



Interdisciplinary Research Grant Guidelines

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) Interdisciplinary Research Grant aims to support research that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, or theories from two or more disciplines or areas of specialized knowledge. By funding interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, this grant seeks to advance applied understanding and/or address complex societal challenges that extend beyond the scope of a single discipline or research practice.

Proposals should aim to conduct research that:

- integrates two or more disciplines to address pressing persistent individual, family, community issues;
- advances applied knowledge or solves real-world problems that cannot be addressed by a single discipline;
- promotes collaboration between researchers with varied academic and professional expertise;
- applies innovative methodologies that leverage expertise from multiple fields; or
- advances broad and lasting impact on individuals, families, and/or communities.

Applying for the Interdisciplinary Research Grant

Individuals and teams of researchers who are eligible to apply for the Interdisciplinary Research Grant include:

- Individual researchers or research teams conducting interdisciplinary studies.
- Educators, scholars, and practitioners engaged in interdisciplinary work within family and consumer sciences and related fields.
- Collaborative projects including multiple institutions and/or organizations are encouraged.
- Research projects that can be completed within 12-24 months of receiving the grant are eligible for funding.
- Previous Interdisciplinary Research Grant recipients are not eligible to submit applications for three years following receipt of a grant.
- Application materials must be prepared by the applicant and submitted in English.
- Members of the AAFCS Board of Directors and Grantmaking Committee are not eligible to apply during their terms of service. AAFCS staff are not eligible to apply during their periods of employment with the Association.
- All policies, procedures, and guidelines must be followed for the application to be considered for juried review.

Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted using the official application form as one PDF document. Please be aware of the page requirements for each section and include page numbers and headings. Please keep a copy of all materials submitted to AAFCS. Forward questions to grants@aafcs.org.

Section 1: General Information

- ☐ First and Last Name of Principal Investigator (include AAFCS Credentials, if applicable)
 - Current Title/Position
 - Name of Institution/Employer
 - AAFCS Member Number, if applicable
 - Contact Information (Email, Phone Number, Mailing Address)
- ☐ First and Last Name(s) of Research Team Members (include AAFCS Credentials, if applicable)
 - Current Title/Position(s)
 - Name of Institution/Employer(s)
 - AAFCS Member Number(s), if applicable

Section 2: Statement of Research Plan (Maximum of six (6) double-spaced pages in 12-point font)

- ☐ **Research Project Title**
- ☐ **Executive Summary:** Brief description of the research project, goals, and expected outcomes
- ☐ **Background and Need:** Describe the issue being addressed and why interdisciplinary research is necessary
- ☐ **Research Objectives/Hypotheses/Questions:** Clearly state measurable research objectives, hypotheses, or questions.
- ☐ **Methodology:** Explain how two or more disciplines will be integrated
- ☐ **Expected Impact:** Describe how the research will contribute to the knowledge base and solve interdisciplinary challenges
- ☐ **Evaluation Plan:** Outline the metrics and methods for assessing research success

Section 3: Budget & Justification (Maximum of two (2) double-spaced pages in 12-point font)

Please provide a detailed budget breakdown with justifications and note the following funding parameters:

- ☐ The successful proposal requests no more than \$10,000 from AAFCS.
- ☐ Funds may be used for research materials, technology, personnel, data collection, and other direct research costs.
- ☐ Indirect costs are allowable at a rate of no more than 15%.
- ☐ Travel to carry out objectives of the research is appropriate and may be funded by the grant.
- ☐ Travel to participate in professional meetings will not be paid by AAFCS.

Section 4: Applicant(s) Curriculum Vita or Resumé (Maximum of two (2) double-spaced pages per researcher)

Section 5: Two Letters of References: Each letter is limited to one (1) page and should be written from individuals who can give evidence of the applicant's research ability. For applicants currently employed, one of the two letters of reference should be from a supervisor, indicating that the applicant's time will be sufficiently and appropriately allocated for this project.

Section 6: Supporting Documentation/Reference List (Maximum of two (2) double-spaced pages, 12-point font): Include reference citations in APA format.

Evaluating the Interdisciplinary Research Grant

- Individuals who write a letter of reference for a current applicant cannot serve as jurors for this grant.
- Jurors cannot review applications from family members, their current students, students at their own institution, applicants who share the same employer, or current collaborators and partners. Jurors are responsible for identifying any applicants that include a potential conflict of interest and recusing themselves from the review process.
- Jurors selected by the AAFCS Grantmaking Committee review and score the application using the Evaluation Criteria.

Awarding the Interdisciplinary Research Grant

- The Interdisciplinary Research Grant Award is limited to one recipient or recipient team.
- The recipient(s) will be notified in late February/early March annually and will be announced during the AAFCS Annual Conference.
- Recipient(s) will receive a commemorative certificate, and their name(s) and project title will be shared in AAFCS communications and materials.
- The Grantmaking Committee reserves the right not to fund a project if jurors do not find a worthy applicant.

Receiving the Interdisciplinary Research Grant

AAFCS does require that Interdisciplinary Research Grant recipients submit an acceptance form outlining funding terms and deliverables which may include:

- Any individual or team of researchers chosen to receive the Interdisciplinary Research Grant will receive a maximum of \$10,000.
- Requests to change or modify objectives, strategies, or budget lines must be sent in advance for approval.
- One-half of the funds granted will be dispersed within 90 days of the receipt of the acceptance form. One-quarter of the funds will be disbursed upon receipt of a mid-project progress report. The final one-quarter of the funds will be disbursed upon completion of the project and submission of the final report. The reports will include budget expenditure information.
- The recipient(s) are expected to
 - Present the funded research project findings at an AAFCS conference or webinar.
 - Submit a manuscript (within 18 months of project conclusion) of the funded research project to one of the AAFCS journals.
- The recipient will acknowledge the “Interdisciplinary Research Grant from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences” in research publications and presentations.
- Any unused Interdisciplinary Research Grant funds must be returned to the Association within thirty (30) days of the final report submission.

Failure to follow the guidelines will result in ineligibility of the applicant for the grant.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria correspond with the Interdisciplinary Research Grant guidelines. They provide clarification, ease in preparing the application materials, and consistency in evaluation.

Evaluation Criteria	Points Possible
Interdisciplinary Approach: Alignment with one or more of the aims of interdisciplinary research; Innovation and significance of the interdisciplinary approach.	/ 15
Background and Need: Describe the issue being addressed and why interdisciplinary research is necessary.	/ 15
Research Plan: Clearly stated research objectives or hypotheses, appropriate methods, and plans; achievable within timeline. Clarity and feasibility of the research objectives and methodology.	/ 15
Evaluation: Quality and feasibility of the evaluation plan.	/ 15
Impact: Potential impact on individuals, families, and/or communities.	/15
Budget: Is appropriate, clear, concise, and justifiable	/ 10
Applicant Ability: Applicant(s) qualified and has ability to sufficiently and appropriately allocate time for this project.	/ 5
AAFCS Membership: As of the due date of application, the applicant(s) is an AAFCS member. <i>Note: if applicant is a team and at least one team member is an AAFCS member, full points (10) will be awarded. Partial points are not awarded for membership.</i>	/ 10
Total	/ 100