

*Food and Health: research on
obesity in childhood and
adolescence to promote healthy
lifestyles*

Call deadline

19 January 2022

CALLS 2022. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Fondazione
CARIPLO

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1. INTRODUCTION

Food and Health: research on obesity in childhood and adolescence to promote healthy lifestyles is a deadline call that is part of the strategic goal “Scientific Research: support multidisciplinary research for the well-being of people and the socio-economic development of communities”.

2. BACKGROUND

Overweight and obesity are a major public health problem in our country, both because of their constantly increasing prevalence and because they constitute a risk factor for the development of numerous chronic noncommunicable diseases. These include, but are not limited to, metabolic, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, joint problems, gynecological disorders, infertility, predisposition to the development of diseases of the digestive system, psychological and behavioral disorders, increased risk of developing certain types of tumors. Furthermore, considering the health risks associated with other diseases, it is clear that overweight and obesity are an important factor in mortality.

Italy is confirmed as one of the European countries with the highest obesity rate among children and adolescents (prevalence in Italy is 18% in children and reaches 19% in adolescents¹). This condition, as well as being a worrying contingent situation, represents a major challenge for future generations and its consequences in terms of its impact on public health; indeed, the international medical-scientific community has clearly demonstrated the connection between overweight/obesity in developmental age (childhood - adolescence) and the onset of the

numerous chronic diseases mentioned above in adulthood.

Although awareness of the subject has grown in recent years, the policies implemented so far have not been able to generate a concrete impact in opposing the evolution of obesity in children and adolescents and new interventions are needed to increase understanding of the phenomenon and to spread healthier lifestyles.

3. AIMS

The call aims to support multidisciplinary research projects able to investigate the causes and consequences of obesity in the age of development. Therefore, the attention of the proposers should be reserved to a specific target: children and adolescents.

The projects will have to be characterized by methodological approaches able to favor the integration between disciplines and different competences, providing in particular collaborations between researchers pertaining to biological, nutritional, dietary areas, clinics and epidemiological researchers working in the social and psychological sciences. Proposals will have to be submitted in partnership; therefore, it will be essential to clarify the competences produced by each project partner and how these integrate with ones of the leading institution in a unitary design. In order to stimulate public debate and introduce innovative policy tools, proposers should include in their projects specific actions dedicated to the production of recommendations to promote the adoption of healthier lifestyles (es. position papers, policy briefs, educational/publicity materials).

In addition, in line with the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)²,

¹Source: 9°Report on obesity in Italy edited by IRCCS Istituto Auxologico Italiano.

² The European movement on the theme of RRI is constantly evolving, as emerges from the debate which has recently led to

the so called “Rome declaration on RRI” (https://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/rome_declaration_RRI_final_21_November.pdf). Considering the available

proposers will have to organize dissemination events dedicated to stakeholders (for example families, schools, pediatricians of free choice, patient associations).

4. GUIDELINES

4.1 Eligible subjects

Public or private non-profit organizations that conduct scientific research.

By participating to this Call, organizations accept the portability of the grant. Any change in the host institution depends on Cariplo Foundation approval according to the guidelines for presentation “Guida alla presentazione dei progetti su bandi” and the general criteria for granting contributions “Criteri generali per la concessione dei contributi” available online.

4.2 Eligible projects

In order to be considered as eligible, projects must:

- respect the priorities identified by the call;
- activate a multidisciplinary and appropriately integrated project partnership involving at least two research institutions;
- have a maximum duration of 24 months.

Moreover, the PIs of all the involved units (leading and partner):

- must submit only one project proposal on this call³;
- may submit further applications on other calls of the Research Area as unit managers only in case there is no overlap⁴;

literature, it is possible to describe RRI as a dynamic and iterative process which intends to match research and innovation to values, needs and expectations of the society. Moreover, RRI aims at actively involving all the stakeholders taking part to activities of research and innovation, making them mutually responsible with respect to both the research process and its results.

³ In case of overlap, only the first project proposal received will be considered admissible.

⁴ See note 3.

