



FCS Effectiveness Grant Guidelines

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Program Effectiveness Grant provides funding to evaluate and document the effectiveness of an **existing FCS program**. This grant supports systematic measurement of program outcomes and impacts using a structured evaluation design grounded in a **logic model framework**. The goal is to strengthen the evidence base for FCS practice by:

- Demonstrating measurable participant outcomes;
- Validating program impact across diverse practice settings;
- Identifying areas for improvement and scalability; or
- Contributing to the FCS Body of Knowledge.

Funds are specifically designated for evaluation activities—not for launching new programs. Preference may be given to:

- Programs serving underserved or diverse populations;
- Collaborations with industry, education, government, and non-profit organizations;
- Programs with potential for replication or scaling; or
- Submissions demonstrating innovative evaluation methods.

Funded applicants will:

1. Develop or refine a **logic model** that clearly aligns inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and long-term impacts.
2. Implement a structured evaluation plan to measure program effectiveness.
3. Collect and analyze quantitative and/or qualitative data.
4. Produce a final evaluation report documenting:
 - Program outcomes
 - Evidence of impact
 - Implications for practice
 - Recommendations for sustainability or expansion

Applying for the FCS Effectiveness Grant

- Those eligible to apply for the FCS Effectiveness Grant include:
 - AAFCS members or non-members who represent an existing FCS-related program operating for at least one full program cycle (minimum of 12 months or one academic year); or
 - Nonprofit agencies or organizations whose purposes are consistent with those of AAFCS.
- Projects implemented between July 1 of the award year and June 30 of the following year are eligible for funding. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to successfully evaluate the program within the one-year timeframe.
- 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 office. 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. Keep a copy of all materials submitted to AAFCS. Forward questions to grants@aafcs.org

Section 1: General Information

Applicant 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)
- ☐ If group, agency, or organization, please specify the legal name of the group.
 - First and Last Name of official point of contact
 - Contact Information (Email, Phone Number, Mailing Address)

Section 2: Program Overview (Maximum of three pages in 12-point font)

- Description and history of the existing program
- Target audience(s)
- Duration and scope of the Program
- Practice setting (academic, community, business/industry, etc.)
- Alignment with FCS mission, goals, and Body of Knowledge

Section 3: Logic Model (Maximum of two pages)

Applicants must submit a logic model, which clearly connects program activities to measurable outcomes, and includes:

- Inputs (resources, staffing, partnerships)
- Activities
- Outputs
- Short-term outcomes
- Intermediate outcomes
- Long-term impacts

Section 4: Evaluation Plan (Maximum of three pages in 12-point font)

Applicants must address:

- Evaluation questions
- Outcome indicators
- Data collection methods (quantitative and/or qualitative)
- Data analysis plan
- Timeline
- Plan for ensuring validity and reliability
- Equity and inclusion considerations (if applicable)

Section 5: Budget and Budget Justification (Maximum of two pages in 12-point font)

Please provide a detailed budget breakdown with justification and rationale for the expenses. The successful proposal requests no more than \$5,000 from AAFCS. Funds may be used for:

- Evaluation consultant fees
- Data collection tools (survey instruments, software subscriptions)
- Data analysis support
- Participant incentives for evaluation participation
- Graduate/assistant support for evaluation
- Reporting and dissemination costs

Funds may NOT be used for launching new programming, general operational expenses unrelated to evaluation, equipment purchases unrelated to evaluation, and indirect costs.

Section 6: Dissemination Plan (Maximum of one page in 12-point font)

- Description of how results will be shared
- Identification of intended audiences (professional, community, academic)

Evaluating the FCS Effectiveness 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 or 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 FCS Effectiveness Grant

- The FCS Effectiveness Grant is limited to one recipient or recipient team.
- The recipient(s) will be notified in late February/early March 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 FCS Effectiveness Grant

The FCS Effectiveness Grant recipient will complete an acceptance form outlining project deliverables and timeline to align with the following:

- Any individual or team of researchers chosen to receive the FCS Effectiveness Grant will receive a maximum of \$5,000 for the project and will be reimbursed an additional \$1,000 to support participation and presentation at the AAFCS Annual Conference.
- To change or modify objectives/strategies or budget lines, approval of the AAFCS Grantmaking Committee must be obtained in advance.
- One-half of the project funds granted will be dispersed within 90 days of receipt of the acceptance form. One-quarter of the project funds will be disbursed upon receipt of a 6-month progress report. The final one-quarter of the project funds will be disbursed upon completion of the project and submission of the final report. The reports will include budget expenditure information. Following the Annual Conference, the principal investigator will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 to support participation in and presentation at the event.

- The recipient(s) are expected to
 - Present the funded research project findings at the AAFCS Annual Conference, either as a poster or oral research presentation or educational session; and
 - Submit a manuscript of the funded project to one of the AAFCS journals.
- The recipient will acknowledge funding as the “FCS Effectiveness Grant from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences” in publications, presentations, and deliverables.
- Any unused FCS Effectiveness 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 FCS Effectiveness Grant guidelines. They provide clarification, ease in preparing the application materials, and consistency in evaluation.

Evaluation Criteria	Points Possible
Alignment with FCS Mission and Goals Program clearly aligns with FCS Body of Knowledge; demonstrates strong relevance across practice settings and articulates contribution to individual, family, or community well-being.	/ 10
Existing Program Foundation Program has established history, documented implementation, and defined participant population.	/ 10
Quality of Logic Model Logic model is clear, comprehensive, and demonstrates strong alignment between inputs, activities, outputs, and measurable short-, intermediate-, and long-term outcomes.	/ 15
Evaluation Design & Methodology Evaluation plan includes clear questions, measurable indicators, appropriate data collection tools, and rigorous analysis plan. Demonstrates understanding of validity and reliability.	/ 15
Outcome Measurement & Impact Focus Clearly identifies measurable short-term and long-term outcomes; demonstrates focus on meaningful impact beyond participation counts.	/15
Feasibility & Timeline Evaluation plan is realistic within grant period; timeline clearly outlined.	/ 10
Budget Justification Budget is reasonable, clearly tied to evaluation activities.	/ 10
Dissemination & Knowledge Contribution Strong plan for sharing findings to advance FCS practice across settings.	/ 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