



Request for Proposals

The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research (NCGVR)

Second Request for Proposals

Deadline for Receipt of Letters of Interest:
8:00 p.m. EST, February 4, 2020

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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 was to seek testimony from a wide range 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. Indeed, by one estimate, the government spends about \$100 million a year *less* on gun violence research than it does on other leading causes of death that kill similar numbers of people, such as motor vehicle crashes, liver disease, and hypertension (Stark and Shah, 2017).

There is reason, therefore, to suspect that important contributions to understanding and preventing gun violence remain to be discovered across a wide range of study types. NCGVR recognizes that an important consideration for this research will be the effects of gun policies on the interests of different stakeholders, including gun owners, and that these effects bear on the fairness and feasibility of many policies or interventions.

To begin addressing this underinvestment in gun violence research, NCGVR is issuing more than \$20 million in research grant funding over a five-year period (July 2018 to June 2023). 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 request for proposals (RFP), the NCGVR Research Advisory Committee has drawn on research priorities suggested not just in the testimony it received from multiple organizations but also in the findings of earlier studies of 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, the Research Advisory Committee 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.

This RFP is the second issued by NCGVR. The application process involves two steps. Short letters of interest (LOIs) describing proposed research must be submitted by the deadline listed in “Key Activities and Timeline,” below. NCGVR's Research Advisory Committee will review these letters and will request full proposals from among the LOIs that describe 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 Research Advisory Committee to do so after all LOIs are reviewed. Three types of awards will be made: research project awards, dissertation awards, and postdoctoral research fellowship awards.

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; and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. NCGVR is governed by the independent Research Advisory Committee. The role of the committee is to ensure the intellectual quality, research effectiveness, and academic independence of the NCGVR program. It serves as the decision-making 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 Research Advisory Committee.

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 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 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 proposal evaluation criteria.

Preferred Approaches for NCGVR Research

NCGVR prefers to fund research that will improve the quality and availability of data on gun policy or violence topics. Similarly, it prefers to fund research that integrates perspectives from multiple disciplines and research that is conducted collaboratively, as described below.

Improved Data

Research that synthesizes 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, creating data sets that synthesize data from multiple sources, or making existing data more accessible to other researchers are encouraged.

Multidisciplinary Approaches

NCGVR also encourages proposals from multidisciplinary teams, combining, for example, public health, medical, and criminology researchers. These teams could be from the same or different institutions.

Collaborations

NCGVR encourages collaborative research that meaningfully includes relevant practitioners 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.

It is not a requirement that every proposal include collaborations, multidisciplinary approaches, and improved data. Those that address any or all of these preferred approaches are strongly encouraged, however.

Priority Research Categories

For this RFP, NCGVR will fund two categories of studies: (1) descriptive or basic research studies and (2) applied or policy research studies. Research in the descriptive or basic research category will improve our understanding of the characteristics of various aspects of firearm violence. Under this category, five main areas of interest are prioritized: urban gun violence, domestic gun violence, mass shootings, gun suicides, and officer-involved shootings.

Research in the applied or policy research category will inform effective interventions or strategies for reducing gun violence, including interventions that are implemented by or involve the community,

law enforcement, schools or other service system organizations. This category also involves the analysis of existing and potential gun regulations at the local, state, and federal levels; evaluation of organizational policies, such as police use of force policies or training standards; and other types of policy analysis.

Figure 1 depicts the relationship between NCGVR’s preferred approaches, priority research categories, areas of interest within categories, and crosscutting themes within each priority research category.

Priority Category 1: Descriptive or Basic Research

This priority area entails exploratory or confirmatory research that will fill knowledge gaps about NCGVR’s five main areas of interest, described below.

