

Supported Publication Opportunity: Call for Proposals

Background Information

Through Walmart Foundation funding, the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition (GSCN) is pleased to release this Call for Proposals (CFP). GSCN has developed and piloted nine new measures that assess food insecurity-related constructs. Through the measurement development process, pilot data was collected from nearly 1,000 households who were predominantly low-income and/or food insecure. GSCN is seeking proposals from researchers who wish to utilize the pilot dataset and scores for at least one of the new measures to conduct a secondary data analysis investigating a novel research question or hypothesis and publish results in an open-access journal. Submissions from doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career investigators (i.e., up to 5 years postdoctoral degree) are preferred. Up to 3 proposals will be selected for funding. Selected applicants will receive a stipend of up to \$7,000 total per study, and up to \$3,000 additionally will be provided at the time of publishing to cover open-access publishing fees.

How To Apply

- Follow the instructions below.
- Please send any questions to foodinsecurityCFP@centerfornutrition.org
- Submit your proposal narrative and supporting materials in PDF format. They can be together in one PDF or in separate PDFs. Clearly title or label each document/section.
- Email your proposal PDF(s) to foodinsecurityCFP@centerfornutrition.org by 11:59pm CT on Oct 14, 2022.

Descriptions of the Newly Created Measures

GSCN has developed a suite of nine independent self-administered survey measures that assess aspects of food insecurity that are not currently considered in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM). Visit our website for more information about the measures: www.centerfornutrition.org/food-insecurity-measures

These nine measures are categorized into three domains:

- Household resilience: Three multidimension measures of a household's ability to handle household-level financial shocks (e.g., job loss) that might otherwise lead to food insecurity. Background reading: [ANSAH ET AL., 2019](#).
 - Measures:
 - *Absorptive Capacity* – Assesses a household's short-term ability to buffer financial shocks. Items in the scale are related to financial wellbeing, income and housing stability, and household expense burden.
 - *Adaptive Capacity* – Assesses a household's intermediate-term ability to respond to financial shocks by pivoting to alternative livelihood approaches. Items in the scale are related to financial efficacy, social support, job, and assistance barriers.
 - *Transformative Capacity* – Assesses community-level factors that impact a household's long-term ability to modify their resilience to financial shocks. Items in the scale are

related to job availability, resources/services, infrastructure, social cohesion, and long-term outlook.

- The “other” three pillars: Measures that assess the three pillars of food security that are not emphasized in the HFSSM – availability, utilization, and stability. Background reading: [ASHBY ET AL., 2016](#).
 - Measures:
 - *Perceived Availability* – Perceived availability of quality fruits and vegetables, foods good for health and well-being, and preferred foods at food stores and food pantries.
 - *Utilization Barriers* – Tangible and intangible barriers to preparing healthful meals.
 - *Food Insecurity Stability* – Chronic, seasonal, intra-monthly, or intermittent food insecurity.
- Nutrition security and dietary choice: These measures assess a household’s perceived ability to acquire healthful foods and the degree of perceived control a household has over their diet to meet their preferences and nutritional needs. Background reading: [MOZAFFARIAN ET AL., 2021](#).
 - Measures:
 - *Household Nutrition Security* – Ability of the household to acquire healthful foods.
 - *Household Healthfulness Choice* – Perceived lack of external barriers limiting the household’s ability to consume healthful foods if they chose to do so.
 - *Household Dietary Choice* – Perceived lack of external barriers limiting the household’s ability exercise choice over the characteristics of their diet.

Potential Study Topics

GSCN seeks research proposals that will investigate the relationship between at least one of the newly created measures and diet, health, and/or food security-related variables using an already assembled dataset. Investigations of sub-group differences are encouraged. Implications from the findings should be relevant to practitioners (i.e., those who may implement programming to address food security, nutrition, and/or health issues among low-income/food insecure households) and/or policymakers (i.e., those who work on developing and/or implementing governmental or administrative policies and regulations). Below are example research areas to explore. However, this is not meant to be an exhaustive list, and only serves to assist with idea generation.

- Examine associations between scores for the three household resilience modules and self-reported health outcomes among the full sample and sub-groups.
- Describe sociodemographic differences in food insecurity stability scores and examine stratified associations with dietary outcomes.
- Among those who use food pantries, examine the association between food security utilization scores and dietary outcomes.
- Assess if household nutrition security moderates the relationship between food security and self-reported diabetes.
- Investigate the association between limited food availability at stores and self-reported high cholesterol/hypertension among older adults.

Data Characteristics

Selected applicants will perform a secondary data analysis on one of two previously assembled datasets. There are two datasets, each with just under 500 participants. For feasibility, all draft items for all nine new measures were piloted simultaneously from April to June 2021. To reduce participant burden, the items were split between two survey versions – version A and version B. Version A contained the household resilience items, and version B contained the “other” three pillars, nutrition security, and dietary choice items. Participants

were randomized to one of the versions. Codebooks are provided that describe the contents of each dataset ([Version A Codebook](#) | [Version B Codebook](#)). Participants were adults who resided in CA, FL, MD, NC, or WA, and were selected due to being food insecure or at risk for food insecurity. These are convenience samples. See the following tables describing the sample characteristics for the [Version A Dataset](#) and [Version B Dataset](#).

Proposal and Eligibility Requirements

- Proposals must include one of the newly created measures in the analysis.
- Variable(s) related to diet, food security, or health must be included in the analysis.
- Applicants must be students, staff, or faculty at a university or 501c3 non-profit organization in the United States.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, or early career investigators (i.e., up to 5 years postdoctoral degree).

