

SNF Global Center Research Fellowships in Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Request for Applications (RFA) - 2026-2031 Fellows

February 2026, New York City, USA

The [Stavros Niarchos Foundation \(SNF\) Global Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health at the Child Mind Institute](#) is thrilled to announce the *Request for Applications* (RFA) for **the second cohort of SNF Global Center Research Fellowships in Child and Adolescent Mental Health!**

The SNF Global Center aims to systematically increase access, quality, and equity in child and adolescent mental health care. Established in 2022 through a foundational donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) as part of its Global Health Initiative (GHI), the Child Mind Institute hosts the Center and continues its mission to transform the lives of children and families struggling with mental health and learning disorders.

This competitive program will award up to two (2) grants, each providing funding of up to USD \$550,000 for a four- to five-year research project. The Fellowship targets early-career researchers from host institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) worldwide.

Candidates must be nominated by eligible institutions to apply to the program.

- **We invite your institution to register your interest and nominate candidates from your institution by June 1st, 2026. [Interest and nomination form](#)**
- **The candidate deadline will be June 15th, 2026. We encourage organizations to register their interest and nominate up to two candidates well in advance of the June 1st nomination deadline.**
- **We encourage organizations to register for our informative webinar on March 12th, 2026 at 9AM Eastern: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)**
- **We encourage nominees and interested prospective candidates to attend our webinar for nominees on April 23rd, 2026 at 9AM Eastern: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)**

Please find extensive program information below. If you have any questions about the form or the fellowship, or the SNF Global Center, please reach out to: applications@childmind.org and peter.raucci@childmind.org.

SNF Global Center Research Fellowships in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Short Overview

Program Overview

The SNF Global Center Research Fellowships provide an innovative funding and collaborative career development program. The Fellowships target exceptionally creative, early-career scientists conducting high-impact research projects with the potential to revolutionize child and adolescent mental health. Awarded Fellows will receive significant financial support and hands-on experience to drive research innovations and build capacity for addressing both local and global challenges in child and adolescent mental health from their LMIC-based institutions. Additionally, the program offers a unique international platform for mentorship, training, career development, and networking alongside Clinical and Communication Fellows from the SNF Global Center's sister Fellowship programs.

General Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants:
 - Early-career researchers within ten (10) years of completing a doctoral degree.
 - Currently employed and nominated by an eligible host institution in an LMIC.
 - Able to dedicate at least 50% of their full-time work to the Fellowship.
 - See below for more detailed eligibility criteria
- Host Institutions:
 - Officially established entities with a record of research activity in LMICs.
 - See below for more detailed eligibility criteria

Fellowship Details

- Duration: Four or five years.
- Funding: Up to USD \$550,000 per Fellowship for research, training, and career development activities.
- Career Development: Includes mentorship, networking, and training opportunities.
- Research Focus Areas:
 - Mechanisms of mental illness
 - Innovative treatments and prevention strategies
 - Equity in mental health care access
 - Early identification and intervention for vulnerable populations

Application Process

1. Institutions must submit interest and confirm eligibility by completing the provided Interest and Nomination form by June 1, 2026. Institutions can use the form to indicate general interest and/or to nominate candidates.
2. Nominated candidates will receive unique application portal links.
3. Complete applications, including all required documents, must be submitted by June 15, 2026.

Selection Process

- Applications reviewed by an international expert panel from June to July 2026.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited for virtual interviews in August 2026.
- Final Fellows will be announced on World Mental Health Day, October 10th, 2026.

For additional details or to inquire about the program, please contact the SNF Global Center at applications@childmind.org and peter.raucci@childmind.org. Applications must be submitted through the online portal during the application period.

SNF Global Center Research Fellowships in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Full Overview

Introduction

The SNF Global Center Research Fellowship is a groundbreaking funding and career development program designed for exceptionally creative early-career scientists. Fellows receive up to USD \$550,000 over 4–5 years to support innovative projects that make a significant impact in their local communities and regions. The program specifically targets researchers from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) who demonstrate the potential to transform the field of child and adolescent mental health but face barriers due to limited resources and opportunities.

