, and contracts:** The letter should indicate that the candidate meets the eligibility requirements to receive a postdoctoral research fellowship award (no page limit)

Full Application Instructions

Full proposals for postdoctoral research fellowship awards will be requested by NCGVR from applicants whose LOIs were judged to be outstanding. Do not submit full proposals unless you receive a written request from NCGVR to do so.

Full proposals should be submitted via an online form (link to be provided to invitees). Applicants will be given an opportunity to update any items in the online form that have changed since submission of the LOI. All required documents except for the adviser letter of support should be combined into a single PDF document that will be uploaded to the online form. Once the proposal is submitted, it can no longer be accessed. Full proposals that violate these instructions might not be reviewed.

Required information and documents to be compiled into a single PDF document:

1. Administrative information
 - a. Applicant's name, address, phone number, and email address
 - b. University's tax ID number
 - c. A budget describing how the award money will be spent
 - d. A copy of the applicant's résumé or curriculum vitae

2. A letter from the university official who will administer the grant award acknowledging that the applicant meets NCGVR eligibility requirements for postdoctoral research fellowship awards
3. University transcripts for all courses taken by the applicant in pursuit of their doctoral degree
4. Project narrative addressing the following (may not exceed five single-spaced pages, using one-inch margins and no smaller than 12-point font):

a. **Problem analysis and statement:** Describe the project's research objectives and research questions, and document the gap in the scientific literature they address either by referencing a systematic review or by explaining how you established this as a gap in the literature. Explain how addressing this gap could make an important contribution to understanding or preventing gun violence. Specify whether the proposed research is confirmatory or exploratory. If confirmatory, specify the hypothesis to be tested.

b. **Study design and implementation:** Describe the study design and planned analytic methods, including a detailed description of any planned intervention. If the proposed study involves an intervention, the applicant must demonstrate having the partnerships necessary to execute the study—for example, with agencies or community organizations whose cooperation may be required. Any description of partnerships should be accompanied by attached letters of support indicating what the organization has agreed to. Explain how interventions or exposures, outcomes, and relevant covariates will be measured and the quality of those measures.

Describe the limitations of the data, design, and analytic methods for drawing reliable and generalizable inferences. Indicate a plan to preregister the research protocol on the OSF website (see “Terms and Conditions,” below). Explain the likely

implementation challenges or other project risks.

Applicants must also submit a letter from their mentor or mentoring team that is sent directly from the adviser to proposals@ncgvr.org, noting the name of applicant in the subject line. The letter should

1. confirm the applicant's eligibility to receive this postdoctoral research fellowship award
2. describe the applicant's role in the research project proposed for the award
3. describe the applicant's outstanding characteristics or performance that makes them a worthy recipient of this postdoctoral research project
4. describe the mentor's role in supporting the applicant's research training and their completion of the proposed research project
5. provide any evidence of successful mentoring of other postdoctoral researchers

Research Group Applications for Postdoctoral Fellowships

Established research groups with funded research in areas related to NCGVR's areas of interest may apply for postdoctoral fellowship awards before identifying the candidates who will fill them. Groups may apply for up to four postdoctoral awards, though if NCGVR chooses to award postdoctoral fellows for a research group, it may award fewer than the number requested. If funding of fewer than the requested number of postdoctoral fellowships will materially affect either the performance of the research project or the quality of the training received by funded fellows, this must be explained in the project narrative.

LOI Instructions

Applications should include the following:

1. Administrative information (entered directly into the online form)
 - a. Title of project for which postdoctoral fellow will conduct research (please append “Fellowship Award:” to the beginning of the title)
 - b. Name of mentor, phone number, and email address

- c. Research group name and university name (if applicable)
 - d. University address where the research group is headquartered
 - e. Number of postdoctoral fellows requested in application
 - f. Statement acknowledging that the research group meets the postdoctoral research fellowship award eligibility criteria listed above
 - g. Start date of one-year period over which award is requested (earliest possible start date is June 15, 2022, and the latest is October 1, 2022)
2. Project narrative (uploaded to online form in PDF format). If research groups are requesting multiple postdoctoral awards, and fellows will be working on different projects or with different mentors, separate project narrative sections can be submitted for each.
- a. **Project description and status:** Provide the title of the research project and a brief discussion of the study, and explain the significance of this work and where the data for it will come from (if applicable) (600 words, at most)
 - b. **Fellow's contribution:** Describe the portion of the research on which the fellow will be expected to work (200 words, at most, per requested position)
 - c. **Mentor description:** Identify the mentor who will be responsible for overseeing the work of the fellow, particularly addressing any prior mentoring experience and background of research in topics relevant to NCGVR (400 words, at most)
 - d. **Postdoctoral fellow hiring plan:** Briefly describe the ideal postdoctoral fellow, including expected methodological skills required to accomplish planned research; approach to hiring the fellow; and plans for mentoring the fellow (200 words, at most, per requested position)
 - e. **Mentor information:** Provide the curriculum vitae or résumé of principal mentor(s) (no page limit)