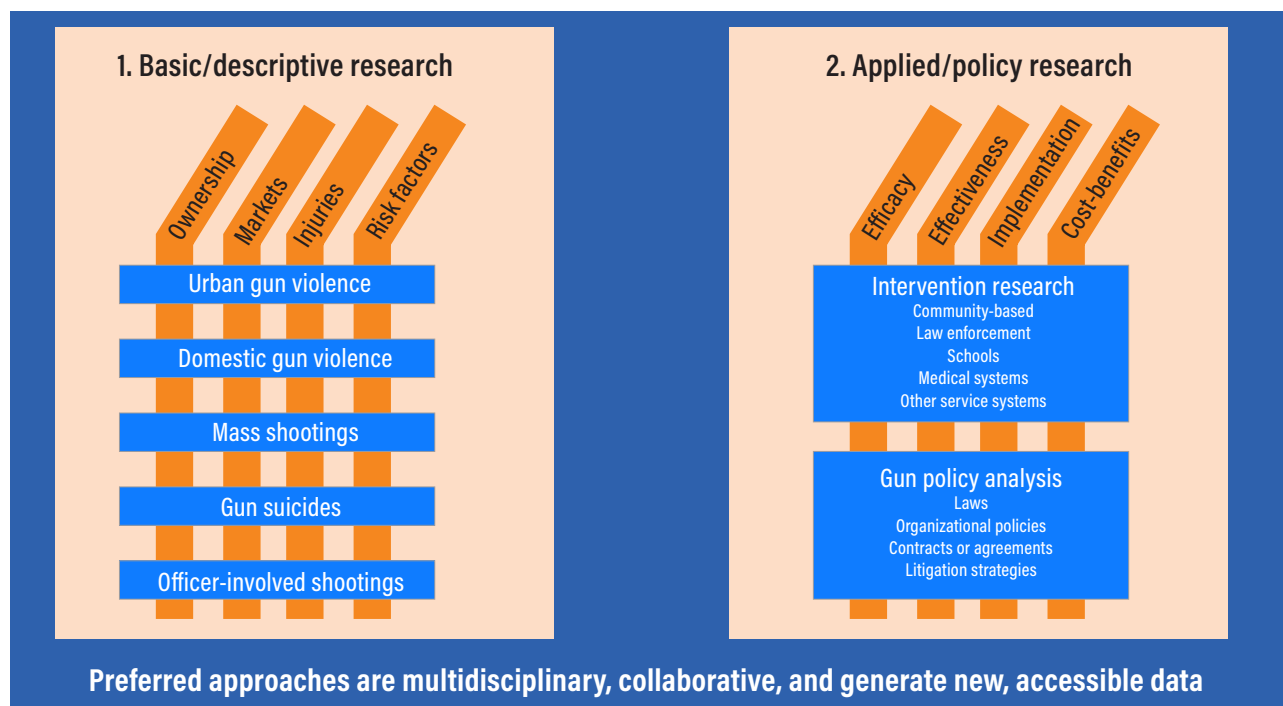
Areas of Interest

- **Urban gun violence:** This area of interest focuses on those individuals most likely to be shooters or victims of urban gun violence (typically, adolescent or young adult

males)—specifically, those engaged in violence associated with gang activities, crime, or interpersonal conflicts that escalate to lethal violence. Significant gaps remain in our understanding of urban gun violence, its causes, and its prevention, including the dynamics of the social transmission of gun carrying, threats, and violence; how individuals acquire firearms, especially illegally; the experiences, conduct, or criminal convictions associated with increased risk for illegal gun use; the prevalence of firearm violence that is nonlethal; and the differences between lethal and nonlethal assaults with firearms. NCGVR’s emphasis on urban gun violence does not preclude research proposals on rural or other communities.

- **Domestic gun violence:** Approximately 40 percent of women who are murdered with a firearm are killed by a family member, yet relatively little is known about the context of these crimes, the subgroups most affected by them, precipitating events, when and where the firearm was acquired, whether perpetrators of these crimes share common

Figure 1. Priority research categories, areas of interest, crosscutting themes, and preferred approaches



characteristics, and what role firearms play in intimate partner relationships, among other related questions.

- **Mass shootings:** This topic focuses on mass shootings, including trends and predictors of mass shootings and school shootings, as well as a better understanding of the acquisition of firearms used in mass shootings, motivations of shooters, target selection, training or preparation, communication of intent by shooters in advance of their attacks, and risk factors most strongly associated with mass shootings. Research on this topic will inform better targeting and prevention of these types of incidents.
- **Gun suicides:** Research is needed to improve understanding of specific risk factors for firearm suicide to better inform targets, approaches, and implementation of public policies. Research is needed on the link between suicide and access to guns, why the link exists, and how best to communicate this information to the public (Morgan et al., 2018). Research is also needed on the risk profiles of people most likely to die by firearm suicide, the choice of lethal means used in suicides and attempts, the origins of firearms used in suicides, and the time between purchase and suicide attempt. New approaches to establishing the risk of suicide associated with the purchase of, ownership of, or access to firearms could provide a stronger basis for interventions to reduce suicide. Better understanding of the magnitude of means substitution that occurs when firearms are unavailable, and the conditions contributing to means substitution, is needed. A related topic is the identification of distinguishing features between suicide and murder-suicide.
- **Officer-involved shootings:** This topic consists of 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. Examples of research questions that

might be investigated include the following: What circumstances or characteristics—at the community level and at higher levels (e.g., county, state)—elevate the risk of officer-involved shootings in the United States? How does the prevalence of gun ownership in a community influence officer decisionmaking in a shooting?