Fellows benefit from generous funding, gaining the expertise and leadership experience needed to drive research innovation and build capacity to address critical mental health gaps both locally and globally. The program also offers a unique international platform for mentorship, training, career development, and networking, alongside Clinical and Communication Fellows in sister Fellowship programs at the SNF Global Center.

This initiative supports early-career researchers aiming to become independent investigators, particularly those based in LMICs. Fellows have the opportunity to undertake short-term mentored research training to enhance their skills, advance projects, or complete early career training before transitioning to full research independence.

Program Details

- **Research Activity and Scope:** The goal of these Fellowships is to support emerging research leaders in child and adolescent mental health through advancement of their research activity, production, capacity building, and their career development. The program seeks to attract investigators from diverse disciplines with different skillsets and research areas, and welcome researchers new to research specific to child and adolescent mental health but with strong interest and potential to revolutionize this field. The following areas are of high interest for this funding mechanism:
 - Conducting basic, translational, and/or clinical investigations with the potential to transform our understanding of the underlying mechanisms of mental illness.
 - Developing innovative treatments and prevention strategies.
 - Increasing access to care and equity in mental health.
 - Enabling early identification/prevention or enhancing intervention, especially among disadvantaged and vulnerable populations



- o Addressing priority needs in the applicant's regional context with valuable and sustainable approaches through an implementation science and capacity building lens.
- **Awarded Funds:** Up to USD \$550,000 equivalency.
 - o Funds are awarded to Fellows through their host institutions to directly support them and their Fellowship research and career development activities.
 - o The exact allocated amount will be based on the proposed budget and its justification, and may be reduced based on cross-country factors such as exchange rates and purchasing power parity ([as per the World Bank](#)), and on the periodic monitoring of actual Fellowships' performance, expenses, and needs.
 - o Funds will be distributed by the SNF Global Center to Fellows' host institutions in periodic installments, invoiced in advance by the host institutions. The SNF Global Center will detail the installation and monitoring plan to the institutions of the selected candidates. Host institutions will be responsible for punctual periodic disbursement of funds to their Fellows for their activities and other approved costs and will remain accountable for the stewardship of funds with regular reporting to the SNF Global Center, as required.
 - o Allowable costs are those needed, proportional, justified, and appropriate in direct relation to the support of Fellows and their proposed research projects and Fellowship activities. They include but are not limited to: (1) payment complementing Fellows' salaries proportional to the percentage committed full-time equivalent dedication, set to the salary and payment standards at the host institutions; (2) payments for research personnel working with protected dedication to the Fellowship research and under Fellows' lead (e.g., research assistants, managers or coordinators, postdoctoral fellows, students, collaborators, etc.), and proportional to their percentage full-time equivalent dedication to that project; (3) training or research project materials, equipment, diagnostic or therapeutic methods, software, hardware, subjects (including small remuneration to human subjects compliant with local legislation and policies), open access publication, public dissemination; (4) training and career development activities such as registration and travel for scientific meetings and conferences, registration in learning modules and courses, and travel and living expenses for Fellows relocating temporarily for mentored research training, choosing the lowest reasonable prices (requires justification); (5) direct administrative and infrastructure support at the host institution up to a 10% of the total budget, such as payment for dedicated time from administrative personnel, bank fees related to Fellowship funds, and utility bills for Fellows' laboratories.