⁵ A proposal is considered ongoing unless the final grant reports - both the scientific and the financial one - have been uploaded on our website before the deadline of this call.

- should not be held responsible for units in ongoing projects⁵ funded under calls from the Research Area (excluding calls in partnership with other funding agencies).

Projects using vertebrate animals, biological material of human origin and/or involving patients must comply with the relevant Italian laws.

Projects must be carried out at structures located in the Foundation’s area of reference. The actions related to the partners may also be carried out at structures located outside the area of reference of the Foundation.

The total cost of the project should include the additional costs⁶ and the overhead only, according to the eligibility criteria and the thresholds listed below:

- A03 - “Equipment and software”
This entry cannot exceed 10% of the additional costs. It fully covers the costs for newly acquired equipment and software. It is mandatory to clearly motivate these costs in accordance with the specificity of the project. In this category can also be included renting costs as well as building work expenses for the installation of the new equipment;
- A04 - “Other amortizable costs”
This entry can only include patent costs;
- A06 - “Temporary staff”
This entry can only include research personnel costs. The cost of administrative staff is not allowed;
- A07 - “Sub-contractors and consultants”
This item of expenditure shall not exceed the 25% of the additional project costs and may include⁷ - in addition to the estimated costs

⁶ Sum of: A03, A04, A06, A07, A08, A10.

⁷ This entry should also include audit costs, where applicable. Exclusively certificated auditors are considered eligible. For the sole purpose of ascertaining whether the obligation to perform a financial audit applies or not, the amount which has to be considered is obtained by multiplying the eligible costs detailed in the Budget (sum of entries A06, A07, A08, A09 and A10) by the coefficient 1,25. It is also recommended to refer to the “Grant management and reporting guide” and to the guidelines for audit assignment “Linee guida per affidamento audit”; both documents are available on the Cariplo Foundation’s website.

attributable to this item by the nature of the service to acquire the services with high specialist content for access to clinical data, instruments and expertise relevant to the implementation of the research, including those provided by recognized institutions such as IRCCS or other entities related to the latter that may operate under the agreement with the partners. Since the threshold applies to the total additional project costs and is therefore related to the partnership as a whole, in the case where the business plan of an implementing institution (lead or partner) should the individual cost items exceed the maximum permitted, the interested party should justify this choice in order to highlight their usefulness for the achievement of the research objectives⁸.

- A08 - "Materials and supplies"
This entry cannot include costs related to office supplies and photocopies;
- A09 - "Overheads"
This entry cannot exceed 5% of the additional costs;
- A10 - "Travel, publication and dissemination costs".
This entry can only include travel expenses and conference participation fees for the research personnel involved in the project, scientific publications and activities of communication with the civil society.

The grant will cover 100% of project costs, therefore the total cost of the project should correspond to the requested amount.

Requested funding must not exceed 250.000 Euro.

Proposals should provide the following mandatory documents:

- Host institution agreement ⁹;

however, it is anticipated that in case of funding, the Foundation will confirm to each recipient any obligation to satisfy such fulfillment.

⁸ Please note that these expenses, during reporting, can be validated only if accounted for as a result of the regular issue of an invoice charged to the actuator (leader and/ or partner). The issuance of an internal note in place of the invoice can be allowed only in the case of public institutions and provided that

- Partnership agreement ¹⁰;
- Project form¹¹, as PDF file;
- Detailed budget plan, as EXCEL file.

By participating to this Call, organizations acknowledge, agree and accept that the award of the grant requires the irrevocable acceptance of all the following documents, available online for the download: Intellectual property rights policy, Open access policy and Acknowledgement guidelines for academic papers ("Linee guida per la citazione del contributo nelle comunicazioni scientifiche").

4.3 Criteria

The evaluation of the projects will be carried out according to the methods and criteria indicated on "Guida alla presentazione dei progetti su bandi" and represented below:

1. DESCRIPTION (weight 5%)

- clarity in the formulation of the objectives and strategies adopted;
- contextualization with respect of the state of the art;
- solidity of preliminary data.

