

# **Request for Pre-Proposals: Cannabis and Driving**

**Deadline: 5:00PM Eastern Time Friday, November 1, 2013**  
**Applicants are highly encouraged to apply early.**

## **Objective**

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is considering research that would add to the existing body of knowledge on cannabis and driving. We are seeking pre-proposals for research on a variety of topics addressing the relationship between acute cannabis use and driving impairment or crash risk using innovative research methods or data. Applicants are asked to propose research that examines the behavioral effects of acute cannabis use on driving, or the consequences of driving while under the influence of cannabis.

A range of research approaches are of interest, including but not limited to: epidemiologic studies, naturalistic studies, health services, and intervention studies. Research should focus on acute cannabis use within 4 hours of driving. Proposals for self-report surveys will not be funded under this RFP.

Important Notice: For certain types of studies the applicant must recognize that in order to handle substances under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, it is mandatory that the successful applicant possess a DEA Research Registration for Schedules II to V and demonstrate the capability to obtain a DEA registration for Schedule I controlled substances. If you propose a study that falls within these constraints, you must demonstrate possession of proper permissions before the project will be funded.

## **Specifications**

### **Study Population**

Characteristics of the study population will be determined by the scope of the proposed study. In the pre-proposal, please justify why you have included (or excluded) certain sub-populations.

### **Data Sources**

Your pre-proposal should consider existing sources of relevant data, such as crash databases, drug testing results from hospitals (emergency rooms) or laboratories, blood serum libraries, driver records, toxicology screenings and surveillance, prescription data, etc.

If your team proposes to administer a drug dose to study participants, they must recognize that in order to handle substances under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, it is mandatory that the successful applicant possess a DEA Research

Registration for Schedules II to V and demonstrate the capability to obtain a DEA registration for Schedule I controlled substances. If you propose a study that falls within these constraints, you must demonstrate possession of proper permissions/permits from DEA, NIDA, and all pertinent agencies before the project will be funded.

Please explore existing databases.

### Drugs of Interest

Cannabis. In your pre-proposal, please discuss how your team will handle issues such as: the variability of drug effects, route of administration and dosage, and tolerance among individuals; cannabis species and variation in reported effects and potency by strain; confounders associated with cannabis use; the complex pharmacokinetics of cannabis; varying testing and reporting procedures for drugs found in crash-involved drivers; and the confounding effects from alcohol and other illicit/prescription drugs. A list of additional drugs and justification for inclusion should be included in the pre-proposal.

### Expected Deliverables

1. A synthesis of the most relevant and useful published literature related to drivers and acute cannabis use.
2. A report documenting the findings of the literature synthesis, investigative methodology, and results of the data analysis on drivers and acute cannabis use.

### Project Scope

Please include a detailed budget (based on calendar years) including indirect costs and a timeline assuming an April 1, 2014 start date. The budget can be distributed between 2014 and 2015. The proposed budget for the project should be scalable and no more than \$250,000; however, low to moderate cost projects with the potential of having high impact results are preferable. Funding is under the discretion of AAFTS and thus no awards are assured. All information that is included or developed in this pre-proposal process is confidential and proprietary to AAFTS. If your pre-proposal is selected for further consideration we will ask you and your team to develop a full proposal:

Notification for full proposal:	November 11, 2013
Full proposal due:	December 9, 2013
Notification of acceptance/rejection:	February 6, 2014
Anticipated project start date:	April 1, 2014

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## **Suggestions for Pre-proposal Content**

**(5 page maximum limit)**

Your pre-proposal should include the following sections:

1. Title of the pre-proposal , Names and affiliations of all investigator, address, telephone number, and email of the investigator to whom correspondence regarding the pre-proposal is to be addressed
2. Objective sentence: State explicitly what this project would accomplish.
3. Methods: Provide a description of the proposed project, including inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study population, sources of data, sample size and power calculations, equipment and analytic methods to be employed, and potential confounders and sources of bias.
4. Expected Results: Please list all deliverables.
5. Budget: A project budget that includes the total cost of the project, and a breakdown of total cost by major cost item by calendar year, assuming a start date of April 1, 2014. Include the indirect costs charged by your institution as a separate line item and include it in the total cost. Note that the AAA Foundation does not have a maximum indirect rate; however, total project cost is considered in funding decisions.
6. Timeline: Please indicate the length of the project, assuming an April 1, 2014 start date.

### **Pre-proposal format**

Your pre-proposal must meet the following formatting requirements:

- Use standard letter-sized paper (8.5 x 11 inch), with at least one-inch margins on all sides.
- All text should be single-spaced and left-justified, in 12-point Arial font.
- Please do not use any headers, and do not use any footers except page numbers.
- Please do not use footnotes or endnotes.
- Please submit the pre-proposal in Microsoft Word format or Rich Text Format (.doc, .docx, or .rtf). Do not submit as a PDF.

## **Pre-proposal Submission**

Submit your pre-proposal electronically to Jurek Grabowski, Director of Research, at [proposals@aaafoundation.org](mailto:proposals@aaafoundation.org).

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## **Other tips**

The body of the pre-proposal should be self-contained; it should be able to be understood by a reviewer that does not see any appendices that you may attach.

Note that those who will be reviewing your pre-proposal are knowledgeable about most major traffic safety topics. It is important that you demonstrate awareness and understanding of literature and ongoing research most relevant to your pre-proposal; however, it is not necessary to cite statistics to convince reviewers that traffic safety (in general) is important. It is far more important for you to describe in detail what unanswered questions your research seeks to answer, how your project will answer those questions, what methods you will use, and how the results of your study will be used to achieve real-world improvements in traffic safety.

When sending your pre-proposal to the AAA Foundation, please give your electronic files names that will help us to recognize them quickly. We prefer file names that include the last name of the principal investigator and a shortened title, such as:

*Smith-EvaluatingAntiMobileTech.doc*  
*Smith-CV.doc*  
*Smith-Appendix.doc*

Please do not use generic file names such as *Pre-proposal.doc* or *AAA\_PreProposal.doc*.

In most cases, electronic proposals that are consistent with these guidelines are expected to be smaller than 1 MB. Please do not include high-resolution images unless the use of high resolution is critical to the understanding of your pre-proposal.

If you have questions, please contact Jurek Grabowski at [proposals@aaafoundation.org](mailto:proposals@aaafoundation.org).

## **About the Sponsor**

Founded in 1947 by the American Automobile Association, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is a not-for-profit, publicly supported charitable research and education organization dedicated to saving lives by preventing traffic crashes and reducing injuries when crashes occur. Foundation funding is provided by voluntary contributions from AAA/CAA and their affiliated motor clubs, from individual members, from AAA-affiliated insurance companies, as well as from other organizations and sources. Additional information about the AAA Foundation can be obtained from [www.aaafoundation.org](http://www.aaafoundation.org).