



Call for Proposals: *Dissertation Research Grant*

Issued by: *AWHONN Research*

Application Deadline: July 31, 2026

Funding Amount: Up to \$5,000 each

Number of Awards: 3

Funding Period: 12 – 24 months

Application: [Dissertation Research Grant Application](#)

Overview

AWHONN is pleased to announce a competitive research grant opportunity to support nurses enrolled as PhD students to conduct dissertation research that advances the health of women, pregnant people, newborns, and families.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this grant program are to:

- Support development of new nurse scientists to lead original research.
- Generate research that improves women's health, maternal, and neonatal outcomes.

Eligibility Criteria

- Current, unencumbered nursing license.
- Enrolled in a PhD program.
- Have an approved dissertation proposal and IRB submission planned.
- Research plan relevant to women's health, obstetrics, or neonatal nursing.
- AWHONN membership (including student membership).
- Have a faculty dissertation advisor serving as mentor.

AWHONN Research Priorities

Proposals must align with [AWHONN Research Priorities](#).

Priority I

Build the science of neonatal, obstetrical, reproductive, and women's health care, through the discovery and translation of evidence-based strategies that promote respectful person-centered care and addresses health inequities as a way of promoting maternal and neonatal outcomes.



Priority I addresses practices that relate to areas of greatest need for women, newborns, and families, and for which AWHONN-supported research can have the largest impact. The examples provided are not meant to be an inclusive list.

- Addressing psychosocial issues that affect the health of women, newborns, and families.
- Supporting efforts to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality, particularly in Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQIA+, patients with mental health or substance use disorders, domestic violence, and/or rural populations.
- Addressing the impact of social determinants of health in equitable health care and health outcomes.
- Promoting optimal neonatal adaptation.
- Promoting optimal sexual and reproductive health.
- Addressing Trauma-Informed Care, such as intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual assault, human trafficking, current or prior birth trauma in pregnancy and delivery.
- Any complications that result in increased maternal neonatal mortality and morbidity such as infectious diseases, sepsis, hemorrhage, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).
- Implementing a multidisciplinary approach to team communication creating a safe, just culture to include shared decision-making with patients and families.

Priority II

Maintain a strong commitment to interdisciplinary and collaborative research training of current and next generation nurse clinicians, educators, leaders, and scientists to address existing and impending health care challenges facing women, newborns, and families.

Priority II addresses activities that provide support for the professional development of healthcare professionals that include, but not limited to:

- Technology implementation or enhancement projects.
- Innovative interdisciplinary practice education projects, including simulation.
- Collaborative research projects with interdisciplinary professionals.

Priority III

Evaluate the impact of educational materials, programs, and resources on patient and/or nursing outcomes through collaborative research, translational research, and implementation science. Priority III addresses the impact of educational resources on patient or nursing outcomes.

Funding and Duration

- Up to \$5,000 per award
- Number of awards: 3
- Funding period: 12 – 24 months to completion of project.
- The full award will be delivered upon award. Progress reports (every 6 months) and a final close-out report will be required.



Proposal Requirements

Each application must include the following:

1. Applicant information including a completed biosketch using the provided [Biosketch TEMPLATE.docx](#)
2. Proposal title
3. Abstract (2,000 character limit)
4. Proposal document upload
 - APA 7th edition guidelines for citations and references.
 - Page setup:
 - Standard letter size pages (8.5 x 11 inches)
 - 1-inch margins
 - Font size: 11-12 points
 - Font type: Standard typefaces (i.e., Aptos, Arial, Helvetica, Georgia)
 - Density: No more than 15 characters per linear inch.
 - Line spacing: 1.5 spacing.
 - Sections include the following in order:
 - Background and significance
 - Specific Aims
 - Methods
 - Outcomes to be measured
 - Projected impact
 - Timeline
 - Feasibility and sustainability
 - Budget and justification
 - Include a line-item budget and a narrative budget to describe funding allocation.
 - References
5. IRB documentation
6. Letter of support from the dissertation advisor/chair
7. Dissemination plan



Review Process

The Research Advisory Panel will review applications based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Innovation and originality
- Relevance to nursing practice and patient outcomes
- Feasibility and methodological rigor
- Qualifications of the applicant
- Potential for scalability and broader impact

Application Submission

All proposals must be submitted by **July 31, 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Dissertation Research Grant Application

Notification of Award

Awarded applicants will be notified in **October 2026**. Research may commence upon finalization of funding agreements.

Questions? research@awhonn.org