Crosscutting Themes

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

- **Gun ownership and attitudes:** Surprisingly little is known about gun ownership trends and gun use in the United States, beyond what is reported in a few large surveys, which may provide unreliable evidence on these questions (Cook, 2013). This area includes how and why individuals own or acquire firearms and what the effects of this ownership may be, such as 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 improving 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 how different classes of high-risk individuals acquire their firearms; the numbers 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 firearms markets serving different geographic regions or buyers; and the life cycle of different types of firearms, especially those eventually used in gun violence.
- **Nonlethal firearms injuries:** We have little understanding of the prevalence and trends in nonlethal firearm injuries or of

the long-term morbidity and costs of these injuries. Fundamental information on gun injuries is unavailable for most states but could contribute importantly 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 nonfatal 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 the risk of urban gun violence, domestic gun violence, gun suicide, mass shootings, and officer-involved shootings. Included in this category is research on the risks associated with different classes of guns or ammunition or on instrumentality effects (Zimring, 2004).

Priority Category 2: Applied or Policy Research

Areas of interest in this priority category 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.

Areas of Interest

- **Intervention research:** Although many interventions have been designed to disrupt firearm violence, prevent firearm suicide, or safely minimize officer-involved shootings, only a few have been sufficiently well studied to demonstrate that they have their intended effects and that those effects may be generalizable to other settings or providers. Research on such interventions implemented by community groups, police and

prosecutors, schools, 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. Research needed in this area might examine, for instance, policing strategies, interventions, or new training protocols and how they affect firearm crime, violence, or officer-involved shootings; interventions designed to encourage gun safety practices among gun owners; interventions to encourage gun owners in crisis to voluntarily and temporarily relinquish their weapons; interventions designed to reduce youth gun carrying, brandishing, or violence; deterrence effects of prosecutorial or sentencing strategies; and the effects of primary care providers' firearm risk assessments and counseling.

- **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. Research is needed on the effects of gun laws or policies on outcomes of concern to multiple stakeholders; the joint effect of multiple laws working within and across states, which could include the effects on state firearm use and misuse that result from more or less permissive gun regulations in neighboring states; the effects of state laws on the effectiveness of local firearm ordinances; and how police use-of-force policies, union contract provisions, or oversight arrangements affect officer safety and officer-involved shootings. Do local and state laws relating to guns have an impact on police departments' use of force? How are laws (and the enforcement of laws), policies, and training standards implemented in different jurisdictions or departments, and how do these implementation differences affect outcomes? For instance,

how do differences in design of extreme risk protection order (ERPO) laws affect their use and impact on violence, suicide, or firearm removals that are later determined to be unjustified?

Crosscutting Themes

As with descriptive or basic research, some research areas 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 for which considerable resources are available to ensure the fidelity of the intervention's implementation. 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 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; understanding implementation challenges that emerge; and establishing how implementation differences affect outcomes of interest.
- **Costs and benefits:** Gun policies and interventions affect multiple stakeholders with diverse interests (communities disproportionately affected by gun crime, gun owners, individuals and families affected by mental illness, and many others) and may entail a wide range of costs—both monetary and nonmonetary—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 to better measure and understand monetary and nonmonetary costs and benefits, such as the effects of gun policies on individuals' rights.

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 that 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 up to \$9.5 million (including \$1.5 million set aside for Missouri-relevant research as described below) to fund ten to 25 research grant awards, six or more dissertation awards, and two or more postdoctoral fellowship awards through this second of four planned RFPs. There are no maximum or minimum project cost guidelines for research awards. Dissertation awards are fixed at \$25,000. Postdoctoral research fellowship awards are fixed at \$50,000.

