## Description

The AAPA invites qualified researchers to apply for a **AAPA Small Research Grant** (SRG). The SRG is intended to support new research which will be submitted for publication and for presentation at AAPA national conferences.

The goal of the SRG program is to support research for PAs who otherwise do not have access to institutional resources (e.g., time free from teaching or clinical practice, access to graduate student support, internal funding mechanisms, grant writing resources), and to help establish a sustained record of external funding. The SRG is especially intended to provide seed funding to help individuals build their research portfolio and successfully apply for larger grants.

Researchers who wish to use existing AAPA data sets may find the public use file documentation on our [Bibliography and Resources page](#).

## Total Awards

Funding will be allocated based on a per project budget need. The largest grant awarded will be equal to no more than $20,000, with most grants being $3,000 to $7,000.  AAPA has allocated $50,000 in total funds to be disbursed within 2021.

In 2017, when AAPA was last able to give funding for small research grants, the following three projects were successfully funded at the amount listed:

- *The Economics of Physician Assistant Employment: A Cochrane Protocol Meta Analysis*, awarded $4,000
- *Are PA employers getting return on their investment? Exploring whether professional development benefits promote leadership, committee engagement, and career satisfaction among PAs*, awarded $1,600
- *A Descriptive Analysis of PA Perceptions and Activities in Quality Improvement*, awarded $4,000

### Submission Deadlines

Applications must be submitted no later than November 7, 2021, at 11:59 pm PST. Please send all questions to research@aapa.org and include SRG in the subject line. You should have a response within 2 business days.

### 2021 to 2022 Focus

Funds for the 2021 to 2022 grant cycle year will be prioritized to research which will examine issues related to Optimal Team Practice (OTP) and PA roles during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Optimal Team Practice

As AAPA and state organizations advocate for OTP, much more research is needed to show that PAs provide safe, high quality, cost-effective care to patients.

### COVID-19

PAs have stepped up to provide high quality care during the COVID-19 pandemic, and an estimated 10% have become infected with the virus to date. As we enter the vaccination phase of the virus, more research is needed to show how PAs have contributed to high quality care during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they can be leaders in the vaccination efforts in 2021.

### Eligibility

Anyone is eligible to apply for an AAPA SRG however a PA must be included as a co-investigator.

Applicants must:

- Be an AAPA member at the time of application and for the duration of the grant time frame.
- Have proof of Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission, approval, or exemption if proposing human subjects research. If the proposal is still

under review, please include the most up-to-date correspondence with the IRB and an estimated date by which approval or exemption will be granted.

- Be able to complete the research project within 18 months of receiving the award, provide two progress reports at six and twelve months, and submit a final project report to the AAPA Review Committee within 90 days of the end of the study.
- Agree to submit the research findings for presentation at the AAPA conference following the conclusion of your project.
- Provide a brief abstract at the conclusion of your research for dissemination on aapa.org.
- Acknowledge AAPA and the AAPA Small Research Grants Program in all scholarly work resulting from the funded project (e.g., presentations, publications, or posters).

## Budget Considerations

A detail budget must be included within the proposal.

The AAPA Small Research Grants program covers:
- Salary offsets for researchers
- Cost of data to be purchased
- Cost of software necessary for this project
- Labor, personnel, or consulting costs

The AAPA Small Research Grants program will **not** cover:
- Indirect or other administrative costs
- Durable goods such as computers
- Travel for disseminating research findings
- Publishing costs related to open-access journals

## Timeline

| | |
|---|---|
| October 1, 2021 | Open the call for proposals |
| November 7, 2021 | Proposal due date |
| November 2021 | Review proposals and make selection for grants |
| December 2021 | First grant is awarded |
| July 2022 | Interim reports are due |
| December 2022 | End of grant year report is due (from first wave) |
| June 2023 | Final grant report is due (from first wave) |
| May 2023 | Presentations at AAPA 2023 |

## Required Materials

### Proposal body

All proposal body's must an unblinded copy for AAPA and a blinded copy for the reviewers.

**Abstract**. The abstract is limited to 250 words. This will be included on aapa.org Research question(s) and/or problem statement. Include a succinct research question or problem statement.

**Background**. Include a brief background for the project and a review of the literature.

**Objectives, aims, or hypotheses**. Should be clear and concise and address the research question or problem statement.

**Methods**. Include information regarding sampling and data collection, or the data set to be purchased, timeline for completion, and if applicable, IRB review information.

**Analytic plan**. Include details regarding specific quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis plan, and how the plans relate to the research question(s).

**Impact statement**. Include including what new knowledge will be generated and the significance of the research questions to AAPA's priorities and the PA profession

**Dissemination plans**. Include how the findings will be shared within or outside the PA profession.

### Appendices

**Roles and responsibilities** of all the researchers involved with the project along with the time commitment each will put forth [unblinded]

**CV(s)** for the PI and Co-PIs, which must be complete [unblinded]

**References** in AMA style, which may be single spaced [unblinded]

**Itemized budget**, including justification for expenses where needed [unblinded and blinded]

**Letter from organization** attesting the support for the proposed research [unblinded]

**Description of any collaborative efforts** with other researchers, including letters of support from those parties [unblinded and blinded]

**Survey instruments**, if used in the proposed study; if the study includes survey development, submit a draft or outline of the instrument [blinded and unblinded]

### Format

**Length**. Proposal body should not exceed 8 pages. Appendices have no page limitations.

**Font**. Times New Roman, 12 pt.

**Spacing**. Line spacing set to 1.5

**Margins**. 1" all around

**Header**. Include running header on all materials.

**Footer**. Include page numbers on all materials.

**Blinding**. Identifying information should be removed from all materials to be submitted blinded. This may include letterhead, researcher(s)' name and contact information, geography identifiers, and the name of any collaborators.

**File names** should be blinded and may best match the running head for the proposal body (i.e., Optimizing Team Efficiency Proposal.pdf; Optimizing Team Efficiency References.pdf)

### Evaluation Criteria

The Review Committee will evaluate each proposal along the following criteria:

#### The quality of the proposal

Research question(s) and/or **problem statement(s) are clear, succinct**, and are novel.

**Background is comprehensive** and includes all major relevant research.

**Objectives**, aims, or hypotheses are clear and concise and **address the research question** or problem statement. The objectives address one of the focus areas highlighted in the 2021 AAPA SRG program call.

**Methods are written with sufficient detail to assess the** quality and are likely to yield high-quality research findings. If secondary research is used, the data selected are appropriate for the research project.

**Analytic plan outlined in sufficient detail to** assess the quality, including clearly defined variables of interest. The analytic plan is appropriate for the data being used and includes more than descriptive statistics.

**Impact statement includes a realistic assessment** of how the new knowledge generated will impact the profession and will result in significant contributions to the existing knowledge based.

#### Budget

The budget is **appropriate** for the proposed research plan.

The budget includes **sufficient detail**.

The budget line items **include justification**.

#### Feasibility

The research team is **qualified** to carry out the research as proposed and where support may be needed (such as statistics), consultants are identified.

The project can be completed in within 18 months of funding.

The project **is likely to result in a peer-reviewed publication** or presentations(s) to the scientific community.

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### Questions and Supports

Noël Smith, Senior Director of PA and Industry Research and Analysis, will be hosting office hours during the open call for proposals. All meetings will be hosted using Microsoft Teams. Times listed are EST.

October 12, 2021 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.
October 22, 2021 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.