



Early-Career Reviewer Program

2024 Application Guidelines

Updated May 2024

Applications Accepted:

June 1 to July 16, 2024

Program 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. Apart from reading and evaluating grant proposals in their areas of expertise, early-career reviewers receive personalized feedback from Foundation program officers and have access to additional reviews prepared by senior peer-reviewers. Overall, this professional development program aims to build early-career researchers' understanding of the proposal evaluation and peer-review process for use of research evidence grants to strengthen their own grant writing skills and ultimately advance their careers.

Program Activities

The Foundation anticipates assigning each reviewer between one and four proposals during a two-year period. Early-career reviewers, once selected, will receive training from the Foundation on skills for proposal review and familiarity with the Foundation's priority area on improving the use of research evidence. 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 within 1-2 weeks.

At the completion of the process, early-career reviewers will have the opportunity to review the full set of redacted 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 seven years of applying
- Currently working toward an independent research program related to the use of research evidence
- Successfully authored and engaged with the peer review process for at least one research publication related to research on the use of research evidence
- In addition, it is valuable if you have been involved in preparation of at least one grant proposal submitted to a funder in the past

Across all 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, Indigenous, and Asian American Pacific Islander researchers.

Application Materials and Selection Criteria

All application materials must be submitted by email to earlycareerreviewer@wtgrantfdn.org by July 16, 2023.

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

- Motivation and rationale for applying for the early-career reviewer program
- Prior role in submitting at least one grant proposal in the past to any funder
- Specific example(s) of authorship and role on at least one research publication related to research on the use of research evidence
- If applicable, specific example of grant writing and responding to reviewer feedback
- Area(s) of subject and methodological expertise
- Evidence of how one's independent research program is aligned with or working towards improving the use of research evidence
- How participating in the early-career reviewer program would support developmental career aims

Applications will be reviewed on the strength of the cover letter and the extent to which the applicant's research aligns with the Foundation's focus on improving the use of research evidence. We recommend reviewing the Foundation's Resources for Applicants page for the use of research evidence to check your alignment with the focus area. The CV and cover letter must be submitted together as a single PDF, with the cover letter first and CV second.

Should you have questions about the program or selection criteria, please reach out to research assistant Maddie Scavotto at earlycareerreviewer@wtgrantfdn.org.



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