Funding set aside for Missouri-relevant research: Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) has contributed \$1.5 million to NCGVR to support research awards and up to four dissertation awards and one postdoctoral research fellowship award in priority category 1 and priority category 2 (see Part 2, "Program Description") that are directly relevant to the interests of Missourians in the MFH service area. NCGVR uses the following definition of Missouri-relevant research:

Missouri-relevant research involves descriptive or applied research that specifically investigates programs, policies, or interventions used in or developed for Missouri, or that studies the experiences of Missourians, and that produces findings that are specifically relevant to policymakers and the public in Missouri. Results of the research must be relevant and/or of benefit to individuals and/or communities within the MFH service area.¹ Missouri-relevant research is not restricted to the study of only data from Missouri if comparison of those data with non-Missouri data is useful for clarifying the Missouri-specific effects of a policy or experience of Missourians.

¹ See MFH's "Where We Work" webpage: <https://mffh.org/the-foundation/where-we-work/>

Applicants who believe that their proposals meet this definition of *Missouri relevance* should indicate this when submitting their LOI or full proposal (see Part 4, “Application Instructions,” below).

Eligibility

Eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations² in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). 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.

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 not eligible to apply for NCGVR funding.

Eligible organizations can submit more than one LOI. Individual researchers may be included in multiple LOIs but may only be listed as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on a single research award LOI. There is no requirement that individual researchers have a doctorate degree, though researchers without doctorate degrees will need to demonstrate their research experience and expertise. 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 the dissertation committee as the principal investigator of the dissertation award. To be eligible for a dissertation award, the student must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, have completed all coursework, passed all preliminary exams, and 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, 2020. Students must have a plan to complete their dissertation and receive their degree between April 1, 2021, and September 30, 2021. Students who have already received a fellowship or grant to support the completion of their dissertation are eligible for NCGVR dissertation awards to cover additional research tasks that are not already funded. Such applicants will need to demonstrate that the NCGVR funds will not support the same research tasks as are supported by other funding sources. Students may not accept additional fellowships or grant awards to support the same dissertation research activities supported by an NCGVR dissertation award.

Students applying for dissertation awards must be in a full-time Ph.D. or Sc.D. program, pursuing their first doctoral degree. Students studying outside the United States are eligible to apply, provided that their dissertation pertains to research that has direct relevance to firearm violence reduction in the United States. Doctoral students engaged in any research-oriented degree program that is relevant to gun policy or gun violence prevention research are eligible to apply, including 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. Individuals seeking postdoctoral fellowships must

² 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).

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 a commitment from an appropriate mentor, identified at the time the letter of interest is submitted. Mentor quality will be assessed via the mentor’s research and publication records and experience in the proposed field of study. 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.

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. Moreover, NCGVR also recognizes that, to successfully accomplish the purpose of a grant, grantees often need additional financial support to cover a portion of their indirect costs. 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. **NCGVR limits the indirect cost rate to no more than 40 percent of total direct project costs, with the exception of dissertation awards, for which indirect costs are not allowed.** Indirect costs typically include costs of executive management (e.g., president, CEO) 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.

Key Activities and Timeline

LOIs are due by 8:00 p.m. EST on February 4, 2020. Full proposals will be due approximately 30 days after applicants receive an invitation to submit a full proposal. Questions about this RFP may be submitted to proposals@ncgvr.org.

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

Key Activities	Timeline
Last date to pose questions related to this RFP	8:00 p.m. EST January 23, 2020
Responses to questions	8:00 p.m. EST January 27, 2020
LOIs due	8:00 p.m. EST February 4, 2020
Invitations for full proposals issued by NCGVR	By the end of February 2020
Full proposals due	By the date listed in the invitation for full proposals, approximately 30 days after receipt of the invitation
Notification of awards	May-June 2020

Part 4. Application Instructions

The application process for research project awards and dissertation 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 a request 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.

Research Project Awards

Letter of Interest Instructions

To submit an LOI for consideration, applicants must complete an online form at <https://smapp2.rand.org/surv4/ncgvr-loi> that includes questions on the information listed below. Applicants will then be able to upload a single PDF document consisting of their LOI. Once an LOI is submitted, neither the LOI nor the information in the web form can be modified.

Proposers should have the following information prepared before beginning the application process.

