

December 2025

Research Funding Opportunities Bulletin

A Monthly Digest of Funding Opportunities to Fuel your Research

Welcome to the latest funding bulletin, featuring funding opportunities, resources, and announcements to support your pursuit of funding. View our [funding opportunities](#) page to learn more about our funding opportunities. We also have a [funding opportunities](#) page for you to explore. We also have a [funding opportunities](#) page for you to explore. We also have a [funding opportunities](#) page for you to explore.

Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering

The internal competition is [now open](#) for this year's Packard Fellowships. Rice is among 50 universities invited to submit two highly creative early career nominees. Several years ago, OCFR hosted a [roundtable discussion](#) with [Rice's Packard Fellows](#) available on YouTube to help you understand the opportunity and frame your proposal ideas.

- Eligibility:**
- Faculty in the first 3 years of their careers, with initial faculty appointments begun no earlier than May 31, 2023, and no later than May 31, 2026.
 - Engaged in research in the following disciplines: physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, astronomy, computer science, earth science, ocean science, and all branches of engineering.

[Click here to view the opportunity and submit your internal pre-proposal](#)

Internal deadline: Monday, February 16, 2026

Upcoming Events

Join us at our Open House to Discuss Your Funding Needs – December 5th

Are you looking to strengthen your research proposal? Curious about corporate, federal, or foundation funding opportunities? Need guidance navigating your research managing collaborations? Join OCFR, ORC, and OTT for our monthly Open House at Dandelion Café, held on the first Friday of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

This informal drop-in session is a great opportunity to:

- Explore corporate and private funding (OCFR) and public funding (ORD) opportunities.
- Share your research and receive personalized advice on funding strategies.
- Connect with OTT experts who can advise your research commercialization efforts.

Our next Open House is this Friday, December 5, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Dandelion Café. As always, coffee is on us! We look forward to seeing you there.

Please note: Due to the federal holiday, we will not be hosting our Open House in January. Our regular monthly schedule will resume in February.

Rice OTT Connection Corner: Get Expert Tech Transfer Guidance

Have questions about intellectual property, licensing, or commercializing your research? The new OTT Connection Corner offers virtual drop-in office hours where you can get expert guidance without an appointment.

Whether you're a faculty member with a new discovery, a graduate student exploring entrepreneurship, or staff supporting research commercialization, our experts are ready to help. We can answer questions, share best practices, and help you navigate the research commercialization process, from idea to market.

- **When:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month
- **Time:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Virtual Zoom Meeting
- **Password:** RiceOTT

Planning to attend? Let us know ahead of time at techtran@rice.edu, so we can have the right expert available for your specific questions.

Helpful Links

- [Access the archive of bulletins here](#)
- [Check out the private foundations limited submissions calendar page](#)
- [Explore the early career webpage for timely resources and support](#)
- [Check out the Private Foundations Limited Submission Funding Opportunities web page](#)
- [Multidiscipline Opportunities](#)
- [Science & Engineering Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Social Sciences & Humanities Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Proposal & Strategy Support](#)
- [Resources and Tools](#)

Active Limited Submissions

For certain funding opportunities, Rice can only submit a limited number of proposals. When this occurs, we hold **internal competitions** to determine which application(s) will be submitted to the sponsor. If you're interested in a **limited submission opportunity**, you must complete and submit an **Internal Notice of Intent** and/or an **Internal Pre-proposal** before the internal deadline. An interdisciplinary **Research Awards Committee** will then review all pre-proposals and inform applicants if they've been selected to move forward.

Currently active limited submission opportunities:

- **Ono Pharma Breakthrough Science Initiative Awards Program** | Chemical Biology
 - **Funding:** \$900,000
 - **Internal Deadline:** January 14
- **Weich Foundation Catalyst for Funding Program** | Natural Science and Engineering
 - **Funding:** \$5,000,000
 - **Internal Deadline:** January 15
- **Packard Foundation Fellowships in Science and Engineering** | Natural Science and Engineering
 - **Funding:** \$875,000
 - **Internal Deadline:** February 16

If you have any questions about the limited submissions process, please contact [Jalton Martin](#), the Research Development Coordinator in the [Office of Research](#).

