



## Research Grant Program

**Request for Applications:  
Research proposals that advance  
the science and practice of  
Rehabilitation Nursing**

**Grant applications are required to be  
submitted electronically in one PDF  
document.**

**Due date: June 1, 2026**

**Please visit the ARN website for more  
information: [ARN Grant Opportunities](#)**



## **Advance the Science and Practice of Rehabilitation Nursing**

The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee, and the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing requests applications for grant support for research studies that aim to advance the science and practice of rehabilitation nursing. This call is funded by Sigma Theta Tau and the Research Nurse Foundation of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses. The purpose of the collaborative research grant is to encourage qualified nurses to contribute to the advancement of nursing science. Proposals for pilot, dissertation, and/or development of research may be submitted for this grant.

### **Eligibility Criteria and General Requirements:**

- The principal investigator or project lead must be either a current Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing member or an ARN member.
- Doing research in rehabilitation, with preference given to those projects that address underserved populations.
- The principal investigator (PI) must be a registered nurse with a current license.
- Ready to implement research project when funding is received.
- Funded applicants will be expected to disseminate findings through: Submission of a publishable manuscript presenting the findings to the ARN journal, *Rehabilitation Nursing*, within two years of the completed research AND; Presentation of a paper or poster at an ARN Rehabilitation Nursing Conference and submit a completed abstract to Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing's e-Repository within one year of the completed study.
- Proposals must adhere to the attached "Guidelines for Proposals".

**Research Funding:**

The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and ARN's Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee provides the following information for the Research Grant:

- Each grant allocation will be determined by the amount of funds requested and must be clearly delineated on the grant application form. Funds are available up to \$10,000, depending on the budget for the proposal and competing research grants.
- Funding will be distributed beginning October 1, 2026, and funded projects must be completed before September 30, 2028.
- Funding cannot be obtained from Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and ARN's Advancing Science and Practice Committee for a research project that is already 100% funded from another source. However, a request can be made to Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and ARN's Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee for funding to expand or enhance a currently funded research project.



## Use of Funds:

- Pending IRB approval, the recipient will receive 75% of funding beginning October 1, 2026. The remaining 25% will be distributed pending the approval of the 12-month progress report.
- Funds may be awarded for support during any phase of study.
- Up to \$500.00 of the funds may be designated for travel/hotel to the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing or ARN Annual Conference for presenting the research results.
- Funds may not be used for salaries.
- Funds may not be used to purchase computers.
- Funds may not be used to pay for indirect costs.

## Questions

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

Rehabilitation Nursing  
Foundation 1061  
American Lane, Suite 310  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
800.229.7530 or 847.375.6356  
E-mail: [info@rehabnurse.org](mailto:info@rehabnurse.org)



## Introduction

### ARN Mission 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 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.

## Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Mission Statement

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Mission is to develop nurse leaders anywhere to improve healthcare everywhere.

## Rehabilitation and

### Rehabilitation Nursing

Rehabilitation is a philosophy of practice that addresses the care of people with disabilities 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.

## Guidelines for Proposals Focus

This Request for Application (RFA) is open to applicants whose proposed research study aims to (a) advance the science and practice of rehabilitation nursing and (b) produce findings intended to serve as a basis for further extramural funding.

## Eligible Applicants

The principal investigator (PI) of the grant



1. Must be a registered nurse who is active in rehabilitation or who demonstrates a strong interest in rehabilitation nursing.

### Responsibilities of the Principal Investigator

1. Completion of the project within two years of initial funding.
  2. Submission of a progress report to the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee every six months until the research is completed.
2. Submission of a publishable manuscript presenting the findings to the ARN journal, *Rehabilitation Nursing*, within two years of the completed research.
3. Presentation of a paper or poster pertaining to the research at an ARN educational conference within one year of the completed research and/or at Sigma Theta Tau's annual conference.
4. Acknowledgment in all study-related publications, papers, and posters that the research was supported by the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee and The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

### Required Information

Prepare the proposal according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). The

proposal narrative is limited to 12 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point Times New Roman font and 8½" x 11" paper with one inch margins.

Sections not counted against the 12-page narrative limit are references, project budget, and appendices.