1. Administrative information (to be completed on the web form prior to submitting an LOI)
 - a. Organization's name
 - b. Organization's address
 - c. Organization's tax ID number
 - d. Organization's authorized representative name, title, email, and direct telephone number
 - e. Total requested amount (direct and indirect costs combined; do not complete the full budget proposal included in the appendix, as this is not required at this LOI stage)
 - f. Start date and duration of the proposed grant project (NCGVR will provide up to three years of funding, but preference will be given to projects of two years or less)
 - g. Proposed investigator(s) name, title, email, and direct telephone number
 - h. The proposed investigator(s) level of effort on the project (days per year or percentage of time)
 - i. List of expected key staff
 - j. In 200 words or fewer (total, across all investigators), describe the experience of proposed investigator(s) conducting research of similar complexity, requiring similar skills or expertise
 - k. In 200 words or fewer, describe the organization, its past related experience (within three years), and any key resources the organization has that will support project performance
 - l. In 100 words or fewer, explain how the research is Missouri relevant (this should be completed only for projects wishing to be considered for Missouri-relevant funding; see Part 3, "Available Funding"). Missouri-relevant projects will be eligible for both regular NCGVR funding and the Missouri set-aside funding.
 - m. Priority research category (descriptive or basic; applied or policy), area of interest, any applicable crosscutting categories, and up to three keywords; keywords are available for selection, and you will be able to input additional keywords not already on the list
2. LOI narrative (a single PDF document)
 - a. Project title
 - b. Problem analysis and statement: Describe the project's research objectives, explain the gap(s) in the scientific literature they address, and explain how addressing these gaps could make an important contribution to understanding or preventing gun violence
 - c. Approach: Summarize your study design, outcomes, independent variables, and planned analytic methods, as well as any planned intervention; NCGVR is most interested in funding projects with rigorous research methodologies likely to yield reproducible, generalizable, and actionable evidence
 - d. Proposed partners or subgrantees, if applicable, and their roles and responsibilities
 - e. Bibliographic references (references are not included in the page count limit)

The project narrative may not exceed three single-spaced pages, using one-inch margins and no smaller than 12-point font. LOIs that violate these instructions might not be reviewed. Letters of support from proposed partner organizations are not required to be included with the LOI but may be submitted as attachments to the project narrative, and these will not count toward the project narrative page limits.

Full Proposal Instructions

Those who receive written notification that NCGVR would like to review their full proposals should prepare and submit a full proposal by the deadline listed in “Key Activities and Timeline,” above. Full proposals should be submitted at <https://smapp2.rand.org/surv4/ncgvr-full>. Applicants will again need to complete a web form before uploading a single PDF document consisting of all parts of their full proposal. Once the proposal is submitted, it can no longer be accessed.

Proposals should carefully follow the guidance in this section, as failure to comply with these instructions or provide all materials by the deadline could result in the proposal not being reviewed.

Proposals should be prepared single-spaced, with one-inch margins, using no smaller than 12-point font. The project summary has a word limit, listed below, and the project narrative (5a through 5e, below) may not exceed ten pages. No other parts of the proposal are subject to page or word limits. All sections of the full proposal listed below are required, with the exception of letters of support (7d), which are only required if the project entails a collaboration with outside organizations or individuals. The proposal and all appendixes must be assembled into a single PDF document for submission.

Full applications consist of

1. Project title
2. Project summary (no more than 500 words)
3. Statement on Missouri relevance (optional for projects wishing to be considered for Missouri-relevance funding; see Part 3, “Available Funding”). Missouri-relevant projects will be eligible for both regular NCGVR funding and the Missouri set-aside funding.
4. Table of contents
5. Project narrative, including
 - 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 reference to a systematic review or by explaining how you established

this as a gap in the literature. Explain how addressing these gaps could produce important and actionable information for 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 that it has 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. If proposing significance testing, present a power analysis for the sample size decisions, including subgroup analysis, that are implied by key aims. The power analysis should include a theoretical or empirical justification for the effect sizes being assumed.

Specify what new or existing data will be collected and the source of the data. Applicants must demonstrate access to the necessary data—which may include partnerships with agencies or organizations from which data will be collected. Letters of support from data sources should be provided to indicate that the applicant will have access to those data, unless data are publicly available.

If the published literature contains criticisms or identifies limitations of the proposed measures or data sources, discuss how these will be addressed. Similarly, discuss any expected limitations because of unmeasured confounds or unavailable covariates. Discuss how

missing data will be handled in analyses (including possible survey nonresponse and attrition from longitudinal panels). If linking data sets, explain the data elements on which those linkages depend, their availability, and their reliability.

