

GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA-BASED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT RESEARCHERS

Introduction

[Education Sub Saharan Africa \(ESSA\)](#) and the [Research for Equitable Access and Learning \(REAL\)](#) Centre at the University of Cambridge, with funding from [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#), invite Africa-based *Early Childhood Development (ECD)* researchers to apply for an upcoming in-person **Grant Proposal Writing Workshop**.

Workshop overview

The workshop addresses the professional development needs of ECD researchers identified through our ongoing [Early Childhood Development \(ECD\)](#) project. The project's goal is to improve the accessibility and use of research evidence generated by Africa-based researchers focusing on ECD, in decision-making by various stakeholders (e.g., policymakers, researchers, and funders/investors).

As part of the project, we investigated research priorities and professional development needs of these ECD researchers through an online survey, online and in-person workshops, and consultations with experts. Among the top priorities for researchers' professional development needs was opportunities to strengthen their **grant proposal writing**. Having listened to the researchers, partners of the project are now organising this workshop **to enhance ECD researchers' knowledge and skills in grant proposal writing, as well as provide opportunities for networking and potential collaboration**.

The [African Population and Health Research Centre \(APHRC\)](#) will facilitate the workshop which will be held in **Nairobi, Kenya from Monday 24th June to Friday 28th June 2024**. Participants will be expected to arrive at the workshop venue (exact location to be confirmed) on Sunday 23rd June and depart on Saturday 29th June 2024. The sponsorship comprises accommodation, meals, and travel (i.e., economy return ticket, entry visa – if required, and travel insurance).

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for participation, applicants must meet **ALL** these criteria:

- You are a national of and currently reside in a sub-Saharan African country. You can communicate (read, write, and speak) effectively in English.
- You have a minimum of a PhD or equivalent experience and are working in a university or other research institution in sub-Saharan Africa (we will allocate at least 50% of places to applicants from the project's focus countries comprising **Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Mozambique**).
- Your core research focuses on ECD (i.e., one or more of the following: education, health, nutrition, environment/protection, caregiving, and play).
- You are available to travel to Nairobi in Kenya and commit to attending the workshop in full.

Note: Female researchers, and early-career (five years post PhD, time taken off for maternity/paternity leave will not be counted) scholars who meet the eligibility criteria are strongly encouraged to apply.

Course Content

The workshop will cover the topics listed below. However, the workshop facilitators will revise the content based on a needs assessment and feedback from the attendees (once selected) prior to the workshop.

- Overview of grant proposal writing.
- Identifying relevant funders/calls.
- Preparing a problem statement, aims/goals, and objectives for the grant proposal.
- Developing implementation plans/methods for the proposed project.
- Considerations for preparing the budget, risk management, and sustainability.
- Project evaluation and dissemination.
- Refining the title and preparing the abstract/executive summary, and appendices of the proposal.
- Submitting grant proposal applications and building relationships with funders.

Expectations of Attendees

- Submit details of two referees and a permission letter from institution.
- Participants are expected to fully commit their time and focus to the workshop activities throughout the duration.
- Participate enthusiastically in all activities of the workshop.
- Draft/write a grant proposal (preferably in pairs or a group) by the end of the workshop. It would be ideal if selected participants have a current or previous funding call in mind that they could use as a case study, or for practice during the workshop.

Benefits of the workshop

1. Improved knowledge and skills of participants in grant proposal writing.
2. Networking opportunities for participants to foster potential collaborations.
3. Strategies to effectively identify sources of funding, as well as approach funders directly for opportunities.

Application Timelines

- Application opens: **Friday 12th April 2024**
- Application closes: **Sunday 28th April 2024 at 00:00 hrs GMT**
- Application review and selection process begins: **Monday 29th April 2024**
- Notification of successful applicants: **Monday 13th May 2024**



How to apply

Please use this [LINK](#) to submit your application by **Sunday 28th April 2024 at 00:00 hrs GMT.**

Inclusion

At ESSA and REAL Centre, we place importance on diversity and inclusivity. We welcome applicants from various backgrounds, including women and early-career scholars, and those with disabilities. Our aim is to ensure an accessible environment for all participants. Should you have any accessibility requirements, please inform us, and we will make the necessary accommodations.

Contact Information:

For further information, please reach out to us at info@essa-africa.org