



Caregiver Resource Development Grant

Request for Applications: Proposals that Support Educational Resources for Caregivers

Grant applications are required to be submitted electronically in one PDF document to info@rehabnurse.org.

Due date: November 30, 2025

Please visit ARN Website: [ARN Grant Opportunities](#)



Supporting Caregivers through Education

The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee is seeking to support a project via grant funding that will contribute to the development of the ARN Family Caregiver Resource Center, which will be hosted on the ARN website. Phase I of this initiative is to:

- 1) Identify a list of topics for which caregivers have learning needs during inpatient rehabilitation or skilled nursing facility stays. Topics may be focused on a specific disabling condition (e.g. stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis) or may be focused on general caregiver needs.
- 2) Include evidence-based resources used in practice or available in the literature (e.g. ARN Core Curriculum).
- 3) Identify trusted resources for caregiver education available on the internet
- 4) Identify gaps in available trusted resources
- 5) Develop one voice over PowerPoint caregiver education module to meet an identified gap

This call is funded by the ARN Caregiver Resource Development Fund through the Rehabilitation Nurse Foundation. Proposals should be based on the most currently available evidence and address learning needs for caregivers. The proposed education module must use effective teaching-learning approaches. The web resources and educational module will be foundational to the ARN Caregiver Resource Center on the ARN website. Mentoring through the project will be provided by Dr. Barbara Lutz.

General Requirements:

- The applicant must be a current ARN member.
- The applicant must be a registered nurse.
- Proposals will be reviewed and approved by a peer review group consisting of members of the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee (ASPC), and Dr. Barbara Lutz.
- Funded applicants will be expected to produce the following:
 - A list of caregiver educational resources and a list of available trustworthy web resources appropriate for distribution on the ARN Caregiver Resource Center on the ARN website.
 - A gap analysis of missing trusted resources that should be developed.
 - All materials developed under this call will be trademarked by RNF.
 - A voice over PowerPoint education module describing the resources or introducing a newly developed resource, as identified in the gap analysis within 6 months of funding to be included in the ARN Learning Center.
 - Presentation of a paper or poster at an Association of Rehabilitation Nurses educational conference within 2 years of the completed project.
- Engage in intermittent mentoring sessions scheduled in collaboration with Dr. Lutz.
- Proposals must adhere to the attached "Guidelines for Proposals".

Research Funding:

The ARN's Caregiver Program and Resource Development Fund provides the following information for the Grant:

- Each grant allocation will be \$2,000
- Up to three grants will be awarded each year.
- **Applications are due on November 30, 2025**
- Funded projects must be completed within 6 months of approval, including a final project report.



Use of Funds:

- Funds will be issued in December 2025
- Includes conference registration (in addition to proposed budget) in the 1-2 years following the award to present the project deliverables.
- Funds will not be awarded to develop a research proposal.



Questions

Nurses who have specific questions or concerns not addressed in this packet should contact the ARN office.

Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation
1061 American Lane, Ste 310 |
Schaumburg, IL 60173
800.229.7530 or 847.375.6356
E-mail: info@rehabnurse.org



Introduction

ARN Mission and Vision Statement

ARN's mission is to promote and advance professional rehabilitation nursing practice through professional development, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance the quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness.

ARN's vision is to improve healthcare delivery through the integration of rehabilitation nursing concepts across the care continuum.

ARN's Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee

The ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee was established in 2017 to promote and support (a) the conduct of research and program evaluation studies that exhibit methodological rigor and are important to rehabilitation nursing; (b) the dissemination and translation of research and program evaluation findings into practice, education, and policy; (c) continuous quality improvement projects that impact the specialty and practice of rehabilitation nursing; and (d) educational venues that focus on the development and translation of science, program evaluation, and quality improvement in varied populations and settings important to the rehabilitation nursing community.

In 2019, the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee completed the fourth revision of the [ARN Research Agenda](#). The Research Agenda comprises seven content areas and includes brief descriptions of the high-priority research issues for each area. Interventions mentioned in each content area were based on the most current and best evidence.

Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Nursing

Rehabilitation is a philosophy of practice that addresses the care of people with disability and chronic health conditions. Rehabilitation can occur across the life span and is not limited to a specific setting. **Rehabilitation nursing** is a specialty practice area within the scope of professional nursing practice. This specialty includes the diagnosis and treatment of human responses of individuals and groups to actual or potential health problems that stem from altered functional ability and altered lifestyle.

QI proposals must reflect the ARN mission and vision statement.

ARN Caregiver Resource and Program Development Fund

Grants awarded through this fund are funded by designated contributions. The purpose of the fund is to establish a family caregiver resource portal on the ARN website which will include tools, community resources, and patient/caregiver educational content for nurses and other healthcare professionals. The fund will also support the development of new patient/caregiver educational resources.

ARN Caregiver Resource and Program Development Fund

Focus

This Request for Application (RFA) is open to applicants who have an interest in advancing the provision of family caregiver education. The proposed project aims to identify and develop resources on the ARN Family Caregiver Resource Center on the ARN website.

Eligible Applicants

The recipient must be:

1. A registered nurse who is active in rehabilitation nursing and, be a
2. Current member of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN)

Responsibilities of the Recipient

1. Completion of the project within 6 months of initial funding.
2. Submission of a progress report to the Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee at 3 months point and at project completion. This information will be shared with the ARN Board of Directors.
3. Presentation of a paper or poster at an Association of Rehabilitation Nurses educational conference within 2 years of the completed study.
4. Acknowledgment in any publication, paper, or poster that the research was supported by the ARN's Caregiver Resource and Program Development Fund.

Required Information

Prepare the proposal according to the Publication Manual of the *American Psychological Association*. The proposal narrative is limited to 2 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point Times New Roman font and 8½" x 11" paper with 1-in. margins. Sections not counted against the 12-page narrative limit are references, project budget, and appendices.

The following Advancing Science & Practice Subcommittee forms and materials are required to complete the submission process:

1. Project Checklist—this form verifies inclusion of all required materials

2. Summary Data Form—this form includes the title of the project and contact information for the project coordinator
3. Administrative Approval Form—this form indicates that the project coordinator has received their employer's approval to conduct the proposed project
4. Abstract Form—using this form, the abstract must be typed, double-spaced, and limited to 350 words and should address a problem, significance, aim(s), and plan for analysis

Proposal Headings

Significance

This section includes a description of the problem, the significance of this project to the practice of rehabilitation nursing, purpose statement and aims, a concise and critical review of current literature, and theoretical framework (if appropriate). It also should describe how the results of this project will support rehabilitation nurses and other health professionals to meet the needs of family caregivers.

Innovation

This section provides a description of the project's potential for challenging or shifting the current clinical practice paradigms through the use of innovations such as novel approaches, tools, resources, or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Approach

This section describes the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses appropriate for accomplishing the project aims or purpose.



Potential barriers to implementation must be discussed.

Environment

This section describes the clinical environment in which the project will be piloted (if applicable) and ways in which the surroundings contribute to success of the study. It should describe institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the project lead.

Timeline

A precise timeline illustrating project tasks and objectives to be completed in 6 months is required.

Additional Sections (separate from proposal)

References

References address the bibliographic information of sources cited in the proposal.

Project Budget

A budget for the entire project must be submitted using the Budget Form. If funds are to be used for only a portion of the budget, identify the specific items for which you seek support. Identify remaining items to be funded from other sources and in-kind contributions. Clearly describe those sources of funding or support in addition to the amount you are seeking from each entity.

The budget must specify the direct costs associated with the project. Travel expenses to the ARN Annual Educational conference for a presentation of the project may be included in the budget but limited to \$500. ARN will cover one night of the hotel stay for the conference. ARN will also cover the conference registration fee.

