Early-Career Reviewer Program
Application Guidelines

Updated July 2021

Application Deadline:
August 15, 2021
Overview

The early-career reviewer program recruits early-career researchers to serve as peer reviewers of grant proposals submitted to the William T. Grant Foundation for studies on improving the use of research evidence. Peer reviewers read and evaluate grant proposals in their area of expertise, receive personalized feedback from Foundation program officers, and have access to additional reviews of assigned proposals prepared by senior peer-reviewers. Altogether, this professional development program aims to build early-career researchers’ understanding of the proposal evaluation and peer-review process for research grants in order to strengthen their own proposal writing skills and ultimately advance their careers.

Program Activities

The Foundation anticipates selecting five early-career reviewers and hopes to assign each reviewer 1-4 proposals during a two-year period. Upon receiving a proposal that matches their area of expertise, early-career reviewers will be asked to submit a written review within 3-4 weeks. Following submission of the written review, a Foundation program officer will provide feedback and request that any necessary revisions be submitted for the final deadline 1-2 weeks later.

At the completion of the process, early-career reviewers will receive the full set of de-identified peer reviews on the assigned proposal, which will serve as a resource for continued learning.

All early-career reviewers will be compensated $300 per review.
Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Received terminal degree within eight years of applying
- Currently working toward an independent research program related to the use of research evidence
- Been involved in the preparation of at least one grant proposal submitted in the past to any funder
- Successfully authored at least one research publication related to research on the use of research evidence

Across all of our programs, we strive to support a diverse group of researchers in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, and seniority, and we encourage applications from African American, Latinx, Native American, and Asian Pacific American researchers.

Application Materials and Selection Criteria

All application materials must be submitted by email to earlycareer-reviewer@wtgrantfdn.org by August 15, 2021.

Applicants must prepare a CV and a one-page cover letter indicating:

- Rationale for applying for the early-career reviewer program
- Prior role in submitting at least one grant proposal in the past to any funder
- Authorship of at least one research publication related to research on the use of research evidence
- Evidence of working toward an independent research program related to the use of research evidence

Applications will be reviewed on the strength of the CV and cover letter, as well as the extent to which the applicant’s research aligns with the Foundation’s focus on improving the use of research evidence.
Supporting research to improve the lives of young people

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