

# Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) Bridging the Gap Research Award

Applications open: June 3 – July 15, 2026



## About the Award:

The Bridging the Gap Research Award will provide resources to help a postdoctoral student prepare a competitive research grant proposal. This is an \$8,000 annual award. Each recipient is only eligible for one year of funding.

Early-stage investigators are often expected to produce extramurally funded research with very limited or non-existent support for successfully applying for and receiving the grant dollars they need. This award seeks to bridge that preparation gap in today's increasingly competitive grant funding environment. Postdoctoral students may use award funds for anything that supports a larger grant proposal, including but not limited to, equipment and supplies, additional analyses, consultants, statistical support, data collection, and professional development or training.

In addition to a monetary award, the awardee will be assigned two mentors, one who is an SBM Fellow or a distinguished behavioral medicine professional with experience in their research topic area, and the other, a past award recipient. Throughout the 1-year period of active funding, the mentors will reach out proactively to the awardee to provide guidance and help overcome hurdles.

## Eligibility Criteria:

- The nominee must be an SBM student member in good standing at the time of application.
- The nominee must have received a doctoral degree before the time of application.
- The award will not provide the recipient's institution with indirect funding.
- Proposals are encouraged from behavioral medicine disciplines including, but not limited to, psychology, medicine, nursing, epidemiology, nutrition, physical therapy, public health, and more.

*Special consideration will be given to applicants whose research will investigate key social problems including, but not limited to, health inequities, vaccination, climate change, and the spread of misinformation.*

We strongly encourage underrepresented racial and ethnic minority researchers, sexual and gender minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities to apply. SBM is committed to diversity and inclusion in its leadership, membership, programs, activities and decision making. The society seeks to actively engage individuals representing various backgrounds to support the mission and vision of our society.

## Expectations of Award Recipient:

- The award recipient must provide a progress report of their research project 6 months into their active year of funding, and no later than 6 weeks after their full year of award funding has ended.
- The award recipient is expected to attend the VIP Donor Tea at the 2027 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Each recipient will give a brief 30-second introduction during the presentation portion, followed by a poster presentation during the networking portion of the event.
- The award recipient must inform SBM when their research funding application is submitted, and must share the outcome as soon as it is known.
- The award recipient must have at least one call or personal meeting with their paired SBM mentor who is a Fellow or a distinguished behavioral medicine professional shortly after they are awarded, and complete regular conversations with the mentor no fewer than 3 times during the awarded year.
- Following the completion of the award funding year, the recipient must submit an Outlook article for the Winter edition describing their personal experience with the Bridging the Gap Research Award, key takeaways and learning experiences, and/or specific aspects of the award that have been instrumental in their career (e.g. mentorship).
- The award recipient must agree to serve as a mentor to future Bridging the Gap Research Award winners.

# SBM Bridging the Gap Research Award

Application must be submitted by July 15, 2026



Full Name (first, middle, last): \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Doctoral Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Research Project: \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name of Institutional Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Please Check All that Apply:**

- I am a current SBM student member (dues paid for 2026)
- My research project investigates key social problems including, but not limited to, health inequities, vaccination, climate change, and the spread of misinformation.
- My research project includes my own content creation and/or design.  
*Within behavioral medicine research, content creation and design is defined as the operationalization of behavior change techniques into audience-appropriate communications to increase the likelihood that target health behaviors are completed in the service of meaningful outcomes.*
- I identify as a traditionally underrepresented racial or ethnic minority researcher, sexual or gender minority, woman and/or an individual with a disability.
- I have read and understand what is required of me if I am granted this award.

**Please submit the following as a PDF attachment along with this completed application to [info@sbm.org](mailto:info@sbm.org) no later than Wednesday, July 15 to be considered.**

1. *Narrative*: Prepare a narrative including the following (limited to 2 pages):
  - Title of research project
  - Applicant institute and name of institutional mentor and/or research team
  - Statement of need (i.e. tell a story about what the problem is, what has been done, your research proposal, and how funding is going to bridge the gap)
  - Concrete plans for seeking additional funds to complete a larger related research project
  - Description of how your research, if funded, would advance the current state of knowledge in the field and would impact health. Special consideration will be given to applicants whose research will investigate key social problems including, but not limited to, health inequities, vaccination, climate change, and the spread of misinformation.
  - Detailed timeline for the research project and application for additional funds
  
2. *Budget*: Provide a budget justification of how funds will be used within the 1-year award period (limited to 1 page). Use must be directly related to the research project. Funds cannot be used for the SBM Annual Meeting registration and/or travel expenses.
  
3. *Applicant CV*