- o Indirect costs are not permitted in these Fellowships as per funding policies of the SNF Global Center and its partners; prohibited indirect costs may include allocated overhead, assessments, fees, or other internal charges. Other prohibited costs include but are not limited to Fellows' or other personnel's fringe benefits, payments for supervisors or mentors, travel for individuals other than the named Fellows, or other potential cost which are not needed, proportional, justified, nor appropriate in direct relation to the support of Fellows and their proposed research projects and Fellowship activities.
 - o Fellowships funding can be used alongside other sources of funding, providing they do not pose a conflict of interest or disrupt commitment to the Fellowship programming and requirements.
- **Career Development Support:** The Fellowships offer learning, mentorship, and networking opportunities. These are provided to enrich Fellows' training and career development and will not confer additional academic or professional degrees. Some opportunities may also be offered to non-selected candidates, though they will be determined by awarded Fellow needs and that of SNF Global Center Fellowship cohorts.
 - o Training through materials and activities to expand their theoretical and practical knowledge and research, leadership, and capacity building skills.
 - o Networking through monthly or quarterly online meetings and in-person annual meetings with other Fellows and experts connected through the SNF Global Center Fellowship Programs, other initiatives, and partners.
 - o Mentorship from national and international experts connected through the SNF Global Center and its partners as requested by each Fellow. Fellows might be able to mentor other colleagues if appropriate to their research project and professional development.
- **Duration, Dedication, and Structure:** Up to five (5) years, with a minimum dedication of 50% of Fellows' full time equivalent annual professional effort.
 - o The applicants may request a reduced 4-year period of performance, without reduction of the total Fellowship funds as justified by their application materials.
 - o Percentage effort dedication must be proposed by applicants in agreement with their host institutions.
 - o The distribution of activities during the Fellowship, with the exception of required virtual and in-person meetings coordinated by the SNF Global Center Fellowships Program, must be proposed by candidates when describing their research project and training (if applicable) plan(s) (see section 'REQUIRED DOCUMENTS' below).
 - o Changes to the duration, dedication, and/or structure while the Fellowship is ongoing is possible if justifying circumstances arise, which must be discussed with and approved by the SNF Global Center.



- **Location:** Fellows will be based in and maintain employment and affiliation with their host institution for the entirety of their Fellowship award, except for approved external training stays.
 - As funds are awarded to individual Fellows, transfer of their Fellowships program from the original to another LMIC host institution may be allowed by the SNF Global Center upon receiving justified necessity, providing the transfer is feasible, would not jeopardize the successful completion of the program, and is to another eligible host institution that agrees to the terms and conditions of the Fellowship.
- **Optional Mentored Research Training and External Stays:** Candidates may request, upon application, up to twenty-four (24) months of training through mentored research at their host institutions and/or in other institutions nationally or internationally. This training time does not need to be continuous during the Fellowship, and may be used as additional ‘postdoctoral,’ early career training before transitioning to research independence during the Fellowships. Candidates choosing mentored training need to propose one mentor for each mentored research training activity. Additional justifying documentation must be submitted as described in the section ‘REQUIRED DOCUMENTS’ below.
 - This mentored training is meant to enrich Fellows’ knowledge, skillset, and collaborations as appropriate to advance their Fellowship career development and research goals. It may occur within existing structured training programs, provided the focus is mentored research and such programs do not pose a conflict of commitment with the awarded Fellowship. This opportunity may not be used to acquire general, basic research knowledge or experience.
 - The proposed mentors must possess qualifications and research experience relevant to the training research needs of the candidate, be affiliated with the institution where such training will take place, and committed to provide structured, in-kind (i.e., voluntary and non-remunerated) support to the candidates if selected.
 - Should a Fellow determine additional mentored or research training is warranted during the award, they may request to submit the necessary justification so long as they have not used all twenty-four (24) months and the addition does not conflict with the successful completion of Fellowship requirements or plans.

