

CENTER FOR FAMILIES FUNDING PROGRAM

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Deadline for applications is February 2, 2026

The Center for Families (CFF) annual funding program supports family research across Purdue University. Faculty and students from all departments, on all Purdue University Campuses are encouraged to apply.

Read on to review all our opportunities and how to apply, or [review on the CFF website.](#)

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The Center for Families at Purdue University was established in 1994 to form an academic community with a multidisciplinary approach to the study of families. We foster innovative research and collaborations with goals of reducing risks and enhancing strengths of all families to provide nurturing environments for their members. CFF provides a way for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends to bring about change focused on families, an issue about which they are deeply passionate, and a change that is even more lasting than bricks and mortar. Our partners have both extended and focused efforts and created possibilities for collaborations seldom imagined in the past.

APPLY NOW

QUESTIONS?

contact.cff@purdue.edu

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

THE LORENE BURKHART AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH ABOUT FAMILIES

The Burkhart Award recognizes outstanding family research being conducted by Purdue Faculty. Nominations are required for award consideration. All nominated articles will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers from the Center for Families Review Committee. The award recipient will receive \$500.

Eligibility requirements:

- Self-nominations are welcome
- Researchers who have not received this award within the past three years are eligible
- Article will represent outstanding family research
- Lead author must be faculty member at Purdue University
- Articles must be published work during the 2025 calendar year (may be published in print or in advance online)
- Articles must have been published in a peer-reviewed journal
- Articles must be empirical (both qualitative and quantitative methods are welcome, but narrative literature reviews are not eligible)
- Published work may be from any discipline, department, or college

HOW TO NOMINATE

Submit nominations to the 2026 Committee Chair,
Melissa Franks: mfranks@purdue.edu

Nominations must include:

- Cover letter indicating support for a given article as outstanding family research
- Electronic copy of the nominated article
- Contact information for the nominator and the lead author for the article

FEATURED FACULTY FELLOWS

2025 — **Heather Eicher-Miller,** **Nutrition Science**

The Role of Family Meals in the Relationship of Parent/Caregiver and Child Dietary Quality in the Context of Food Insecurity and Low-Income Households

2020 — **Trenton D. Mize,** **Sociology**

Attenuating the Commitment Penalty: How Organizational Policies and Workplace Culture Affect Perceptions of Workers Who Take Parental Leave

2012 — **Oliver Wendt,** **Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences**

Effects of a Parent-Implemented Augmentative and Alternative Communication Program for Children with Severe Autism

2004 — **Connie Weaver and** **Barbara Mayfield,** **Nutrition**

Promoting Family Meals

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

CENTER FOR FAMILIES FACULTY FELLOWSHIP (\$10,000)

Each year, the Center for Families awards one faculty fellowship of up to \$10,000 to support a faculty member who is engaged in research focused on family processes or policies, broadly defined.

CFF Faculty Fellows are a valued resource at the Center for Families. You can find more information about previous award recipients at: <https://bit.ly/CFFfellow>

BOB L. AND JOYCE BEERY MILES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT GRANT (\$1,000)

This grant is given to faculty to fund student training and involvement in research. Funds can be used for student travel to research or training opportunities, or to provide stipends for undergraduate members of research teams. Faculty members apply on behalf of students.

This grant is available thanks to the Bob L. and Joyce Beery Miles Endowment. After seeing the impact a small amount of support can have on the trajectory of a student, Bob and Joyce created the endowment, further committing their ongoing support of undergraduate research at Purdue.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

All materials listed below must be combined into one file in PDF and submitted through the electronic CFF application process.

1. Statement of Purpose no longer than 3 double-spaced pages in which you:
 - Identify the goals of your proposed project
 - Outline of implementation plan (how the project goals will be addressed)
 - Explain how this project aligns with the opportunity you are applying for and how it will advance the work of the Center for Families
 - Provide a summary of your relevant experiences and qualifications for carrying out this project
2. A Budget Justification or COEUS budget (CFF Fellowship funds should not be allocated to indirect costs)
3. Curriculum Vitae

Faculty may apply for more than one award, but can receive only one. Preference will be given to CFF faculty partners, faculty who have not previously received CFF funding, and proposals that will lead to external funding affiliated with the Center for Families.

GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Families offers internships and research grants to students that allows them to engage in a program of scholarly activity of their own design, related to the focus of the grant. Student work must be supervised by a faculty member. Students may apply for more than one opportunity. Preference is given to those who have not been selected to receive other CFF funding and students who are advised by CFF faculty partners.



2025 Dr. Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth Graduate Student Research Recognition Grant was awarded to Sumin Im, Public Health Transportation, Time Allocation, and Sleep

DR. SHELLEY MACDERMID WADSWORTH GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH RECOGNITION GRANT (\$1,000)

This grant will support students conducting research or thesis work that is directly impacting the community with a strong focus on work and family. It will allow graduate students to attend workshops or professional conferences. Recipients must be involved with the Center for Families, the Military Family Research Institute, or they must have a faculty advisor who is a Center for Families faculty partner.

This grant is available thanks to the Dr. Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth Graduate Student Research Recognition Fund, created in her honor as recognition of her leadership as the director of the Center for Families.