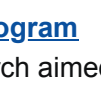
Multidiscipline Opportunities



Foundation Opportunities

Simons Foundation | Fellow-to-Faculty Award
The Fellowship program supports talented senior postdoctoral or equivalent Ph.D. and/or M.D.-holding scientists by facilitating their transition to tenure-track faculty positions. Applicants must present a scientific vision for their future independent lab that aligns with the mission of the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) or the Simons Collaboration on Plasticity and the Aging Brain (SCPAB). The award offers a substantial faculty research grant and an optional postdoctoral stipend allowance to support the job-market transition. Two new tracks, Computational Scientist and Clinical Scientist, are offered. **Funding: \$200,000 per year for three years (Faculty Award) plus up to two years of postdoctoral support (\$110,000 per year stipend/allowance) | Application Deadline: January 14, 12:00 p.m. EST**

Autism Science Foundation | Profound Autism Pilot Grants
This grant supports one-year research projects conducted by established investigators focusing on profound autism and associated sensory, language, and cognitive challenges. The goal is to advance research in understanding the underlying biological mechanisms (e.g., animal models, stem cells, or gene editing) and the potential for early intervention (behavioral, pharmacological, or genetic). The grant addresses recruitment challenges, and studying co-morbid conditions. The RFA explicitly defines criteria for "profound autism" and requires a letter of support from an advocacy organization. **Funding: Up to \$35,000 | Application Deadline: March 2, 5:00 p.m. EST**



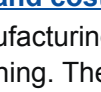
Corporate Opportunities

Pfizer + American Headache Society | Quality Improvement Solutions for the Diagnosis and Management of Migraine and Headache Disorders
Pfizer is excitedly requesting proposals for a Quality Improvement Grant in collaboration with Pfizer and the American Headache Society (AHS). The program seeks proposals for QI initiatives in the United States and Canada that address quality gaps in headache medicine, aiming to create tools or information that lead to measurable and sustained improvements in the diagnosis and management of migraine and headache disorders. Projects must focus on areas like safety, clinical effectiveness, efficiency, patient-centered care, or equity. Priority areas include:

- Diagnosis and management in primary care and non-headache specialty settings.
- Collection and analysis of patient experience data.
- Innovative solutions, including AI applications, for standardized headache care.
- Education in medical/allied health schools and residency training.

This grant will not support laboratory science or clinical trials. The process involves a two-step review, starting with a Letter of Intent (LOI). **Funding: Up to \$250,000 USD total for two years | LOI Deadline: February 25**

Science & Engineering Funding Opportunities



Funding Highlight

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Areas

Corporate Opportunities

Commonwealth Serum Laboratories | Research Acceleration Initiative
The CSL Research Acceleration Initiative (RAI) is a funding program by CSL Limited (a leading global biotechnology company) to fund-track the discovery and translation of innovative biotechnologies through partnerships with global research organizations (universities, medical research institutes, hospitals) and companies (startups, biotech). The initiative focuses on early-stage projects aligned with CSL's therapeutic areas, including Antibody Engineering, Gene Therapy, Stem Cells, Hematology, and Immunology. Business Development (BD) and Commercialization representatives are required to register their organization's interest via email. Following registration, scientists will be invited to submit a 300-word online abstract of their scientific proposal starting in January 2026. There is no limit on the number of abstracts an organization or individual researcher can submit. **Funding: Up to \$200,000 USD per year for two years | EOI/Registration Deadline: December 12**

Sanofi | T1D Innovation Grant Program
This grant program supports research aimed at accelerating breakthroughs in Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). The focus is on independent investigations addressing unmet needs, including: novel pathways of autoimmunity; new approaches for early detection of at-risk individuals; biomarker strategies for disease prediction/stratification; and the application of artificial intelligence/machine learning in any of these areas. Not-for-profit organizations, such as universities and research institutes, are eligible to apply. The application should be signed by the Principal Investigator and a Legal Representative (i.e., a representative from the legal department of the applicant's research institution). The Terms and Conditions must be reviewed by the PI and their research institution's Legal representative before starting an application; these are not negotiable and will form the basis of the contract for any approved application. For a detailed view of the application process, you can download the interactive [Application Guide](#). **Funding: Up to €140,000 | Application Deadline: December 19, 1:00 p.m. CST**