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

1. Proposal Checklist—this form verifies inclusion of all required materials
2. Proposal Summary Data Form—this form includes the title of the study and contact information for the PI and coinvestigators
3. Proposal Administrative Approval Form—this form indicates that the PI has received their employer's approval to conduct the proposed study or conduct the study at the proposed site (if applicable)
4. Proposal Abstract & Impact Statement Form—using this form, document both the abstract and impact statement. The abstract must be typed, double-spaced, and limited to 350 words. It should define the problem, state the purpose and significance of the study, describe the research methodology and plan for analysis. The Impact Statement must also be typed, double-spaced, and limited to 350 words. This statement should explain in qualitative or quantitative detail the anticipated value and impact of your research study in its field.
5. Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval Letter—the IRB or Protection of Human Subjects Committee approval letter may be pending at the time of submission, but written approval must be received by ARN before any funds will be awarded.
6. Letter of Support from Dissertation Committee chair (required from doctoral candidates).



## Proposal Headings

The proposal must include and address the following National Institutes of Health (NIH) headings: [Write Your Research Plan | NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases](#)

### Significance

This section includes a description of the problem, the significance of this research to the practice of rehabilitation nursing, a purpose statement and aims (hypotheses, if appropriate), a concise and critical review of current literature, and a theoretical framework (if appropriate). It also should describe how the results of this study will lead to further extramural funding.

### Purpose/Aim

The purpose of this grant is to support research that advances the science and practice of rehabilitation nursing. It aims to fund studies that contribute to evidence-based nursing practices, improve patient care for individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions, and potentially lead to further external research funding. The grant encourages projects from nurses conducting pilot studies, dissertations, or developmental research, ensuring that findings are disseminated through academic publications and professional conferences.

### Innovation

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

## Approach

This section describes the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses appropriate for accomplishing the study aims or purpose. At a minimum, it should include a discussion of the design, sample, setting, protection of human subjects, data collection, procedures, instrumentation, analysis, and potential limitations.

### Environment

This section describes the scientific environment in which the study will be conducted and ways in which the surroundings contribute to the success of the study. It should describe institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigator. In addition, it should include written approval from the appropriate administrator of the institution or agency in which the PI is employed ([Administrative Approval Form](#)), if applicable.

### Timeline

A precise timeline illustrating project tasks and objectives to be completed in less than 2 years is required.



Additional Sections (separate from proposal)

#### 1. References

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

#### 2. Project Budget

A budget for the entire project must be submitted using the ARN Budget Form. If the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee and The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing 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 research. Travel expenses to the ARN Annual Educational conference for a presentation of the project may be included in the budget. Indirect costs and travel expenses for other meeting presentations will not be funded by the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee and The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The purchase of a computer will not be funded. Include notation of contributed funds, personnel, or indirect allowances. The budget must represent sufficient funds to complete the project.

#### 3. Appendices: Include the following appendices

- a) Appendix A: Measurement instruments
- b) Appendix B: IRB approval
- c) Appendix C: Participant consent forms
- d) Appendix D: NIH bio sketch forms (PI, coinvestigators, key personnel)
- e) Appendix E: Describe the roles and responsibilities of the PI, coinvestigators, and key personnel. Include credentials for each.

f) Appendix F: Letter of support from the chair of your Dissertation Committee (required if applicant is a research doctoral candidate)

Confirmation will be sent within 48 hours of receiving your proposal.

## 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 Committee and email to [info@rehabnurse.org](mailto:info@rehabnurse.org).
4. **Deadline: Proposals must be received by June 1, 2026.** Proposals received after this date may not be considered. An email

## Evaluation Procedures

Proposals will be reviewed by a peer review panel that includes select members of the ARN Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee and The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Proposals will be rated according to the NIH criteria for proposal review.

## Notification of Award

Grant recipient(s) will be notified by August 1, 2026. Pending IRB approval, the recipient will receive 75% of funding on October 1, 2026. The remaining 25% will be distributed pending the approval of the 12-month progress report.

## Reporting Requirements

Grant recipients will be required to submit progress reports every six (6) months for the duration of the project, or until project completion. These reports are intended to provide an overview of the progress of the research and ensure that milestones are being met. The reports should be submitted in either .doc or .pdf format, and do not have a specific length requirement. However, clarity and thoroughness are encouraged.