Allowable Uses for Funding

Grant funds may be used to support project activities such as:

- Printing and educational supplies (e.g., handouts or teaching materials for patients, families, or staff)
- Indirect expenses incurred by the research organization to produce educational materials
- Consultant fees (e.g., for data analysis or specialized expertise)
- Publication and dissemination costs
- Modest participant incentives (e.g., gift cards for survey completion)

Unallowable Uses of Funding

Grant funds may **not** be used for:

- Purchase of equipment (e.g., computers, tablets, phones)
- Salaries, wages, or benefits for staff
- General operating expenses not directly tied to the project

Indirect costs and travel expenses for other meeting presentations will not be funded by the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee.

Include notation of contributed funds, personnel, or indirect allowances. The budget must represent sufficient funds to complete the project.

Submission Requirements

1. Submit the entire packet electronically as a **single PDF file**.
2. Complete all proposal materials. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.
3. Address proposals to the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee and email to info@rehabnurse.org.
4. Deadline: Proposals must be received by November 30, 2025. Proposals received



after this date will not be considered. An email confirmation will be sent within 48 hours of receiving your proposal. There are no exceptions to the deadline.

Evaluation Procedures

Proposals will be reviewed by select members of the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee and a peer review panel.

Proposals will be rated according to the NIH criteria for proposal review.

Notification of Award

Grant recipient(s) will be notified in December of 2025.



Proposal Checklist

Applicant Name _____ Today's Date _____

Title of Proposal _____

Enclosed Criteria for Research Proposals

- ☐ Proposal Checklist
- ☐ Proposal Summary Data Form
- ☐ Proposal Administrative Approval Form
- ☐ Proposal Abstract & Impact Statement Form
- ☐ Proposal

Should include: (12-pages)

- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment
- Timeline

- ☐ Additional pages (not included in 12-page limitation)
 - References
 - Project Budget

Email Proposals by November 30, 2025 (Noon Central time) to:

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Email: info@rehabnurse.org



Proposal Summary Data Form

Title of Proposal _____

Name and credentials of Applicant _____

Amount of funding requested _____

If awarded, grant funds should be dispersed to:

☐ Institution or Agency

☐ Individual Project Coordinator

Federal Id # _____

Social Security # _____

Please check the box that indicates your preferred mailing address (home or place of employment).

☐ Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone Number _____

☐ Place of Employment _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Work Telephone Number _____

Preferred Email Address _____

Professional Title _____

Licensed registered nurse numbers and states _____

Institution where project will be conducted _____

Address _____

Name and title of administrative officer of the institution _____

Institution Telephone Number _____

Name and credentials of co-coordinator(s) *if applicable* _____



Proposal Administrative Approval Form

Dear Administrator:

The individual named below plans to submit a proposal to the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) with the intent of securing a caregiver education grant.

The ARN Board of Directors requests your signature as an administrator of the institution or agency in which the applicant is employed. Your signature indicates that the conduction of this project by your employee, if granted ARN funding, is approved by your institution or agency. Thank you for your time and your support of this worthwhile study. Please return this form to the Principal Investigator, who will enclose it with other application materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gayle Irvin', written in black ink.

Gayle Irvin, MPH CAE
ARN Executive Director

Name of Applicant: _____

Title of Proposal: _____

Name of institution or agency at which the applicant is employed:

Signature of administrative office of the institution: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____



Proposal Abstract & Impact Statement Form

Proposal Abstract: In 350 words, define the problem, state the purpose and significance of the study, describe the methodology and plan for analysis.



Impact Statement: In 350 words, explain in qualitative or quantitative detail the anticipated value and impact of your educational resource its field.



Proposal Budget Form

List requested funds and justification for each. Include only direct costs. Indirect costs are not funded. Describe other sources of funding (i.e. organization and amount).

Please refer to the current RFA for budgetary guidelines

Item	Requested Amount	Justification

Total Amount Requested: _____

Other Sources of Funding

In the space below list other received or requested funding amounts pertinent to this project (funding source and amount as well as in-kind contributions)