Fellow Commitments

- Responsible and accountable stewardship of Fellowship funds, and acknowledgement of the support from the SNF Global Center at the Child Mind Institute and its funder the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). Exact details on acknowledgement expectations to be provided at the time of award.
- Protected time dedication and accounting to the Fellowship research projects and other Fellowship activities, corresponding to their committed annual percent effort.
- Participation, engagement, and collaboration in the SNF Global Center Fellowships training, career development, and networking activities, including monthly or quarterly online Fellowships meetings and annual in-person meetings.
- Promotion of [open science in the spirit of the Child Mind Institute](#), including preregistration of protocols, following state of the art guidelines, publishing results in open access media, and adding, curating, and maintaining their analytic code and de-identified/anonymized research data in open, online repositories as permitted by local relevant legislation and no later than the date of related scientific publications or the Fellowship period, whichever comes first.
- Publication of at least one (1) open access research article in English language with the results of their Fellowship-supported research in a scientific journal indexed at [Journal of Citation Reports](#).
- Contribution to local research capacity building, extending the benefits of their Fellowship to others. This may include activities such as training colleagues (e.g. postdoctoral researchers or other students or trainees), establishing a laboratory or center, creating open access software, tools, courses, or manuals related to the research skills and knowledge gained through the Fellowship, etc.
- Provision of feedback and evaluation to the SNF Global Center regarding the Fellowship experience through reports and discussions as requested.

ELIGIBILITY

- *Individual:*
 - Is an early career researcher:
 - Within ten (10) years of completing a doctoral degree (such as ‘Doctor of Philosophy’ (PhD), ‘Doctor of Medicine’ (MD), or equivalent). Such doctoral degree(s) must have been obtained before the time of the application. For individuals with more than one doctoral degree (e.g., MD and PhD), the ten years follows the most recently obtained degree. Master’s level degrees are not eligible for consideration.
 - Having completed some ‘postdoctoral’ research experience to minimally work at the professional level of late-stage ‘postdoctoral’ research with no more than 2-years expected prior to independence, or early career research faculty/scientist (e.g., assistant/associate professor/lecturer or equivalent in non-academic/non-university institutions).
 - Able to document a record of innovative, high-impact research projects.
 - Qualifications and past research projects, while not required to be specific to child and adolescent mental health, support the potential to advance their career development, research, and capacity building in this field, particularly in LMICs, through these Fellowships.
 - Is able and willing to dedicate at least 50% of full-time equivalent to fulfill the research, training (if applicable), and service commitments of the Fellowship throughout its duration.
 - Is currently employed and nominated by an eligible host institution in a low- or middle-income country as per the [Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) and [World Bank](#) classifications (refer to the subsection ‘Host Institution’ below for institution’s eligibility), and will remain as such during the Fellowship (except for external training activities, if applicable).
 - Is able to communicate and publish in English. This might be demonstrated by evidence of scientific publications and oral communications in English, as well as certificates of English competency if available. In addition, all application documentation for candidates, and interviews for finalists, will be conducted in English for international Selection Committee review and determination.
- *Research Project:*
 - Is focused on research topics that are directly relevant to child and adolescent mental health.
 - Is relevant to the regional research needs, or that of LMICs in general. Pilot data is not required.



- o Is justified as significant, relevant, rigorous, feasible and sustainable, and with a strong research plan to be completed within the Fellowship period.
- o Complies with ethical and legal standards applicable to its research subjects and regional and international context.

- *Host Institution:*
 - o Is an officially established entity with research activity and workforce, whether private or public, academic (university/scholar) or independent (non-profit institute or organization), governmental or non-governmental, but is not a pharmaceutical or other for-profit industry organization.
 - o Is based in a low- or middle-income country as per the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and World Bank classifications](#), and is NOT [prohibited or embargoed from transactions with the United States as per EAR, ITAR, and/or OFAC](#).
 - o Has an ongoing and well-established record of research activity, output, training, and career development in areas directly or potentially relevant to child and adolescent mental health, including but not limited to clinical, data science, education, epidemiology, neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, social sciences, and/or public health.
 - o Can identify and endorse up to two (2) candidates for the Fellowships application through a fair, internal process. The SNF Global Center may inquire about the process used for selection.
 - o Is able and willing to commit to employing the candidate and provide the appropriate research environment through the duration of the Program, using the funds awarded.
 - o Has access to an in-house or outsourced Institutional Review Board(s) or Research Ethics Committee(s) or equivalent bodies, preferably internationally accredited (e.g., by the [United States Health and Human Services](#)), to appropriately review and monitor the compliance of the candidate's research activities with ethical and legal standards applicable to their research subjects at a regional and international context.
 - o Has a well-established financial and accounting infrastructure, including dedicated sponsored programs accounting departments or similar bodies to receive and disburse Fellowship funds efficiently, safely, transparently, and reliably. Institutions legally unable to receive and administer these kinds of funds have a pre-existing partnership with a supporting institution or foundation with such departments that is capable of managing the funds for the host institution.
 - o Can maintain fluent oral and written communication in English language with the SNF Global Center points of contact and respond to SNF Global Center communications and queries within one (1) week.



APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

All documentation and information must be provided in English language (American and British styles are both acceptable, but consistent use of either is preferred) through the online application portal, complying with word and/or page limits and use of templates as instructed. No other documents, formats, or submission mechanisms will be accepted.

Documentation to be provided by the Candidate:

- **Project Summary.** A brief overview of the proposed project, outlined in the application form.
- **Biosketch.** Template provided, maximum 5 pages. It will outline candidate's research education, training, and career to date, particularly highlighting eligibility criteria and other aspects supporting candidates' qualifications and suitability for the Fellowships.
- **Motivation Letter/Statement of Grant Purpose.** Maximum 750 words. It will include: (a) a summary of candidate's career and a projection of future professional goals as connected to the Fellowship requirements and areas of interest (if the candidate is seeking mentored research training, the letter will also describe candidate's training needs and objectives in connection to the Fellowships requirements and areas of interest); and (b) a detailed statement of motivation and commitment to the Fellowships' goals of research advancement and capacity building in LMICs.
- **Research Project Plan.** Template provided, maximum 7 pages. It will include: (a) project title (b) specific aims; (c) research strategy; (d) research design; (e) ethical aspects; (f) data sharing plan; and (g) references.
- **Proof of English Competency.** As per eligibility requirements in the 'ELIGIBILITY' section above. This may include a certificate of English competency, or evidence of a scientific publication and/or presentations or other communications in English as first author.
- [For candidates seeking mentored research training] **Training Plan.** Template provided, maximum 5 pages. It will include a plan summary for each period of training with a timeline, location, and description of training activities; supervision and mentoring plan(s); transition to independence plan (if applicable); and training mentor qualifications. This training may occur at an external institution, may not use more than 24 months of the Fellowship, and does not need to occur contiguously.
- **Video**
A link to a video (up to 10 minutes) explaining your interest in the fellowship and your proposed research project. You may use platforms like YouTube or Vimeo - please note that we are not able to accept videos shared via Google Drive.. Ensure your video is password-protected and include the password in the provided text box. You are welcome to use PowerPoint slides in your

presentation. Please ensure that both the video and audio quality are clear. Note that the production quality of your video will not be judged

Documentation to be provided by one (1) Representative of the host institution:

- **Institutional Nomination and Information Letter.** Maximum 750 words. The letter must be signed by a relevant institutional officer (such as the school dean or vice dean for research, sponsored programs officer, etc.). It will include: (a) the commitment to host and employ the candidate for the duration of the Fellowship; (b) a description of institutional research environment; (c) details about administrative infrastructure, including access to an in-house or outsourced established Institutional Review Board(s) or Research Ethics Committee(s) or equivalents (if they are internationally registered or accredited, this should be described), and in-house financing and accounting departments (if the institution is legally unable to receive and administer these kinds of funds, these details must be provided for an established partner institution/foundation which will co-manage awarded funds).
- **Budget.** Template provided. This budget must be co-created with the applicant. The maximum budgeted amount cannot be over the maximum Fellowships funds (USD \$550,000). It will include a complete (a) itemization of salary, research costs, training activities (if applicable), institutional, and other expenses; and (b) justification of those in alignment with the Research Project Plan and Training Plan (if applicable; see below). Applicants must specify whether the candidate and/or their institution receives other funding sources for the defined research project.

