



February 2026

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. We've refined the layout to make it easier to navigate, now sharing funding opportunities by focus: Multidiscipline, Science & Engineering, and Social Sciences & Humanities. You'll also find helpful icons that indicate the funding vehicle, whether it's from a private foundation, a corporate source, or a federal/state agency.

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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 idea.

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 – February 6th

Are you looking to strengthen your research proposal? Curious about corporate, federal, or foundation funding opportunities? Need guidance on safeguarding your innovations and managing collaborations? Join OCFR, ORD, 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, February 6, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Dandelion Café. As always, coffee is on us! We look forward to seeing you there.

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 about the intellectual property lifecycle, research contracts, online forms, and general tech transfer procedures.

- **When:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month
- **Time:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Virtual Zoom Meeting
- **Password:** RiceOTT1

Planning to attend? Let us know ahead of time at tcstran@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 here.](#)
- [Explore the early career webpage](#) for timely resources and support.
- [Check out the Private Foundations Limited Submission Funding Opportunities web page.](#)

Active Limited Submissions

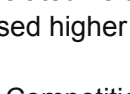
For certain funding opportunities, Rice can only submit a limited number of proposals. When this occurs, we hold **internal competitions** to determine which application(s) will be submitted to the sponsor. If you're interested in a **limited submission opportunity**, you must complete and submit an internal **Notice of Intent** and/or an internal **Pre-proposal** before the internal deadline(s). 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:

- **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 [Jaton Martin](#), the Research Development Coordinator in the [Office of Research](#).

Multidisciplinary Opportunities



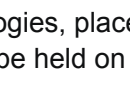
Corporate Opportunities

IBM Center for the Business of Government | Research Report Stipends

This opportunity seeks research reports that provide practical, actionable recommendations to improve public sector management. Proposals should address five key areas: multi-sector partnerships, financial effectiveness, technology and AI, data-driven performance, or workforce development. Recipients must produce a 10,000–12,000-word report within six months of their project's start date. Please note that the stipend is a flat award and does not cover institutional overhead or indirect costs. Applications, consisting of a 1,500-word proposal and resumes, must be submitted online by the deadline. Independent researchers must also provide a letter of affiliation from a qualifying academic or nonprofit institution. 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: \$20,000 per report | Application Deadline: March 2**

O'Shaughnessy Ventures | Fellowships & Grants

This program aims to support high-impact, innovative research across all domains. Past winners have worked on projects ranging from synthetic cell creation and genome engineering to documentary filmmaking and 3D-printed manufacturing. Ten applicants will be selected for fellowships, with up to 20 others receiving program grants and access to OSV's network of founders, investors, and experts. **Funding: \$100,000 for Fellowships, \$10,000 for Grants | Application Deadline: April 30**



Federal Opportunities

National Science Foundation (NSF) | Division of Integrative Organismal Systems Core Programs

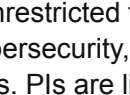
The Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) Core Programs Track supports research to understand why organisms are structured the way they are and function as they do. Proposals are welcomed in all of the core scientific program areas supported by the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS). Areas of inquiry include, but are not limited to, developmental biology and the evolution of developmental processes, development, structure, modification, function, and evolution of the nervous system, biomechanics and functional morphology, physiological processes, symbioses and microbial interactions, interactions of organisms with biotic and abiotic environments, plant and animal genomes, and animal behavior. **Funding: Varies | Application Deadline: Continuous/Rolling**

National Institutes of Health (NIH) | Institutional Biomedical Undergraduate Research Training (BURT) Program (T34) [May Track]

The goal of the Institutional Biomedical Undergraduate Research Training (BURT) program is to strengthen research training environments and develop a pool of well-trained students who:

- Complete their baccalaureate degrees in biomedically-related fields, and
- Transition into and complete biomedical, research-focused higher degree programs (such as Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.).

This notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a Limited Competition invites applications from eligible organizations to apply. Please see Section III. Eligibility for additional information. In accordance with NIH standard peer-review processes, the applications will be peer-reviewed, and only meritorious applications will be considered. This funding announcement provides support to eligible, domestic organizations to develop and implement effective, evidence-informed approaches to biomedical undergraduate training and mentoring to help build a strong biomedical research workforce for the nation. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: February 16 | Funder Deadline: May 25**



Foundation Opportunities

Wellcome Trust | Genomics In Context Awards

Supporting collaborative research at the intersection of genomics, humanities, social sciences and bioethics, these awards will support transdisciplinary teams to catalyze research discoveries at the intersection of genomics, humanities, social sciences and bioethics. Funded projects will be given the time and resources to create new research agendas and explore innovative ways of working. **Funding: \$500,000 | Proposal Deadline: March 16**

Spencer Foundation | Large Research Grants on Education Program

This program is seeking research projects that innovatively investigate questions central to education. Proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, method, or location in education. The Spencer Foundation welcomes projects from a wide range of topics and disciplines including for example education, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, law, economics, history, or neuroscience, amongst others. **Funding: \$150,000 - \$250,000 | LOI Deadline: March 17**

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation | Early-Career Faculty Support for Interdisciplinary Energy System Research

This program is inviting proposals from early-career faculty at the outset of their academic careers who are focusing on undertaking innovative interdisciplinary social science research related to the transition to a low-carbon economy in the United States. Prioritized project topics include energy system resilience & adaptation, energy markets & policy analysis, low-carbon innovation & next generation energy technologies, place-based energy transitions, transportation & mobility, and industrial decarbonization. An informational webinar will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. **Funding: Up to \$500,000 | Pre-proposal Deadline: February 24**