2. APPROACH (weight 20%)

- presence of a logical experimental design, well-structured and appropriate to the aims of the project;
- suitability of methodologies and strategies in relation to research demand;
- identification of the risks of the proposed experiments and analyses, including, where appropriate, alternative approaches;
- adopting a multidisciplinary approach also in order to encourage and stimulate a reflection on how environmental, social, cultural and

it is available a tariff already publicly known, in addition to a detailed report on the activity carried out.

⁹ Host institution agreement must be drawn up on the basis of the form available online for download.

¹⁰ The Partnership Agreement must be drawn up on the basis of the forms available online for download.

¹¹ The project form must be drawn up on the basis of the form made available for the call.

behavioral factors contribute to determining the condition of obesity in children and adolescents;

- clear and effective forms of monitoring to verify the progress of the project.

3. INNOVATION (weight 15%)

- originality and innovation of the project

4. OUTCOMES (weight 25%)

- expected impact in terms of growth of knowledge;
- potential impacts in terms of adopting healthier lifestyles and improving the health status of the reference population.

5. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, TEAM AND ORGANIZATION (weight 10%)

- Pls' scientific and managerial leadership;
- adequacy of expertise expressed by unit leaders and members of the *research team* involved;
- added value of the partnership;
- synergistic integration of skills of the research centers and groups involved, also in view of the multidisciplinary nature of the proposed approach;
- provision of adequate equipment (e.g. software, etc.) to the size and type of the project.

6. DISSEMINATION (weight 15%)

- effective dialogue with civil society and adequacy of recommendations to stimulate public debate and introduce innovative policy instruments;
- the involvement and participation of stakeholders in communication activities to the public.

7. BUDGET and PROJECT DURATION (weight 10%)

- adequacy and consistency of the business plan and the duration of the project. This criterion will also assess the appropriateness of the contributions of the partners and any third party providers.

Please note that the evaluation of the projects is carried out through peer review, or through a scientific assessment of merit entrusted to an independent third party made up of qualified

experts who are subject to precisely defined rules and procedures aimed at excluding conflicts of interest and ideological prejudices, personal pressures and self-referentiality. The Offices will make a judgment limited to the coherence of the Business Plan.

4.4 Non-eligible projects

Projects which, in addition to failing to meet the scientific priorities identified by the call, have the following characteristics will be deemed non-eligible for evaluation:

- research of a purely descriptive nature;
- research projects without potential educational, social, prevention or policy implications;
- requests for funding for the establishment of new research centers and/or for the establishment of laboratories.

4.5 Submission process

The application must be submitted no later than 17.00 on **19 January 2022**.

5. AVAILABLE BUDGET, ELIGIBLE/NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

Available budget is 1 million Euro.

With regard to eligible and/or non-eligible expenditure, please refer to paragraph 4.2 "Eligible projects" above.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

Cariplo Foundation, as a private entity, is not required to comply with public procedures and has the faculty not to allocate the entire budget in whole or in part. The text of the Call and all the mentioned documents can be found on Cariplo Foundation website www.fondazione-cariplo.it.

For the purpose of the assessment of merit through peer review, any personal data that may be reported in the project form, may be transferred to non-EU countries or organizations, in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679. Before applying, therefore, please read the new privacy policy to learn more about the processing of personal data and the transfer of personal data to

countries or organizations outside the European Union.

7. SUMMARY*

Call	Food and Health - Obesity
Type	Deadline Call
Deadline	19.1.2022
Budget available	€ 1.000.000
Aims	Support research projects able to: - deepen the correlation between nutrition and health, linked to obesity in the age of development; - developing specific communication and dialogue actions with civil society to promote healthier lifestyles.
Eligible subjects	Public or private non-profit organizations that conduct scientific research.
Funding limits	Maximum funding € 250.000
Contacts	Scientific Research Area Staff contacts at: www.fondazionecripio.it E-mail contact: cibo salute@fondazionecripio.it

** The data shown in the "Summary" are intended as a brief overview of the terms and conditions of the Call only. For a full description, please read carefully the text of the Call.*