FEATURED STUDORSCHKA RECIPIENTS

2025 — **Evans Osei, Nursing/
Gerontology**
End-of-Life Financial
Decision-Making Among Rural
Blacks/African American
Women with Advanced
or Late Staged Breast and
Gynecological Cancers

2022 — **Mun Sun Julia Choi
NUTR/Gerontology**
Rough Journey to Menopause:
How Does Perimenopausal
Menorrhagia Affect Women's
Quality of Life and Cognitive
Function?

2015 — **Elizabeth Day, HDFS/POL**
Bridging the Gap: Examining
Indiana Legislators' Uses
of Research and the Family
Impact Lens in Policymaking

2014 — **Zachary Gold HDFS/ENGR**
Preschoolers' Physical, Social,
and Engineering Play Behaviors:
Differences in Gender and Play
Environment

GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

STUDORSCHKA INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GRANT (\$1,000)

The Studorschka Grant is for students who have chosen a field of study that combines two or more academic disciplines, one of them being the study of families. The work must be supervised by two faculty members in two different departments.

This grant is possible due to the generosity of Dr. Travis Dorsch and Dr. Breanna Studenka. While completing his doctoral dissertation in Health and Kinesiology at Purdue, Travis spent hours learning about families, as he recognized that you can't study individuals in isolation. He sought out support from the CFF Funding Program, which helped launch his career. He and Bree hope this interdisciplinary grant will help launch the career of others.



2017 Studdorschka Interdisciplinary Research Grant was awarded to Matthew Perrigino, OBHR, Family supportive supervisor behaviors (FSSB) in organizations

HOW TO APPLY FOR GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

All materials listed below must be combined into one file in PDF and submitted through the electronic CFF application process.

1. Statement of Purpose no longer than 3 double-spaced pages in which you:
 - Identify the goals of your proposed project
 - Outline of implementation plan (how the project goals will be addressed)
 - Explain how this project aligns with the opportunity you are applying for and how it will advance the work of the Center for Families
 - Provide a summary of your relevant experiences and qualifications for carrying out this project
2. Budget Justification (Describe how you will use the CFF funding to support your project goals)
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Letter of support from the faculty member(s) who has agreed to supervise the project work.
(Studorshcka Interdisciplinary Research Grant applicants must provide at least two letters of support from faculty in two different departments)

Students may apply for more than one opportunity. Preference is given to those who have not been selected to receive other CFF funding, and students who are advised by CFF faculty partners.

GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

BAY FAMILY POLICY SCHOLARSHIP (\$1,000)

A partnership between the Military Family Research Institute and the Center for Families, this competitively awarded internship supports graduate students interested in using data to influence policy and practice by working with the Measuring Communities project at MFRI. Graduate students must be in at least their second year of study to apply. Interns must register for academic credits to support their time devoted to this work.

This scholarship is possible due to support from the Bay Family Endowment; created by Charles “Chip” Bay, Purdue alumnus, and U.S. Army veteran, to support graduate students as they explore the intersection of data, policy, and military families.



2024 Inaugural Bay Family Policy Scholarship was awarded to Sybil Cutler, Human Development and Family Science

HOW TO APPLY FOR GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

All materials listed below must be combined into one file in PDF and submitted through the electronic CFF application process.

1. Statement of Purpose no longer than 3 double-spaced pages in which you:
 - Provide a summary of your relevant experiences and qualifications
 - Explain how this scholarship will support your future professional goals
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Letter of support from a faculty member(s) regarding student's qualification

Students may apply for more than one opportunity. Preference is given to those who have not been selected to receive other CFF funding, and students who are advised by CFF faculty partners.

UNDERGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Families offers scholarships, awards, and grants to students based on the quality of the student's academic accomplishments and the fit of their work with the Center for Families' mission and ongoing work.

BOB L. AND JOYCE BEERY MILES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT GRANT (\$1,000)

This grant is given to faculty to fund student training and involvement in research. Funds can be used for student travel to research or training opportunities, or to provide stipends for undergraduate members of research teams. Faculty members apply on behalf of students. ***Information about how to apply is on page 3. Undergraduates interested in this grant should contact their faculty advisor.***

LEVIEF FAMILY LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP (\$1,000)

This scholarship supports undergraduate students who are passionate about strengthening families through research, policy, community engagement, or education. It is designed to encourage students who see family not only as a personal cornerstone but also as a platform for broader societal impact.

The Levien Family Legacy Scholarship fosters a new generation of students dedicated to advancing the well-being of families. The scholarship seeks to amplify voices that advocate for practical, compassionate, and research-informed solutions to family challenges.

Levien Family Legacy Scholarship was established by Betty Levien Krejci to honor her parents, Leo and Elva. This scholarship reflects a deep commitment to the power of family as a stabilizing and transformative force in society. Inspired by her upbringing in a close-knit, working-class family, Betty created this scholarship to ensure that future leaders recognize and advocate for the central role of families in shaping strong communities and thoughtful policy.

HOW TO APPLY FOR LEVIEF FAMILY LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

All materials listed below must be combined into one file in PDF and submitted through the electronic CFF application process.

1. Statement of Purpose no longer than 3 double-spaced pages in which you:
 - Provide a summary of your relevant experiences and qualifications
 - Explain how this scholarship will support your future professional goals
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Letter of support from a faculty member(s) regarding student's qualifications

Students may apply for more than one opportunity. Preference is given to those who have not been selected to receive other CFF funding, and students who are advised by CFF faculty partners.