Documentation to be provided by Others:

- **Letters of Support, three (3) Required.** Maximum 750 words/letter. Referees may be based at host- or other national or international institutions. They should be researchers with direct knowledge of the candidate and their research (they might be current or former colleagues, mentors, supervisors, department chair/directors). Including one or two (1-2) letters from supporters at institutions other than the candidate's is optional, but valuable towards the scoring criteria. The letters will: (a) attest to candidate's research experience, talent, and potential, highlighting aspects demonstrating an established record of highly innovative, high-impact research projects; (b) explain candidate's commitment to advancing child and adolescent mental health research and capacity building in their regional context; and (c) state how the Fellowship will positively impact candidate's career and efforts for the benefit of the region should they be selected.
- [For candidates seeking mentored research training] **Mentor Letter, Required by**

Training Plan. Maximum 750 words/letter. Will be provided by the proposed mentor for each training activity/plan. Proposed mentors must have qualifications and research experience relevant to the training research needs of the candidate, be affiliated with the institution where such training will take place, and willing to commit to provide structured in-kind (i.e., voluntary and non-remunerated) support to the candidates if selected. The letters will confirm support for the candidate's Training Plan(s), adding as many details as needed, and with a statement of commitment to supporting the candidate as a mentor during the training period.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

Applications

- The submission portal will be open at the time of the official RFA release, on **April 1, 2026**. Access to this portal will be emailed by the SNF Global Center directly to the candidates nominated by eligible host institutions. Institutions which have indicated interest will be contacted by the SNF Global Center to finalize eligibility and interest, nominate candidates, and appoint one person of contact.
- By **June 1, 2026**, institutions can register Interest and nominate candidates here: [Interest and nomination form for institutions](#)
- Named nominees will only receive access to the application portal if their host institution has 1) indicated interest and 2) confirmed eligibility and shared their contact information. Host institutions curious about their status should email at global@childmind.org. All eligibility and candidate information must be received from host institutions **by June 1, 2026**. Regardless of nomination order or timing, all candidates and institutions must submit completed applications by **June 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time**.
- Nominated candidates must initiate the application by creating their application profiles using their unique link. Complete applications will require separate input from the host institution, referees, and mentors (if applicable). Candidates are responsible for correctly identifying their host institution to collaborate on the application and ensuring all referees and mentors provide the required materials.
- Candidates should build their applications in coordination with their institutions (and mentors, if applicable) within the application period. All involved parties are responsible for reviewing and understanding the application requirements and process and for asking for clarifications from the SNF Global Center at applications@childmind.org.
- The submission portal will host additional instructions, forms, and templates for all required information and documentation. All application materials must be submitted through this portal. Carefully follow all instructions and use the required formats for your application to be considered.

- Complete applications must be submitted by **June 15, 2026, at 11:59 PM US Eastern Time**; no late exceptions will be made. The SNF Global Center will receive, process, and screen the submissions. Submissions that are eligible and complete but have reparable technical errors (e.g. misspellings, documents uploaded in the wrong section, etc.) will be sent back for amendment, in which case applicants will have no more than 10 business days from notification to revise and resubmit. Submissions that have not been successfully revised, if required, or submissions with irreparable errors or clear ineligibility will be rejected. All complete and eligible applications will be sent to the SNF Global Center Research Fellowships Program Selection Committee for reviewing, scoring, and selection.
- Queries relating to application submission should be emailed to the SNF Global Center (applications@childmind.org). This email address is monitored during regular working hours in New York City (9 am to 5 pm, US Eastern Time, Monday to Friday except for holidays). Applicants are encouraged to reach out with questions as early as possible, as timely answers cannot be guaranteed if questions are asked in the days leading up to the deadline.

