



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY 2018

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Blood pressure management program: Community-research partnerships to reduce stroke rate and hypertension in underserved communities in Alameda County, CA

BACKGROUND

Stroke is among the most common and debilitating conditions in the world. It is the fifth-largest killer in North America and the number one killer in many other parts of the world. Its incidence is expected to rise significantly over the next decade. Almost 4% of U.S. adults will suffer a stroke. Within 5 years thereafter, 24% of women and 45% of men will have a second stroke.

Because it attacks the brain, the very core of human intelligence, creativity and accomplishment, the affliction carries special gravity and distress for humans. Current statistics indicate that there are more than 7 million people in the United States who have survived a stroke or brain attack and are living with the after effects. It has been estimated that of those individuals who survive a stroke, only 65% may be functionally independent one year following the stroke event.

The Dr. Jeffrey Thomas Stroke Shield Foundation (JTSSF) is unique in that it only funds stroke-related research. As practicing stroke specialists in Alameda County, we recognize the importance of directing targeted research funds to implementing practice change in our community, incorporating the best ideas in stroke research prevention and treatment. Stroke is preventable, however, scientists who seek National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for cardiovascular disease and/or stroke research receive a disproportionately small amount of NIH dollars. The NIH invests only 4% of its budget on heart research and a mere 1% on stroke research.

JTSSF will focus 2018 grant funding on modifiable risk factors for stroke prevention in the community setting. It is associated with multiple well-defined and modifiable risk factors, among which hypertension, obesity, smoking, alcohol consumption and lack of physical activity are most prominent. Stroke incidence is predictably increased in minority races and at lower socioeconomic levels, and stroke constitutes one of the most important manifestations of disparities in healthcare delivery.

PURPOSE

With this request for proposal, JTSSF seeks to demonstrate the public health impact of combining the resources of medical researchers and local community providers to optimally and aggressively manage high blood pressure and healthy lifestyle choices in underserved, high-risk hypertensive patients in Alameda County, CA. We seek applications from dedicated change makers who recognize the need to empower patients to manage their own health and to leverage community-based systems that educate and encourage patients in between doctor visits.

3053 FILLMORE STREET, #268
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123
415.830.6031

WWW.STROKESHIELDFOUNDATION.ORG
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Hypertension is a silent and usually asymptomatic risk factor for stroke. Lowering blood pressure by 5 mmHg diastolic reduces the risk of stroke by an estimated 34% and ischemic heart disease by 21%. Despite this remarkable impact, blood pressure is seldom measured with sufficient frequency to maintain it at recommended levels. This constitutes an important public health problem that is aggravated by socioeconomic disparities in healthcare delivery and current trends in modern American healthcare that emphasize brevity and high patient volume at the expense of patient education, disease prevention and healthful lifestyle promotion.

The proposals should include a study or clinical trial with human subjects to test and evaluate the proposed intervention (i.e. physician practice, community-based support, patient's at-home blood pressure monitoring method, feedback loop to primary care physician). The application should demonstrate how the proposed intervention improves or complements the current standard of care and how it could become the new 'gold standard' for proactive health maintenance. Furthermore, it should be indicated how the proposed intervention benefits patients quickly, and how could be implemented and disseminated in a sustainable manner. It is also intended that proposed interventions be carefully assessed, and yield publishable results that can help guide future interventions for similar populations and practice settings (e.g., community hospitals).

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

While JTSSF welcomes applications from qualified researchers and leaders of any academic institution or community-based organization within the United States, the project must be conducted in Alameda County, California. Furthermore, applicants are encouraged to leverage community-research partnerships for optimal success, impact and sustainability.

JTSSF is particularly interested in identifying and funding applicants who have outstanding intervention ideas relevant to today's patients with a direct, meaningful impact for participating patients.

Co-funding situations from other granting agencies is encouraged. Note that other funding agencies must be disclosed, and there is no overlap or duplication of funding for the project.

MAXIMUM AWARD AND DURATION

JTSSF expects to award 1 or 2 grants for up for to \$210,000 each, depending on available funds and quality of proposals received. The grant duration can be up to 36 months, while time condensed projects are preferred.

JTSSF will disburse the awarded funds only if the recipient maintains strict compliance with reporting and participant requirements as outlined in JTSSF's Funding Terms and Conditions.

USE OF FUNDS

Awarded funds will be paid on a milestone-driven or pay-by-patient basis and should be used for non-reimbursable, approved treatment- and study-related costs. Funds may also be used to



support the portion of salary devoted to the approved project by the Principal Investigator and other key personnel. Full documentation and disclosure is required in your project budget.

Please note that indirect costs are not covered.

APPLICATION PROCESS

JTSSF uses a two-step application process, which starts with a letter of intent (LOI) to describe the nature and methodology of the project. The most promising LOIs will be invited to submit a full grant application. All applications are subjected to a rigorous peer-reviewed evaluation process by our Scientific Advisory Board.

For more information on how to submit an LOI, please visit our website (<https://strokeshieldfoundation.org>) for the JTSSF Grant Application Guidelines or contact Eveline directly. LOIs should be submitted by email to Eveline Mumenthaler (eveline@strokeshieldfoundation.org) no later than July 29, 2018.

KEY DATES

Sun, Sept 16, 2018:	Deadline for submission of LOI
Sun, Oct 14, 2018:	Deadline for submission of full grant application
1 st week Nov 2018:	Announcement of winning proposal
Sat, Dec 1, 2018:	Start of grant period