The specific content for each report is outlined below:

### **Interim Reports (Every 6 Months)**

The first interim report is due six months after the project start date, and subsequent reports should be submitted every six months thereafter until project completion. Each interim report should include:

**1. Project Aims and Objectives**

A brief summary of the project's aims, objectives, and goals, noting any changes or adjustments that have been made since the previous report.

**2. Progress to Date**

An update on the activities completed during the reporting period. This should include:

- Key milestones reached
- Major activities and events completed (e.g., data collection, analysis, recruitment)
- Any publications or presentations resulting from the project

**3. Participant Enrollment and Recruitment**

A summary of enrollment and recruitment efforts, including:

- The number of participants enrolled to date
- Any barriers or challenges faced in the recruitment process
- Strategies implemented to overcome challenges

**4. Challenges and Obstacles**

A description of any issues or setbacks encountered, and the actions taken to address them. This section should also include any deviations from the original plan and their reasons.

**5. Next Steps**

A brief outline of the plan for the next reporting period, highlighting upcoming milestones and key activities.

**6. Budget Update (if applicable)**

A summary of how the project funds are being spent, highlighting any significant budget deviations or adjustments needed.

## Final Report (At Project Completion)

A final comprehensive report will be required upon project completion. This report should focus on the outcomes and overall evaluation of the project. The final report should include:

### 1. Summary of Project Outcomes

A detailed summary of the research accomplishments, including:

- Research findings and results
- Contributions to the field of rehabilitation nursing
- Any significant publications, presentations, or other scholarly outputs generated

### 2. Evaluation of Project

An evaluation of the project's effectiveness in meeting its stated aims and objectives. This should include:

- A reflection on how the project impacted the rehabilitation nursing practice
- Insights gained from the project, including any unintended findings or lessons learned
- A discussion of the project's long-term impact on the field of rehabilitation nursing

### 3. Sustainability and Future Directions

A description of how the project's outcomes will be sustained or integrated into practice or further research. Recommendations for future research or next steps in the field should also be included.

### 4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

An honest reflection on any challenges that persisted throughout the project, along with strategies for improvement or future mitigation.

### 5. Budget Summary

A final budget summary that accounts for all expenditures, as well as any remaining funds. If applicable, any budgetary reallocations or significant discrepancies should be noted.

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## Additional Requirements:

- All reports should be submitted in electronic format (.doc or .pdf).
- Reports are due within **30 days** following the end of each six-month reporting period.
- Final reports should be submitted no later than **30 days** after the completion of the project.
- Grantees may be asked to participate in follow-up interviews or meetings to discuss findings or share their research progress with stakeholders or the funding body.



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

# Proposal Checklist

Principal Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ 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

- Appendices (include the following for Research Grants)
  - Measurement Instruments
  - Institutional Review Board Approval
  - Participant Consent Forms



- NIH Bio sketches
- Describe the role and responsibilities of PI, Co-Is and key personnel
- Letter of Support (if doctoral candidate, letter from Dissertation Committee Chair)

**Email Proposals by June 1, 2026 (Noon Central time) to:**

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Email: [info@rehabnurse.org](mailto:info@rehabnurse.org)



# Proposal Summary Data Form

Title of Proposal \_\_\_\_\_

Name and credentials of Principal Investigator \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of funding requested \_\_\_\_\_

If awarded, QI grant funds should be dispersed to:

Institution or Agency

Federal Id # \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Project Coordinator

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 QI 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) Advancing Science and Practice Subcommittee and the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing with the intent of securing a nursing research grant.

The ARN Board of Directors requests your signature as an administrator of the institution or agency in which the Principal Investigator 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 that reads 'Gayle Irvin'.

Gayle Irvin, MPH CAE  
ARN Executive Director

Name of Principal Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Proposal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of institution or agency at which the Principal Investigator 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 research methodology and plan for analysis.



**Impact Statement:** In 350 words, explain in qualitative or quantitative detail the anticipated value and impact of your research study in 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 Request for Application 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)



# Biographical Sketch

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors. Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

\_\_\_\_\_

POSITION TITLE:

\_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

**A. Personal Statement**

**B. Positions and Honors**

**C. Contributions to Science**

**D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance**

Instructions: [G.240 - R&R Senior/Key Person Profile \(Expanded\) Form \(nih.gov\)](#)