IBM | Herman Goldstone Postdoctoral Fellowship in Mathematical Sciences
This postdoctoral fellowship provides outstanding scientists an opportunity to conduct research in the theory of algorithms and algorithm design as resident department members at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Westchester County, less than an hour north of New York City. Research focuses include quantum algorithms, mathematics of artificial intelligence, advanced optimization, networks and networks, and the intersection of these areas. Activities are expected to interact closely with permanent research scientists but are free to pursue their own research interests. Candidates must have received a Ph.D. degree after September 2024 or expect to receive one before the fellowship starts in the second half of 2026. The fellowship has a period of one year and may be extended for another year by mutual agreement. Up to two fellowships will be awarded. **Funding: The stipend is expected to be at least \$150,000 | Application Deadline: December 31**

Cargill | Improving performance and cost efficiency in edible oil refining
This partnering request seeks manufacturing technologies, process innovations, and equipment solutions to improve the yield and efficiency of edible oil refining. The focus is on process intensification, automation, and efficiency gains in three key stages: degumming/neutralization (improving phase separation, chemical efficiency, and yield), bleaching/finishing/refining (reducing consumption and energy from heating oil refining), and deodorizing (reducing energy intensity via heat integration, lower temperature operation, or novel vacuum systems). Solutions must be scalable and feasible for industrial deployment within 3–24 months (TRL 5–9). Budget is available to support proof-of-concept trials within pilot or commercial facilities, as well as co-development activities with R&D partners. Cargill is also open to licensing agreements or direct technology adoption for in-market solutions that demonstrate clear operational benefits. **Funding: \$50,000–\$300,000 | Application Deadline: January 9**

Cargill | Optimizing fermentation manufacturing processes
This partnering request seeks manufacturing technologies, equipment, and process innovations to optimize industrial-scale fermentation production lines (for products like lactic acid, ethanol, and erythritol). The goal is to improve operational efficiency and sustainability by: enhancing fermentation yield (e.g., high-efficiency aeration/oxygenation, foam control), reducing and early bioprocess optimization (reducing consumption and energy from heating oil refining), and deodorizing (reducing energy intensity via heat integration, lower temperature operation, or novel vacuum systems). Solutions must be scalable and feasible for industrial deployment within 3–24 months (TRL 5–9). Budget is available to support proof-of-concept trials within pilot or commercial facilities, as well as co-development activities with R&D partners. Cargill is also open to licensing agreements or direct technology adoption for in-market solutions that demonstrate clear operational benefits. **Funding: \$50,000–\$300,000 | Application Deadline: January 9**

Cargill | Optimizing chocolate texture
This partnering request seeks ingredient-based or process-based solutions to optimize the texture of chocolate made from Brazilian cocoa beans, making it comparable to Western varieties (i.e., achieving a harder texture, better snap, and improved heat resistance). The goal is to enhance chocolate quality by: enhancing chocolate quality (e.g., achieving a harder texture, better snap, and improved heat resistance), and must not require changes to standard chocolate-making processes (tempering, molding). Solutions of interest include fat modifiers, crystallization enhancers, or functional ingredients, with an eventual cost contribution below €100,000 in the finished product at scale. **Funding: Up to €100,000 for a proof of concept, with potential funding for further development | Application Deadline: January 9**

Private Company | Food Innovations supporting physical and mental energy
This partnering request seeks technology-driven solutions—including novel ingredients, processing, or packaging—to develop nutrient-dense food products that support sustained physical and mental energy and combat fatigue. Applicants should address one or more "Energy Pillars" such as Sustained Energy (long-lasting endurance), Steady Energy (minimal spikes/crashes), Balanced Energy (physiological harmony), Energy Metabolism, or Mental Energy (focus/alertness). Novel and next-generation technologies are preferred, but differentiated advancements of existing solutions are also welcome. **Funding: \$75,000–\$100,000 for a 12-month collaboration, including prototyping, facilities use, and scale-up activities | Application Deadline: January 9**