Selection Process

- The SNF Global Center Research Fellowships Program Selection Committee will be assembled and coordinated by the SNF Global Center and composed of international experts in child and adolescent and global health research, with balanced representation from high-, middle-, and low-income countries around the world, as well as personal demographics (sex, race/ethnicity). It will include two (2) panel reviews in two sequential phases:
 - A *Peer Review Panel*, primarily global experts external to the SNF Global Center, will review and score written applications materials.
 - An *Interview Panel*, primarily experts from or related to the SNF Global Center, will conduct virtual interviews of a limited number of candidates selected as finalists.
 - Note, only candidates who are selected as finalists will be interviewed.
- The Peer Review Panel will review all application materials to build a composite score for the application, based on the Selection Criteria outlined below. Candidates will be ranked according to this scoring. Approximately six (6) applicants will be shortlisted for virtual interviews with the Interview Panel and informed by email. Candidates who are not shortlisted will also be notified by email.
- The virtual interview for shortlisted candidates will use the Selection Criteria, delving into more details regarding suitability for the Fellowships and potential for success. The Interview Panel will select, by consensus, two (2) candidates for the inaugural Fellowship cohort. Only one (1) awarded Fellow per institution is permitted.

- The outcomes of the selection process will be final and not subject to appeal.
- Non-selected finalists may be considered as alternates for the Fellowship, and may be considered for an upgrade if any of the selected fellows are unable to accept their Fellowship. Additionally, non-selected finalists may receive an Honorable Mention, which could include eligibility to apply for funding for a related project. Non-selected candidates are encouraged to reapply for the Fellowship in future years, provided they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. The next Request for Applications for these Fellowships is anticipated in the first quarter of 2027.

KEY DATES

Please note that the following, except for dates for application opening and deadline, are subject to potential modification.

- **March 12, 2026 9AM Eastern US time (Thursday)** – Webinar for Institutions
 - Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- **April 1, 2026** (Wednesday) – Online application portal opens
- **April 23, 2026 9AM Eastern US time (Thursday)** – Webinar for Nominees
 - Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- **June 1, 2026** (Monday) – Deadline to confirm institutional eligibility and nominate candidates
- **June 15, 2026** (Monday) – Deadline for full application submissions
- **June-July 2026** – Applications reviewed by international expert panel
- **August 2026** – Interviews of shortlisted candidates
- **September 2026** – Awarded Fellows are notified
- **September - October 2026** – Onboarding of Fellows and contracting with institutions

Questions related to this RFA may be asked through email addressed to the Director of Global Fellowships at the SNF Global Center using global@childmind.org while questions relating to the application portal or specific applicants should use applications@childmind.org.

APPENDIX: Fellowship Evaluation Rubric

Candidate Qualifications (1–9)

Evaluate the overall strength of the candidate based on the following:

Strengths:

- Outstanding educational and training background aligned with the proposed project.
- Exceptional research output, leadership, and scholarly productivity.
- Clear and compelling motivation, vision, and long-term commitment to advancing mental health research.
- Highly supportive and detailed endorsements from referees emphasizing the candidate's potential and suitability.

Weaknesses:

- Gaps in qualifications, leadership, or research output relative to project goals.
- Lack of clarity or depth in motivation and vision.
- Limited or nonspecific support from referees.

Project Merit (1–9)

Evaluate the proposed project's quality, feasibility, and potential for impact:

Strengths:

- Highly significant and relevant to advancing mental health research.
- Innovative and well-conceived with clear research questions and objectives.
- Feasible and realistic, with robust methodology, clear timelines, and appropriate resource planning.
- Strong alignment with the candidate's expertise, vision, and the fellowship's goals.
- Comprehensive data sharing plan and justified, reasonable budget.
- Sustainable with potential for meaningful, long-term impact.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of relevance, limited innovation, or unclear significance.
- Concerns about methodology, feasibility, or timelines.
- Misalignment between project goals and the candidate's expertise or vision.
- Weak or absent data sharing plan or poorly justified budget.

Host Institution (1–9)

Evaluate the host institution's ability to support the candidate and project:

Strengths:

- Strong institutional commitment to providing resources and a supportive research environment.
- Exceptional training and mentorship opportunities tailored to the candidate's goals.

Weaknesses:

- Limited evidence of institutional support, mentorship, or resources.