Full Application Instructions

Full proposals for postdoctoral research fellowship awards will be requested by NCGVR from research groups whose LOIs were judged to be outstanding.

Full proposals should be submitted via an online form (link to be provided to invitees). Applicants will be given an opportunity to update any items in the online form that have changed since submission of the LOI. All required documents except for the adviser letter of support should be combined into a single PDF document that will be uploaded to the online form. Once the proposal is submitted, it can no longer be accessed. Full proposals that violate these instructions might not be reviewed.

Required information and documents to be compiled into a single PDF document:

1. Administrative information
 - a. Research group name, mentor name, phone number, and email address
 - b. University's tax ID number
 - c. A budget describing how the award money will be spent
2. A letter from the university official who will administer the grant award acknowledging that the applicant meets NCGVR eligibility requirements for postdoctoral research fellowship awards
3. Project narrative addressing the following (may not exceed five single-spaced pages [per project, if multiple awards are requested and fellows will be working on separate projects] using one-inch margins and no smaller than 12-point font)
 - a. **Problem analysis and statement:** Describe the project's research objectives and research questions, and document the gap in the scientific literature they address either by referencing a systematic review or by explaining how you established this as a gap in the literature. Explain how addressing this gap could make an important contribution to understanding or preventing gun violence. Specify whether the proposed research is confirmatory or exploratory. If confirmatory, specify the hypothesis to be tested.

b. Study design and implementation:

Describe the study design and planned analytic methods, including a detailed description of any planned intervention. If the proposed study involves an intervention, the applicant must demonstrate having the partnerships necessary to execute the study—for example, with agencies or community organizations whose cooperation may be required. Any description of partnerships should be accompanied by attached letters of support indicating what the organization has agreed to. Explain how interventions or exposures, outcomes, and relevant covariates will be measured and the quality of those measures.

Describe the limitations of the data, design, and analytic methods for drawing reliable and generalizable inferences. Indicate a plan to preregister the research protocol on the OSF website (see “Terms and Conditions,” below). Explain likely implementation challenges or other project risks.

4. **Recruitment and mentorship plan:** Describe a plan to recruit and provide mentorship to the research fellow. NCGVR encourages research groups to identify fellowship candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Include information about the fellow’s planned integration into the existing research group, the fellow’s access to research resources outside those needed for the planned project, the potential for productive interaction with other senior researchers and practitioners (if applicable), and support for identifying permanent positions at the end of the fellowship (no more than one page).

Evaluation Criteria

Postdoctoral research fellowship award decisions will be made by the NCGVR RAC, after considering the applicant’s or research group’s scholarly excellence, the significance of the proposed research project’s objectives, the quality of the research

design, the feasibility of the project and schedule, the applicant’s qualifications and the mentor’s nominating comments (for individual applicants), and the fellow’s potential to become an independent, productive researcher who will make a significant contribution to gun violence prevention research or gun policy research. For research group applicants, this last criterion will be based on the group’s prior record of producing researchers working in relevant fields and supports in place for the fellow’s professional development.

Part 5. Terms and Conditions

This RFP lists some of the key terms and conditions that will be required of grantees if selected for award. These include, but are not limited to, demonstrating adequate performance completing project milestones and deliverables as documented in routine progress reporting and periodic phone calls with NCGVR grants monitors, preregistering research protocols at OSF (<http://osf.io>) and fulfilling other open-science expectations listed in the grant agreement, adhering to a human subjects protection plan approved by an accredited institutional review board, and adhering to quality assurance review procedures.

1. **Prohibited Uses.** Grantee may not use Grant funds or the income therefrom for any of the following purposes: (1) to fulfill any existing legally binding pledge of the RAC, the Administrative Entity, or any other adviser to the Account; (2) to provide more than an incidental benefit to the RAC, Administrative Entity, or any other adviser to the Account, any family member thereof, or to any individual who is not an appropriate beneficiary of the Grantee’s charitable programs; or (3) for any other purpose other than one specified in Section 170(c)(2)(B) of the Code. Grantee will not provide any tax substantiation letter in connection with this grant.
2. **Reporting Schedule.** All progress and financial reports should, in each case, compare actual expenditures and accomplishments during the period being reported.