Private Company | Integrated system for high-accuracy liquid dispensing and mixing
This partnering request seeks commercially ready or custom-engineered integrated systems for high-accuracy liquid dispensing and mixing across a wide array of unique, water-based formulations. The core requirement is the automated micro-dosing of small liquid volumes (typically 3–5 µL, max.) at 20–100 µL each into a larger base liquid volume (100–200 mL) with a dispensing accuracy of ±2% for both. Crucially, the system must ensure no cross-contamination between sequential single-batch operations. Solutions must be near-term implementable (TRL 3–9). **Funding: Up to \$300,000 in proof-of-concept or development funding | Application Deadline: January 9**

Scotts Miracle-Gro | Advancing abiotic stress resilience in lawn and garden systems
This partnering request seeks technologies and solutions to enhance the resilience of lawn, garden, and soil systems to heat and drought stress (abiotic stress). The goal is to sustain healthy vegetation with less water input. Solutions of interest include: Biological/Biostimulants, Genetic Varieties, Soil Amendments, Microbial-based solutions, and Precision Water/Sal Health Monitoring tools. Proposals must have empirical data demonstrating efficacy on relevant crops (e.g., lawn grass, ornamentals, vegetables), be available at or have a clear path to commercial scale, and align with specific UN Sustainable Development Goals such as SDG-3 (Good Health & Well-being) and SDG-13 (Climate Action). **Funding: Up to \$50,000 inclusive of a maximum 10% indirect cost for academic/nonprofit partners | Application Deadline: January 9**

Private Company | Microbial-based oral health solutions for companion animals
This partnering request seeks a novel, microbial-based oral health solution for companion animals (primarily dogs/cats) to reduce dental plaque, tartar, halitosis, and/or gum inflammation. Solutions must be supported by scientific data (in vitro/in vivo clinical) and suitable for daily use and mass production. Solutions of interest include: Microorganisms/probiotics, Enzymes, or Fermentation-based products. They must be palatable, compliant with global pet health regulations, safe, and compatible with practical delivery formats (chews, gels, water/food additives). Synthetic chemicals are out of scope. Compensation will be determined based on the stage of technology development and may include upfront payments, milestone-based payments, and royalties. **Funding: \$500,000–€5,000,000 | Application Deadline: January 9**

Kraft Heinz + IFAB | Scaling nature-identical food ingredients through precision fermentation
This opportunity is a joint challenge by Kraft Heinz and the Illinois Fermentation and Agriculture Biomanufacturing Hub (IFAB) to accelerate the scaling of nature-identical food ingredients produced through precision fermentation. The goal is to move bench-scale feasibility (TRL 3–6) to pilot and demonstration scale. The request focuses on sweeteners (especially heat-, light-, and pH-stable dry replacements), preservatives, and antioxidants. Selected teams receive priority access to the IFAB/IFAB's fermentation facilities, technical mentorship, and networking opportunities. For no-kill monetary grant is specified. The overall winner receives a complimentary seat in the IFAB's Fermentation Short Course and an invitation to present at the IFAB/IFAB breakout session during Future Food Tech South Francisco. **Funding: In-kind support (facility access, mentorship, exposure, IFAB course seat); no specified monetary grant | Proposal Deadline: January 16**

Haleon | Fresh breath innovation for oral care products
This partnering request seeks innovative ingredients, raw materials, or technologies that provide advanced, long-lasting fresh breath or malodor reduction for daily-use oral care products (toothpaste, mouthwash, oral care devices). The focus is on solutions that actively neutralize odor compounds rather than masking them, without the drawbacks of traditional actives or alcohol. Solutions of interest include bio-based/enzymatic ingredients, pre/probiotics, natural ingredients, slow-release encapsulation, or non-rinse oral care formats (e.g., films, lozenges). Preliminary efficacy and safety data are required for consideration. **Funding: \$25,000–\$100,000 for a six-month proof-of-concept project | Application Deadline: January 30**

