



Questions and Answers from the ICATCH Webinar on Grant Writing November 16, 2022

Eligible Expenses

- 1. I would love to hear more details about writing the budget and for what the funds can be used. For example, if any training is needed for the project, can we use the funds to pay for people to attend?**
Yes, for expenses; however, this should not be expensive or a major part of the grant budget. Training for a project director or codirector to attend educational options to gain certification is probably not appropriate, but this will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The main focus must remain on service delivery.
- 2. Do the funds cover seminar expenses?**
Yes, but unless training is the largest part of your project, this should not be a major piece of your budget. We look favorably on grants that plan to do more than one training session over a 3-year grant period or an initial training session with scheduled follow-ups and retraining of this original group over the 3 years of funding.

Eligible Populations and Projects

- 3. Is the call applicable to target children from a refugee background?**
Yes, provided that the refugees are residing in low-income or low-middle-income countries. We have never funded refugee populations in high-income or upper-middle-income countries. [Please see the ICATCH program](#) for grants supporting refugee populations residing in the US.
- 4. Do you support programs focusing on improving parenting skills?**
Yes, if within the scope of the five topic areas. Skills should be specific to address a problem or challenge, such as low breastfeeding rates, a lack of physical therapists to serve children with cerebral palsy, or another issue that can be addressed by skills that parents can learn for use at home.
- 5. Is a clubfoot treatment project acceptable?**
Yes, this would fit in the physical disabilities categories.
- 6. We are going to concentrate on children with developmental disabilities. Shall we train the parents on drama therapy and neurotherapy?**
That would be an acceptable application. The decision on what services to offer is up to your team. Please note that ICATCH emphasizes evidence-based care. Applications should describe the evidence base for the proposed intervention in the target population, particularly if this information is not already well-established and widely known.
- 7. Would a preventative oral health project be considered under the nutrition area (e.g., training nurses on oral exam and fluoride varnish)?**
Yes, dental screening and sealing would be acceptable. (This type of project has typically only received funding if there are referral sites with dentists and/or dental hygienists who could give treatment for

caries, abscesses, extractions, etc.; funding to allow this treatment to be accessed; and a plan to sustain the project after the grant period, particularly the cost of the dental sealants.)

8. If our program has been in progress the last 4 years, are we still eligible to apply for ICATCH funding? Or would we have to have a novel idea for the application?

ICATCH has funded portions of projects that were already in existence, but usually ICATCH targets one portion of this project that will give specific training or access to a service not otherwise offered. The project would need to be clear in the budget which partner is responsible to fund the project beyond this specific portion (i.e., who is paying for staff, etc.).

Choosing a Project and Goals

9. I have many ideas of projects to improve newborn health at this hospital in Somaliland. How do I write a grant that outlines possibilities, without it becoming too broad? (Is it up to me to narrow it before submitting a grant application? Or do I submit an application with 3-5 options of how the grant could be applied?)

You must pick one, and you need to be the one who selects the project. Look at what the needs are and pick the project that is most feasible, given your human power, resources, and buy-in from the hospital. Discuss it with your team. We understand that the best projects are the ones that are done collaboratively with the people who would be providing the new service. Consider one or two specific challenges or problems that your team can work on successfully over the 3 years of a grant.

10. Should goals and indicators be set yearly? Or should we have goals for 3 years collectively?

One overarching goal should be the focus of the 3-year project.

Project Directors, Codirectors, and Collaborators

11. Can a codirector based in the U.S. draft and submit the application on behalf of the director in the primary country?

Yes, but they should be able to travel and/or communicate often (via internet, WhatsApp, etc.) with the project. The idea for the project needs to come from the community and the director, not from afar. Also, the director should be directly involved in writing the application.

12. For codirectors that are located outside of the primary country where project activities will take place, do we need to justify their involvement as to why they are connected with the project, or what their relationship is to the director?

Yes, and this should be done in the question about the codirector. This is probably the most important information to put in that answer.

13. Can directors and codirectors be changed in the 3-year period, just in case one of them relocates in the period?

Yes, that has happened before, but we are always tentative about funding resident or fellow physicians who we know will change in the next three years. Also, a codirector can become a project director, but only if they are living in the community being served. No matter what, you need to make sure the person coming on has the interest, skills, and permission from their institution to take on the responsibilities of the project.

14. Please shed more light on examples of collaborators.

Examples: if working in a school, please make sure that the collaborating school has capacity, interest, and priorities that match the project goals. The same is true for a healthcare clinic. In general, it is

important to identify local leaders and champions who are already working with children and connecting with them to engage in the project and ensuring the proposal is in response to a need.

15. Will we still need to have a partner for providing parenting skills regarding malnutrition in one of our clinics for refugees?

In this case, the partner is the clinic for the refugees.

How to Apply

16. Are there specific templates to be used?

17. On the preliminary application, is the word count limited?

Yes, you must use the Survey Monkey Apply application available via grants.aap.org. You can work on it offline; you must submit it online. The word count is limited on each section of the preliminary application, most often between 100 to 400 words. A Word version of the application is available [here](#).

18. May I have the presentation to serve as guide while writing the proposal?

The webinar recording is available [here](#).

19. Please clarify at what point the application advisor will get involved.

Once a preliminary application has been reviewed and scored by the ICATCH team, a number of applicants will be invited to submit a full application (by January 2023). At that time, an option to work with a volunteer ICATCH team member and contact information for the advisor will be shared. The contact between the applicant and advisor will mostly occur in February 2023, before the March 10 deadline for full applications.

Other

20. How many projects will be funded in this cycle?

Seven.

Have a different question?

Review our [Call for Proposals](#) or use the Contact Us form at aap.org/icatch to ask a staff member.