- a. **Semiannual progress report(s)** documenting grant activity and interim research results for the period being reported.
 - b. **Final progress report** due 30 days before the end of the project term.
 - c. **Semiannual financial report(s)**.
 - d. **Final financial report** due no later than 60 days after the project term.
 - e. If the Grant funds are not fully expended by Grantee in accordance with the budget as set forth in Grantee’s proposal, Grantee will disclose this in the final financial report. In consultation with the RAC through the Administrative Entity, we will make a determination about such funds upon receipt of such information, including whether Grantee shall be required to return unspent funds. Grantee may not reallocate any unspent funds and may not spend or retain unspent funds after the Ending Date without prior written approval of the Administrative Entity in consultation with the RAC.
 - f. Reports shall be delivered electronically to grants@ncgvr.org.
3. **Registration and Openness.** For any empirical research study performed under this Agreement, Grantee must meet (and must ensure that any third parties involved in the research meet) certain transparency requirements, as further elaborated in a document prepared by Arnold Ventures entitled “Guidelines for Investments in Research,” available at the Arnold Ventures website (the “Guidelines”).² The Guidelines’ specific applicability to Grantee’s empirical research study may vary as determined by the NCGVR Research Director. Moreover, both the applicability of the Guidelines and the requirements of this section may be modified by the NCGVR Research Director during the Term as deemed appropriate by the NCGVR Research Director. Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the obligations imposed by this section

² <https://www.arnoldventures.org/guidelines-for-investments-in-research>

shall continue for the duration of the empirical research study or evaluation related to the Purpose, even if such duration expands beyond the Term.

- a. Grantee must establish an account with OSF (www.osf.io) and must create a new project for any new empirical research study. Unless there is an express legal restriction on doing so, Grantee must (i) add Dr. Andrew Morral and Dr. Meagan Cahill (or their delegates) as collaborators with “Administrator” permissions on the OSF project webpage so that they can view the empirical research study materials saved there and (ii) make the empirical research study publicly viewable by selecting the “Make Public” option on the study’s project, unless the NCGVR Research Director agrees to allow the project or a component thereof to remain private.
- b. The project’s OSF webpage must include an analysis plan describing the hypothesis or hypotheses to be examined in the empirical research study, the primary and secondary outcomes, the statistical model(s) and methodologies to be used, and further details as specified in the Guidelines. This analysis plan must be completed, approved, and registered in a manner satisfactory to the NCGVR Research Director and consistent with items reflected in Section 8, “Deliverables.” To the extent that a particular research design changes substantially after the first preregistration but before statistical analyses have been completed, Grantee should create a subsequent preregistration for the empirical research study in a manner satisfactory to the NCGVR Research Director.
- c. To the maximum extent allowed under any applicable federal or state law, institutional review board (“IRB”) procedures, memorandum or contract signed with a government agency (including any regulations applicable thereto), and/or license, all of the data sets, computer code, and

other materials (such as codebooks, protocols, survey instruments, administrative records) related to the empirical research study must be (i) saved at the OSF's project webpage in the version-controlled system there or linked to in a trusted digital repository, such as DataVerse, and (ii) made publicly available at the time of a final evaluation report or scholarly article publication (unless the NCGVR Research Director agrees to a later date).

Notwithstanding the above, to the extent that any data set contains information subject to privacy and/or confidentiality duties or obligations under applicable law or agreement, Grantee shall release as much data as is allowed, subject to compliance with such privacy and/or confidentiality duties or obligations. For example, only if, and to the extent, legally permissible, Grantee shall release a public-use version of a data set after removing certain identifying variables or taking any necessary actions that statistically anonymize the data. Further, even for private and confidential data, Grantee shall share that data set with a third-party researcher if that researcher has first (a) obtained official written approval from all governmental agencies that provided data access to Grantee, (b) obtained written approval from an accredited IRB, and (c) signed a nondisclosure agreement pertaining to all private and/or confidential data. The third-party researcher's access to the data set shall take place on whatever terms are negotiated with the governmental agencies mentioned above (such as, by way of example, password protection, access via remote software such that the data set is not downloaded to the researcher's local computer, or the removal or alteration of personally identifiable information).