Kimberly-Clark | Automated mechanism for continuous consumable dispensing
This partnering request seeks automated mechanisms (TRL 1–9) for restroom dispensers to ensure a continuous supply of paper consumables (rolls or stacks). The core innovation must enable the dispenser to reliably switch from a depleted unit to a reserve unit without manual intervention and with minimal to no reliance on AC wall power (battery-powered or mechanically operated sensors are acceptable). The goal is to improve hygiene and efficiency. Collaborations across product shortages in B2B settings. Eligible partnership models include sponsored research, co-development, and licensing. **Funding: \$150,000–\$300,000 USD over 1 to 2 years for TRL advancement | Proposal Deadline: January 30**

Private Company | Improving powdered natural color dispersion in aqueous systems
This partnering request from a global producer of confectionery products seeks cost-effective ingredient or process technologies to solve the challenge of poor dispersion and excessive foaming when incorporating powdered natural colors (especially spirulina) into aqueous systems, as well as color stability in various food matrices. Solutions must improve the efficiency of powder wetting and dispersion while maintaining color integrity. The acceptable technology readiness level (TRL) is 5–9 (Validated in relevant environment to Product in Market). Eligible partnership models include fee-for-service, supply/purchase, sponsored research, licensing, and co-development. **Funding: Up to \$100,000 USD to support initial feasibility studies, process trials, and scale-up evaluation | Proposal Deadline: January 30**

UPL | Reducing UV-induced degradation of herbicides
This partnering request from UPL seeks herbicide technologies (TRL 4–9) that effectively reduce or delay UV-induced photodegradation of herbicide molecules to maintain product efficacy and persistence, especially in high solar exposure regions. The goal is to avoid the need for higher application rates. Solutions of interest include advanced formulation strategies such as encapsulation (micro/nano-carriers), UV filters (absorbers/blockers), surface modifiers, or co-formulants (synergists/antagonists). Solutions must demonstrate efficacy against Pythium and be seed-safe on corn. **Funding: \$50,000–\$200,000 USD | Proposal Deadline: January 30**

Private Company | Circular solutions for durable large-format packaging
This partnering request from a leading company in the paints and coatings sector seeks subject matter experts to develop scalable circular solutions for handling, recovering, and redesigning five-gallon high-density polyethylene (HDPE) paint buckets. The goal is to establish models for reuse, recovery, or recycling of these durable containers, which often contain dirty water-based paint residues. The key constraint is that the solution must function outside the retail paint store and remain compatible with existing in-store filling and violent shaker-based mixing equipment. Experts in reverse logistics, reusable packaging models, cleaning technologies for dried residues, and HDPE mechanical recycling are sought. **Funding: Compensation is provided at an appropriate market-level hourly rate (consulting/expertise) | Application Deadline: January 30**

UPL | Seed treatment technologies for Pythium control
This partnering request from UPL seeks seed treatment technologies (TRL 2–9) to control Pythium (a soil-borne oomycete causing seedling rot and root rot) in European corn crops. The goal is to replace chemical treatments that have been restricted by EU regulations with new, effective, and compliant solutions, particularly those that are low-risk or biological. Solutions of interest include microbial biocontrol agents, bio-derived fungicidal compounds, plant extracts, or novel chemical fungicides. Solutions must demonstrate efficacy against Pythium and be seed-safe on corn. **Funding: \$50,000–\$200,000 USD | Proposal Deadline: January 30**

Nexfil Health Science | Simulation and experimental evaluation of intermolecular interactions
This partnering request from Nexfil Health Science seeks academic researchers, startups, and service providers who can combine experimental characterization with computational chemistry simulations to study intermolecular interactions in the complex system. The primary goal is to assess the potential for forming stable intermolecular structures maintained by hydrogen bonding and hydrophobic interactions, improving their stability and solubility in aqueous media. The project must be capable of both simulation (predicting motifs and binding energies) and experimental validation (confirming structure formation and characterizing physicochemical properties like solubility and stability). **Funding: Up to \$50,000 USD for a six-month term | Proposal Deadline: January 30**