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 Open Science Framework website. Explain likely implementation challenges or other project risks.

c. **Study deliverables and dissemination**

plan: Describe each of the planned deliverables, including reports, data and code that will be released, and other products. If it will not be possible to make some data or code produced for this study public on the Open Science Framework website (<https://osf.io>), explain that here (see “Terms and Conditions,” below). Describe your plan for ensuring that deliverables are seen and understood by stakeholders who will benefit from them (e.g., the public, policymakers, other researchers).

d. **Quality assurance plan:** NCGVR funds research to provide a more objective, scientific basis for discussions about gun violence and gun policy. It is important, therefore, that grantees do not use NCGVR funding to promote political or advocacy positions that are not directly supported by their empirical research. Proposals must discuss the quality assurance steps they will take to ensure that the research findings they report are independently and carefully reviewed before they are disseminated in venues likely to attract widespread attention. This review should consider not only the soundness of the methods and conclusions but also (1) whether the report acknowledges alternative arguments when they are relevant and (2) that the report avoids adopting advocacy positions that are not thoroughly evaluated in the report. If

prepublication of reports is anticipated (e.g., on SSRN.com, as a National Bureau of Economic Research working paper, or in another widely accessible venue), describe what quality assurance steps will be taken before the report is posted.

e. **Relevant organizational and project staff experience:**

Describe the experience and capabilities of the applicant organization, key staff, and any proposed subgrantees (including consultants) that are relevant to the successful performance of this project, highlighting any previous experience implementing projects of similar scope, design, and complexity.

6. Project budget and budget narrative providing the justification for each planned expenditure (see the appendix for a link to budget template and budget narrative instructions)

7. Appendixes

a. Bibliographic references

b. Timeline and milestones: Provide a project timeline indicating when key phases of the project begin and end and the dates on which key deliverables will be completed; time required for institutional review board review (IRB) and approval should be accounted for in the project timeline

c. Résumés or curricula vitae of the key investigators

d. Letters of support or agreement from partner organizations or individuals (only for projects engaging partner organizations or individuals)

e. IRB approval is required for all NCGVR research; please indicate the organization that will conduct the IRB review of your research and its Federalwide Assurance number

f. List of all other funding organizations currently considering a substantially similar proposal from the applicant, and list of all previous projects the applicant has received grant or contract funding for to pursue similar project aims, specifying the aims of those similar projects

- g. **Conflict of interest disclosure:** Describe any real or potentially perceived organizational conflicts of interest the applicant organization may have and the plan for mitigating that conflict in pursuing the proposed research. Describe any real or potentially perceived financial conflicts of interest that any member of the study team may have and the plan for mitigating that conflict.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated primarily on their scientific merit, for which five primary criteria will be used.

For the LOI, although NCGVR asks that applicants address the selection criteria detailed below, we do not expect applicants to have finalized every aspect of the study. Therefore, reviewers will focus on the first two selection criteria—“Significance” and “Approach”—in determining which applicants to invite to submit a full proposal.

For full proposals, the overall score for each proposal’s scientific merit will be a weighted combination of each criterion. Weights are listed in parentheses:

1. **Significance (30%):** The potential for the project to advance knowledge and to reduce gun violence, with strong potential for improving policy or practice.
2. **Approach (25%):** The extent to which the study plan is scientifically rigorous and likely to produce interpretable and generalizable findings.
3. **Innovation (20%):** The extent to which the project is original, creative, and potentially transformative.
4. **Research team (and resources) (20%):** An assessment of how well qualified and resourced the project team is. NCGVR prefers projects that involve multidisciplinary teams and collaborations that integrate relevant practitioners into the research process, though neither of these is a requirement for funding.

5. **Dissemination plan (5%):** The likelihood that those who could best use the results to reduce violence, improve policy, or advance scientific research will learn of the research and understand how it should inform their decisions.

Cost will be separately evaluated for reasonableness but not assigned a score. Reviewers will assess the proposed level of effort (e.g., proposed number of days, percentage of time, number of calendar or academic months) and other resources requested against the proposed approach to conducting the research or completion of tasks, data requirements, dissemination efforts, and expected work products.

Dissertation Awards

The objectives of the dissertation award program are to improve scientific knowledge and to build research capacity in the domains of gun violence prevention and gun policy research in the United States. NCGVR anticipates making up to eight awards designed to support the final year of work on a student’s dissertation, including four Missouri-relevant dissertation awards.

Dissertation award funds may be used for research-related expenses, including tuition, living expenses, travel to conferences or to collect data, books, and computer supplies. Recipients of the award will 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.

Applicants for dissertation awards are the universities 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 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 concerns U.S. gun policy or gun violence

prevention wishing to be considered for these awards should submit LOIs, being careful to include all the required information listed below.