Selection Criteria

- Soundness of the research design, potential impact, and likelihood of success.
- Relevance to food security, nutrition, and/or public health practice or policy.
- Qualifications of researcher(s)/investigator(s).
- Proposals each will be reviewed by at least two GSCN internal staff/consultants.

Funding

- Funds will be awarded to individuals or institutions but please note that given the award type, indirect costs will not be allowed.
- A maximum of three proposals will be selected for funding and each will receive \$7,000 to cover time and effort associated with producing, submitting, and seeing the submission through to publication (e.g., responding to editors/reviewers).
- There is no requirement to submit a budget with your proposal. The applicant for each funded proposal will be awarded \$7,000 in two installments - \$3,500 upon the execution of an MOU and \$3,500 after submission to a high-quality peer-reviewed academic journal for open-access publishing.
- In addition to the \$7,000 stipend, a maximum of \$3,000 per funded proposal will be provided to cover open-access publishing fees.

Key Dates

- CFP announcement on August 23, 2022.
- Proposals are due on Oct 14, 2022.
- Awards will be announced and raw data sets will be provided on Nov 30, 2022. Awardees may begin work, if desired.
- Processing time for MOU: Nov 30-Dec 16, 2022.
- Stipends will be provided in two installments: 1) Dec 16, 2022 and 2) upon completion.
- Kick-off call with all awarded applicants will be scheduled on or near Jan 6, 2023.
- Awarded applicants will meet with GSCN research staff regularly (e.g., bi-weekly or monthly) to discuss progress and troubleshoot challenges.
- Submission of the manuscript for GSCN review on or before March 3, 2023.
- After GSCN approval, submission of the manuscript to a high-quality peer-reviewed academic journal for open-access publishing on or before March 17, 2023.

Submission Instructions

Instructions:

- For the Proposal Narrative: Copy/paste the template below to a new Word document and remove the bolded instructions.
- Supporting materials:
 - 1-page letter of commitment from your mentor expressing their support (e.g., commitment to guidance/oversight, etc.) for completing the proposed research (only required if the applicant is currently a doctoral student).
 - 1-page mentorship plan detailing how the mentor will provide guidance and/or aid in the analysis, writing, and submission process (e.g., meeting schedule, review of drafts, time/availability, guidance/expertise provided, referral to assistance when needed, such as statistical consulting). This is only required if the applicant is currently a doctoral student.
 - A CV or biosketch (up to four pages) for yourself and any co-authors/members of the applicant's study team (if applicable). If you are applying as a current doctoral student, include your mentor's CV in addition to your own.
- Follow the formatting listed below for your application.
- Clearly label/title all documents.

Formatting of Proposal Narrative:

- Use black, 11-point Arial font.
- Limit submission to three pages with 1.5 line spacing and one-inch margins on the top, bottom, and sides of the page.
- Citations/references are not required. If they are used, they must fit within the three-page limit.
- Use the italicized section headings from the template. Clearly label/title any additional sub-sections and use consistent formatting for any sub-sections.
- Proposals that do not conform to the formatting instructions above will not be reviewed.

Proposal Narrative Template

Applicant/First Author Information

Name:

Institution:

Title:

Indicate if you are a current doctoral student

Manuscript Title

Please provide a descriptive title using no more than 100 characters (not counting spaces). Titles should be concise, specific, and should contain the key points of the study. This section is worth 5 total points.

Study Aim (1-2 Sentences)

Please provide a clearly stated and focused research objective that describes a singular aim (and potentially a sub-aim if very closely related, such as sub-group analyses following a primary analysis) investigating at least one of the newly created measures. This section is worth 10 total points.

Rationale (approximately ¼ – ½ page)

Describe why the research question is additive to the field, timely, novel, and relevant to practitioners and/or policymakers. This section is worth 10 total points.

Sample (approximately ¼ – ½ page)

Clearly define the sample and/or subsamples to be examined, as well as the rationale for focusing on the sample. Articulate why this sample is relevant to the research question. This section is worth 10 total points.

Analysis Approach (approximately 1 – 1½ pages).

Describe the intended analysis plan, methods, variables of interest, and rationale for the approach. This section is worth 40 total points.

Project Team (approximately ¼ – ½ page)

- Describe the research qualifications and related past research experience of the applicant (i.e., the first author of the proposed manuscript).
- Describe the research qualifications and related past research experience of any supporting authors (if applicable).
- Describe the research qualifications and related past research experience of the applicant's mentor (only required if a current doctoral student).
- This section is worth 15 total points.

Potential Journal and Commitment to the Publication Process (approximately ¼ – ½ page)

- Include information on the intended journal to be submitted to and explain why it is a good fit for the proposed study.
- Describe the type of submission planned (e.g., brief report or full article).
- Explain the audience of the journal (journals that reach practitioners and/or policymakers, in addition to researchers, are preferred).
- Provide the journal's author guidelines and fees, such as word count allowed, average time to first decision, and open-access publishing fees.
- Provide one or two back-up journals and briefly explain why they are good fits for the proposed study.
- The time it takes for journals to review and make decisions on manuscripts can vary and be unpredictable. The time from submission to acceptance/publication will exceed the timing describe in the Key Dates section. Describe your commitment and capacity to seeing the submission through to publication (e.g., responding to editors/reviewers).
- This section is worth 10 total points.