PepsiCo | Collection, sorting, and separation technologies for flexible packaging
This partnering request from PepsiCo seeks innovative, non-commercialized technologies (TRL 3–7) to significantly enhance the collection, sorting, and separation of multi-layer, laminated flexible packaging (polyolefin-based films) from mixed waste and recycling streams. The goal is to maximize the recovery of this valuable material, which is currently a challenge for mechanical recycling. Solutions of interest include advanced Robotics, AI/ML models, optical/hyperspectral sensors, digital watermarking/tracking, and new collection models, especially those demonstrating novelty or a clear measurable value improvement over existing commercial systems. **Funding: \$25,000 to \$40,000 USD | Proposal Deadline: January 30**

PepsiCo | End-of-life valorization pathways for multi-layer flexible packaging
This partnering request from PepsiCo seeks innovative, not-yet-commercialized technologies (TRL 3–7) that enable the end-of-life valorization (recovery, recycling, conversion) of multi-layer, metallized polyolefin-based flexible packaging (e.g., for snacks). The goal is to find novel mechanisms or differentiated process enhancements (e.g., purity, next-generation solvent-based recovery, advanced pyrolysis, or new catalyst systems) that improve the efficiency, yield, purity, or economic viability of recovering polymers from this waste stream, supporting a circular economy. Energy valorization is explored out of scope. **Funding: \$25,000–\$40,000 USD for initial proof-of-concept | Proposal Deadline: January 30**



Foundation Opportunities

Gates Foundation | Grand Challenges: Accelerating Innovation in Vaginal Formulations in Support of Women's Health
The Gates Foundation is soliciting applications that contribute to development of vaginal formulations that promote optimal drug delivery within the vaginal compartment while positively supporting the vaginal milieu, and that also possess beneficial effects, even if unrelated to the API intended effect, that a user might consider desirable. This RFP is jointly launched by several Grand Challenges funding partners, including Grand Challenges Africa (Science for Africa Foundation), Grand Challenges Brazil (Brazilian Ministry of Health and the National Council on Research), Grand Challenges India (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council), Grand Challenges South Africa (South African Medical Research Council), and the Gates Foundation. Each RFP may offer its geographic focus, topic areas, and funding levels. Please review the eligibility criteria and specific requirements for each RFP carefully. **Funding: Up to \$260,000 | Application Deadline: December 16, 11:30 a.m. PST**

Lustgarten Foundation | Innovation & Collaboration Program
The Lustgarten Foundation Innovation & Collaboration Program provides seed funding for highly innovative, high-risk, high-reward research with the potential to accelerate breakthroughs in pancreatic cancer. Proposals must address key outstanding questions and have the potential to change the current paradigm, focusing on understudied aspects of the disease. While preliminary data is not required, the hypothesis must be plausible and testable. Collaborations across groups or those bringing new expertise/technology are preferred. **Funding: Up to \$110,000 | Application Deadline: January 5**

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation | Call for Ideas: Small-scale experiments that advance fundamental physics
This opportunity seeks high-risk, high-reward, small-scale experimental physics projects that advance fundamental physics and shed light on "big questions" beyond the Standard Model of particle physics and cosmology. Projects should be table-top or university-lab scale. Specific interests include tests of interaction laws and symmetry principles, foundational tests of quantum physics, and searches for new particles. Principal investigators must hold a Ph.D. and a tenure-track or equivalent position. **Funding: Not yet allocated; potential funding up to five years | Submission Deadline: January 13, 12:00 p.m. PST**

Allen Institute | Accelerating Natural Climate Solutions (NCS)
This Request for Proposals (RFP) supports collaborative projects in the United States that use science and technology to overcome barriers to the implementation of high-integrity Natural Climate Solutions (NCS). Projects must be designed by diverse teams—including researchers, policymakers, and key stakeholders—to co-develop, test, and deliver scalable solutions. Relevant barriers include issues related to finance, markets, knowledge, and societal/behavioral factors. An informational webinar with an opportunity to ask questions about this open funding call will take place on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 9:00am PST. **Funding: Total funding of \$10 million across 6–7 projects, each lasting up to three years (approx. \$1.4M–\$1.6M per project) | LOI Deadline: January 15, 12:00 p.m. PST**