Letter of Interest Instructions

To submit a dissertation award LOI for consideration, applicants must complete an online form at <https://smapp2.rand.org/surv4/ncgvr-loi> that includes questions on the information listed below. Applicants will then be able to upload a single PDF document consisting of their LOI. Once an LOI is submitted, neither the LOI nor the information in the web form can be modified.

To submit a dissertation award LOI, please include the following:

1. Administrative information required for completion of online web 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
 - g. In 100 words or fewer, explain how the research is Missouri relevant (this should be completed only for projects wishing to be considered for Missouri-relevant funding; see Part 3, “Available Funding”). Missouri-relevant projects will be eligible for both regular NCGVR funding and the Missouri set-aside funding.
2. Narrative (a single PDF document)
 - a. **Project description:** Provide the title of the dissertation, briefly discuss the study, and explain the significance of this work and where the data for it will come from (if applicable) (400 words, at most).
 - b. **Project status:** Describe what work has been completed, what remains, your timeline, and the expected completion date. Also indicate the date on which your

dissertation project was approved (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 (400 words, at most).
- d. **Appendix:** Letter from the university’s office of sponsored research or office of research, grants, and contracts indicating that it is prepared to accept an NCGVR dissertation grant award on which it will forgo indirect costs and all other fees for managing the award

Receipt of a dissertation award is conditional on the applicant providing documentation confirming eligibility, which will be requested as part of the second-stage application. There are no page limits, only the three word limits listed above.

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 dissertation award proposals should be submitted at <https://smapp2.rand.org/surv4/ncgvr-full>. Applicants will again need to complete a web form before uploading a single PDF document consisting of all parts of their full proposal. Once the proposal is submitted, it can no longer be modified.

Full applications consist of

1. Applicant’s name, address, phone number, and email address
2. University’s tax ID number
3. A statement by the applicant describing the dissertation study design that specifies research objectives, procedures, analytic methods, and data sources (up to 500 words)
4. A budget describing how the award money will be spent
5. A copy of the applicant’s résumé or curriculum vitae

6. 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
7. University transcripts for all courses taken by the applicant in pursuit of their degree
8. A letter from the applicant's adviser or chair that
 - a. confirms the applicant's eligibility to receive this dissertation award, including that the applicant's dissertation research proposal will have been approved by June 1, 2020, and expected date when a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree will be conferred on the applicant
 - b. describes the applicant's progress on dissertation work and potential to successfully complete the dissertation by September 2020
 - c. describes the applicant's outstanding characteristics or performance that makes them a worthy recipient of this dissertation award
 - d. describes the adviser's or chair's role in monitoring the applicant's work and presents evidence of both the department's and the dissertation committee chair's abilities to mentor doctoral candidates through the completion of their degrees

The letter from the applicant's adviser (item 8 in the list above) should be sent directly by email from the adviser to proposals@ncgvr.org, noting in the subject line the name of applicant. Required elements 1–7 should be combined into a single PDF file and sent by the applicant to proposals@ncgvr.org by the submission deadline.

Evaluation Criteria

Dissertation award decisions will be made by the NCGVR Research Advisory Committee, 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 the fields of gun violence prevention research or gun policy research.

Proposal materials sent to NCGVR will not be returned to the applicant.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Awards

NCGVR makes postdoctoral research fellowship awards to support 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. NCGVR anticipates making up to two one-year postdoctoral fellowship awards in this funding cycle.

Postdoctoral research fellowship award funds may be used for research-related expenses, including tuition, living expenses, travel to conferences or to collect data, books, and computer supplies. Recipients of the award will 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 research accomplishments at the conclusion of the funding period.

Fellowship 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 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. Fellows must also have one or more mentors who confirm that they will provide ongoing support to the fellow in pursuit of the proposed project during the award funding period.

Recent recipients of graduate degrees who meet the eligibility criteria described earlier should submit LOIs that include all the required information listed below.

Letter of Interest Instructions

To submit a postdoctoral research fellowship award LOI for consideration, applicants must complete an online form at <https://smapp2.rand.org/surv4/ncgvr-loi> that includes questions on the information

listed below. Applicants will then be able to upload a single PDF document consisting of their LOI. Once an LOI is submitted, neither the LOI nor the information in the web form can be modified.