- d. The final results of Grantee's research must be made available at the project's OSF webpage, including but not limited

to any final evaluation report and/or a link to any publication generated from the empirical research study's data set. In cases where the results may be published in a journal that embargoes results before publishing, this information may remain private until the article is published. For any publication in a journal that imposes subscription or per-article fees, Grantee must either (i) make a copy of the publication freely available on the OSF webpage (if allowed under the journal's copyright policies) or (ii) write a report on the same finding(s) and make that report freely available on the OSF webpage directly or via a link to a preprint server. If no official report or publication is otherwise available, the OSF webpage must be updated within one (1) year of the endpoint of data collection (unless the NCGVR Research Director agrees to a later date) to include a detailed written report of the findings or to provide a link to the detailed written report of the findings on a preprint server.

4. **Human Subjects.** If human subjects data are used in the conduct of the work supported by this Agreement, Grantee warrants and agrees to comply with the applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies that govern the ethical treatment of individuals who are participants of the work supported by this Agreement through observation, intervention, interaction, or use of data about them. Grantee further agrees to provide certification within thirty (30) days of request that an institutional committee has reviewed and approved the procedures which involve human subjects. Grantee shall bear full responsibility for the proper and safe performance of all work and services involving the use of human subjects under this Agreement.
5. **Quality Assurance.** Grantee shall not use NCGVR funding to promote political or advocacy positions that are not directly supported by their empirical research. Grantee's quality assurance review plan shall ensure that the research findings reported are independently

and carefully reviewed before they are disseminated in venues likely to attract widespread attention.

Appendix. Budget Template and Budget Narrative

An Excel version of the budget template is available at <https://www.ncgvr.org/rfp>.

Budget Narrative Requirements

The budget narrative is where detailed information is provided to assist reviewers in evaluating estimated costs for reasonableness.

Budget narrative categories may include, but are not limited to, the following: personnel, fringe benefits, travel, other direct costs, subcontractors and collaborators, and indirect costs.

Personnel: Provide a description of each individual's role and responsibilities related to the proposed research. Personnel categories may include

- Project director, principal investigator, scholar, fellow
- Project staff
- Administrative staff (if normally charged direct)
- Other staff

Fringe benefits: Provide the percentage, basis of calculation, and whether the rate is approved for estimating or pricing by a U.S. federal government agency.

Travel: Provide details on each proposed itinerary, including origin and destination, purpose of trip, and number of travelers. Travel costs must be estimated using the most economical means of

travel and in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations. For domestic travel, please go to the General Services Administration's "Per Diem Rates Look-Up" webpage, <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates/per-diem-rates-lookup>. For international travel, please go to the Department of State's "Foreign Per Diem Rates by Location" webpage, https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp.

Other direct costs: Provide a description of each item and a brief justification for its cost to assist reviewers in evaluating its applicability and direct allocability to the project. Equipment that could be used for general purposes or benefit more than one project is not allowed.

Subcontractors and collaborators: Provide a brief description of each organization's role and responsibilities and list of key staff. Subcontractors and collaborators must also provide a detailed budget and budget narrative in the same format as required in this RFP.

Indirect costs: Provide your organization's negotiated indirect rate agreement, if applicable. Also include the percentage used in estimating indirect costs and basis (or bases) of calculation to assist reviewers in evaluating your organization's methodology for allocating indirect costs and determining reasonableness. NCGVR limits indirect costs to no more than 10% of total direct project costs for postdoctoral fellowship awards. Indirect costs are not allowed for dissertation awards. Provide your organization's negotiated indirect rate agreement, if applicable. Also include the percentage used in estimating indirect costs and the basis (or bases) of calculation to assist reviewers in evaluating your organization's methodology for allocating indirect costs.

Applying fee or profit to any and all cost categories is not allowed.

References

Morgan, Erin R., Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, Deborah Azrael, and Matthew Miller, "Public Perceptions of Firearm- and Non-Firearm-Related Violent Death in the United States: A National Study," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, Vol. 169, No. 10, 2018, pp. 734–737.

National Research Council, *Firearms and Violence: A Critical Review*, Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press, 2005.

National Research Council, *Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence*, Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press, 2013.

RAND Corporation, *The Science of Gun Policy: A Critical Synthesis of Research Evidence on the Effects of Gun Policies in the United States*, Santa Monica, Calif., RR-2088-RC, 2018. As of December 15, 2020:
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2088.html