Simons Foundation | Scientific Software Research Faculty Award
The Scientific Software Research Faculty Award (SSRF Award) supports the creation of new, long-term, non-profit limited research faculty positions (e.g., Clinical Professor, Professor of Practice, Research Professor) for scientific software experts at U.S. Ph.D.-granting institutions. The program aims to establish a faculty-level career path for individuals with a Ph.D. in mathematics, astronomy, or theoretical physics who have a strong leadership track record in scientific software development and maintenance. Funding covers full salary for the first two years and partial salary for the next three years, plus a yearly research allowance. **Funding: Five years of salary support plus a \$50,000 yearly research allowance | LOI Deadline: January 21, 12:00 p.m. EST**

Simons Foundation | Talent Support for Mathematicians
This program provides support to accomplished, active mathematicians at U.S. institutions to substantially increase collaborative contacts through funded travel and related expenses. Funding is intended to support scientific travel for the PI, their graduate Ph.D. students, and visiting collaborators, as well as minor research expenses. Fellows must hold a tenure-track or tenure-limited position in a Ph.D.-granting mathematics department and must not currently hold other major external PI or co-PI research grants. Up to 140 new appointments are selected annually. **Funding: Up to \$6,400 USD per year for up to five years | Application Deadline: January 29, 12:00 p.m. EST**

Simons Foundation | Simons Dissertation Fellowship in Mathematics
The Simons Dissertation Fellowship in Mathematics provides two years of research support for full-time Ph.D. students in mathematics at U.S. institutions, commencing in their fourth year of study. The funding is intended to support the final years of their dissertation work. Awards are based on the quality of the applicant, the significance of previous research, and the promise of the proposed research program. Funds are flexible and can be used for research support, scientific travel, computers, and a small discretionary amount for the Fellow's department. **Funding: \$30,400 USD over two years (\$19,200 per year) | Application Deadline: February 25, 12:00 p.m. EST**

Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation | Prevention
The ADDF seeks to support precision prevention studies, combination therapy studies, and comparative effectiveness research that probe whether the use or choice of interventions may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. Studies that are not in humans will not be considered. **Funding: \$5,000,000 | Application Deadline: February 23, 2026**

Burroughs Wellcome Fund | Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants
To stimulate the growth of new connections between thinkers working in largely disconnected fields, who, together, may change the course of climate change's impact on human health, supporting activities that build connections between basic and early biomedical scientific approaches and ecological, environmental, geological, geographic, and planetary-scale thinking, as well as with population-focused fields, including epidemiology and public health, demography, economics, and urban planning. **Funding: \$2,500–50,000 | Application Deadline: See the online information**

Burroughs Wellcome Fund | Workshop for Academic Administrators
A workshop for early career academic administrators whose work is at least 80% focused on career development activities pertaining to graduate students or postdoctoral fellows at a research-focused institution in the United States or Canada and who have been in this type of role for at least 3 years (36 months) but not more than 7 years. **Funding: \$15,000 | Application Deadline: See the online information**

Breakthrough T1D | Vision Grants
Breakthrough T1D divides toward curing type 1 diabetes to help make everyday life better for the people who face it. **Funding: \$15,000 | Application Deadline: See the online information**

Moore Foundation | Call for Ideas: Small-scale experiments that advance fundamental physics
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation is seeking bold ideas for small-scale experimental physics projects that shed light on "big questions" fundamental to our understanding of physics. **Funding: TBD | Application Deadline: January 13, 2026**

National Kidney Foundation | Young Investigator Research Grant
NKF established the Young Investigator Research Grant program to support clinical research studies addressing important issues for patients with kidney disease. Projects must be patient-oriented. **Funding: \$35,000 | Application Deadline: February 9, 2026**

National Kidney Foundation | Kidney Health Equity Community Engagement Award
Proposals should influence health equity related to kidney health at a community level. The application must seek to improve access to kidney care, kidney disease management, and patient outcomes. **Funding: \$75,000 | Application Deadline: February 9, 2026**