To submit a postdoctoral research fellowship award LOI, please include the following:

1. Administrative information (required to complete 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 a one-year period over which the award is requested (the earliest possible start date is June 15, 2020, and the latest is October 1, 2020)
 - h. In 100 words or fewer, explain how the research is Missouri relevant (this should be completed only for projects wishing to be considered for Missouri-relevant funding; see Part 3, “Available Funding”). Missouri-relevant projects will be eligible for both regular NCGVR funding and the Missouri set-aside funding.
2. Narrative (a single PDF document)
 - a. Project description: Provide the title of the research project, briefly discuss the study, and 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, your timeline, and the expected completion date (200 words, at most).
 - c. Personal statement: Describe your academic performance and accomplishments to date, including any publications or presentations. Describe your postgraduate research experience, to date, and the

position you will hold at the university during the postdoctoral research fellowship award funding period. Describe how the award will facilitate completion of your dissertation (one page, at most).

- d. Mentor’s curriculum vitae: Include your mentor’s current curriculum vitae.
- e. Letter from the university’s office of sponsored research or office of research, grants, and contracts indicating that the candidate meets the eligibility requirements to receive a postdoctoral research fellowship award

Full Application Instructions

Full applications for postdoctoral research fellowship awards 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 for postdoctoral research fellowship awards should be submitted at <https://smapp2.rand.org/surv4/ncgvr-full>. Applicants will again need to complete a web form before uploading a single PDF document consisting of all parts of their full proposal. Once the proposal is submitted, it can no longer be modified.

Full applications consist of

1. Applicant’s name, address, phone number, and email address
2. University’s tax ID number
3. Project narrative, including
 - 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 these gaps 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 that the intervention has 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 Open Science Framework website (see “Terms and Conditions,” below). Explain the likely implementation challenges or other project risks.

4. A budget describing how the award money will be spent
5. A copy of the applicant’s résumé or curriculum vitae
6. 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
7. University transcripts for all courses taken by the applicant in pursuit of a doctoral degree
8. A letter from the applicant’s mentor or mentoring team that
 - a. confirms the applicant’s eligibility to receive this postdoctoral research fellowship award
 - b. describes the applicant’s role in the research project proposed for the award
 - c. describes the applicant’s outstanding characteristics or performance that makes them a worthy recipient of this dissertation award

- d. describes the mentor’s role in supporting the applicant’s research training and completion of the proposed research project
 - i. provides any evidence of successful mentoring of other postdoctoral researchers

The letter from the applicant’s mentor (item 8 in the list above) should be sent directly by email from the adviser to proposals@ncgvr.org, noting in the subject line the name of applicant. Required elements 1–7 should be combined into a single PDF file and sent by the applicant to proposals@ncgvr.org by the submission deadline.

Evaluation Criteria

Postdoctoral research fellowship award decisions will be made by the NCGVR Research Advisory Committee, after considering the applicant’s scholarly excellence; the significance of the applicant’s research projects’ objectives, including potential for applicability of research findings to policy or practice; the quality of the research design; the feasibility of the project and schedule; the applicant’s qualifications; the mentor’s nominating comments; and the applicant’s potential to become an independent productive researcher who will make a significant contribution to the fields of gun violence prevention research or gun policy research.

Proposal materials sent to NCGVR will not be returned to the applicant.

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 the Open Science Framework (<http://osf.io>) and fulfilling other open-science expectations listed in the grant agreement, adherence to a human subject’s protection plan approved by an accredited institutional review board, and adhering to quality assurance review procedures

specified in the proposal or subsequently agreed to as part of the grant agreement.

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 Research Advisory Committee, the Administrative Entity, or any other adviser to the Account; (2) to provide more than an incidental benefit to the Research Advisory Committee, 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 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, and Schwab Charitable, in consultation with the Research Advisory Committee through the Administrative Entity, will make a determination about such funds upon receipt of such information, including whether Grantee shall be required to return unspent funds to Schwab Charitable. Grantee may not reallocate any unspent funds and may not spend or retain unspent funds after the Ending Date without prior written approval from Schwab Charitable, in

consultation with the Research Advisory Committee through the Administrative Entity.

- f. Reports shall be delivered electronically to SFCGgrants@schwabcharitable.org. Copies must also be provided 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 the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF) entitled "Guidelines for Investments in Research," available at the LJAF website (the "Guidelines").³ 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 11 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 11 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 the Open Science Framework ("OSF") (<http://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

³ <https://www.arnoldfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines-for-Investments-in-Research.pdf>

“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. 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 matter 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, and 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

A detailed budget and budget narrative are required for full proposals but not LOIs. 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 or 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 40 percent of total direct project costs. 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.

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