Social Sciences & Humanities Funding Opportunities



Foundation Opportunities

Henry David Thoreau Foundation | Henry David Thoreau Foundation
The Henry David Thoreau Foundation's Faculty Grant Program provides seed funding for visionary programs at U.S. undergraduate institutions that foster environmental leadership and engaged scholarship. Proposals must focus on undergraduate students and should be designed to grow institutional legs (be sustained with future funding) rather than be one-off projects. Preference is given to projects that develop new environmental program branches, require start-up funding, or strengthen partnerships with community/governmental organizations and businesses. Proposals are by invitation only. **Funding: Up to \$40,000 | Submission Deadline: By Invitation Only**

Delmas Foundation | Venetian Program
The Foundation awards travel grants to individual scholars to support historical research on Venice and the former Venetian empire, and for the study of contemporary Venetian society and culture. Applicants from all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences are eligible areas of study, including, but not limited to, archaeology, architecture, art, bibliography, economics, history, history of science, law, literature, music, political science, religion, and theater. Other relevant research interests will be considered as well. **Funding: Up to \$20,000 | Proposal Deadline: December 16**

William T. Grant Foundation | Various Grants
Supporting research to build, test, or increase understanding of programs, policies, or practices to reduce inequality in the academic, social, behavioral, or economic outcomes of young people ages 5-25 in the United States. **Funding: \$100,000 to \$600,000 | Proposal Deadline: January 7, 2026**

Internal funding opportunities can be found on the [Rice University Creative Ventures Fund](#) webpage.

Proposal & Funding Strategy Support

Navigating the landscape of funding opportunities can be complex, but you're not alone! The [Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations](#) (OCFR) and the [Office of Research Development](#) (ORD) are here to support faculty in developing compelling proposals and crafting effective funding strategies for the RFPs shared in this bulletin and beyond.

How we can help:

- **Identifying Strategic Funding Matches:** We can help you analyze potential funders to determine alignment with your research or program goals and identify the most promising funding avenues.
- **Proposal Development Guidance:** We offer guidance throughout the proposal process, from outlining your project and developing a strong narrative to addressing sponsor requirements.
- **Corporate and Foundation Engagement (OCFR):** For opportunities involving corporate or private foundations, OCFR provides support and facilitates introductions prior to reaching out to the organization, and OCFR facilitates ongoing relationships.
- **Research Development Resources (ORD):** ORD offers a range of resources, including workshops, individual consultations, and proposal review services, to enhance the competitiveness and impact of your applications.

We encourage you to reach out early in the process so we can provide the most impactful support. Let us partner with you to turn your innovative ideas into funded realities!

Contact Us:

- **Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations (OCFR):** ocfr@rice.edu
- **Office of Research Development (ORD):** proposalsupport@rice.edu

Available Resources

ExLabs is a platform developed specifically to connect companies to university researchers to work on answers to urgent needs. These projects are specific and range from \$25K–\$200K generally, but ultimately these projects can lead to partnership and continued partnership. Halo releases RFPs monthly. You can sign up for regular updates and access is free and open to anyone who creates an account. If you have questions about Halo or how to navigate it, please contact OCFR at ocfr@rice.edu.

HALO is a platform developed specifically to connect companies to university researchers to work on answers to urgent needs. These projects are specific and range from \$25K–\$200K generally, but ultimately these projects can lead to partnership and continued partnership. Halo releases RFPs monthly. You can sign up for regular updates and access is free and open to anyone who creates an account. If you have questions about Halo or how to navigate it, please contact OCFR at ocfr@rice.edu.

Rice University is a member of the [University Industry Demonstration Project \(UIDP\)](#), a professional organization fostering connections between universities and industry partners. UIDP provides access to innovative approaches to collaborative endeavors, providing a wealth of resources accessible on their member website. This resource is available to anyone working at Rice, and we strongly encourage you to make an account to receive updates.

Rice Data Research Data Management Presentation here.

Candid offers a comprehensive understanding of the social sector by providing extensive data and insightful analysis. Their platform integrates information on nonprofits, foundations, and grantmaking activities, alongside current news and in-depth research. Faculty can utilize Candid's robust tools to thoroughly research and verify nonprofit organizations, effectively identify potential funding opportunities that align with their work, and explore a diverse array of valuable datasets and information related to the philanthropic landscape.

Visit Candid's website to discover their free training programs and wide range of other valuable resources designed to support those working within and seeking to shape the social sector.

Foundation Directory

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