Science & Engineering Funding Opportunities



Corporate Opportunities

Private Company | Evaluation of water treatment technologies for industrial water reuse

A global mining company seeks subject matter experts to evaluate cost-effective treatment pathways for reducing sulfate and total dissolved solids (TDS) in mine water. This opportunity is open to academic researchers, startups, and consultants worldwide with expertise in biological or hybrid water treatment systems, specifically sulfate-reducing bioprocesses. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to establish mass balances and identify operational requirements such as carbon source and nutrient demands. Selected experts will develop process flowsheets and conduct techno-economic evaluations to compare alternative biological systems against conventional reverse osmosis and crystallization methods. **Funding: \$10,000–\$50,000 | Application Deadline: February 27**

Private Company | Advanced fabrication of nature-inspired continuous fibers

A global materials company seeks expertise to develop high-performance continuous fibers from bio-based or nature-inspired materials. The project aims to replicate the mechanical and sensory characteristics of human hair using scalable manufacturing routes such as additive manufacturing, wet spinning, or electrospinning. This opportunity is open to academic researchers, startups, and consultants worldwide with demonstrated experience in polymer processing or fiber fabrication. Applicants should be capable of providing ready-to-test continuous fiber samples that meet specific diameter and surface texture requirements. Compensation is structured through a mutually agreed statement of work for initial proof-of-concept activities, with potential for follow-on funding. Selected partners will also gain access to the company's global laboratory facilities and internal experts to support material evaluation. **Funding: \$25,000–\$50,000 | Application Deadline: February 27**

NVIDIA | Academic Grant Program

This grant program seeks research proposals from full-time faculty members at accredited academic institutions to advance work using NVIDIA technology. The program focuses on three core interest areas: Simulation and Modeling (including quantum computing and physics-informed ML), Data Science (including graph analytics and route optimization), and Robotics and Edge AI (including autonomous vehicles and federated learning). Proposals must incorporate pretrained models from ai.nvidia.com and/or make extensive use of NVIDIA software distributions such as Omniverse™, CUDA-Q™, Isaac™, or the NeMo Framework™. Applicants are encouraged to review the provided proposal template and recent webinars to ensure high-quality submissions. **Award: Access to NVIDIA compute resources and technical support | Application Deadline: March 31**

Cisco Research Center (CRC) | Research Funding

Cisco Research offers two primary pathways for academic collaboration: Sponsored Research Agreements (contracted projects with partner universities) and Research Gifts (unrestricted funding for non-profits and universities). These opportunities focus on high-impact domains such as Cybersecurity, Quantum Research, AI/Machine Learning, and Edge Computing. Proposals must be submitted via Open RFPs. PIs are limited to one active funded proposal at a time. RFPs may be withdrawn as research proposals are funded, or interest in the specific topic is satisfied. Researchers should plan to submit their proposals as soon as possible. **Funding: Varies by RFP | Deadline: Continuous/Rolling**



Federal Opportunities

Department of Energy (DOE) | Early Career Research Program

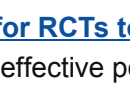
The Office of Science's (SC) mission is to deliver scientific discoveries and major scientific tools to transform our understanding of nature and advance the energy, economic, and national security of the United States (U.S.). SC is the Nation's largest Federal sponsor of basic research in the physical sciences and the lead Federal agency for fundamental scientific research for our Nation's energy future. **Funding: \$875,000–\$2,750,000 | Pre-App: February 18 | Full App: April 22**

ARPA-H | BioStabilization Systems (BoSS)

The BioStabilization Systems (BoSS) program aims to transform how live cell-based therapies are stabilized, manufactured, and distributed. At its core, BoSS addresses a fundamental bottleneck in the delivery of advanced cell and gene therapies (CGTs): the critical dependence on ultra-cold conditions (-80 to -196 °C) for storage and transport. BoSS will yield a bioprocessing system that enables scalable production of thermally stable cells, paving the way for a new era of efficient and resilient manufacturing and distribution of biologics without any need for cold storage. **Funding: Varies | Solution Summary: February 19**

National Science Foundation (NSF) | Chemical Oceanography Program

The program supports research into the chemistry of the oceans and the role of the oceans in global geochemical cycles. Areas of interest include chemical composition, speciation, and transformation; chemical exchanges between the oceans and other components of the Earth system; internal cycling in oceans, seas, and estuaries; and the use of measured chemical distributions as indicators of physical, biological, and geological processes. **Funding: Varies | Application Deadline: February 17**



Foundation Opportunities

Lupus Research Alliance | Translational Brand Award

This award provides funding to bridge the gap between post-discovery and pre-commercial development and to accelerate the pace at which promising research discoveries are translated into clinical evaluation and brought into viable products that directly impact patients. All projects should advance potential commercial entities or clinical products with clear and direct relevance to people with lupus and the potential to improve diagnosis or the standard of care for the disease, or to usher in a cure. These can include a range of technologies, therapies, interventions, and diagnostics. **Funding: Up to \$450,000 | Application Deadline: February 19**

Jeffrey Modell Foundation | Translational Research Program

The Jeffrey Modell Foundation is seeking projects on clinical recognition, diagnostic tools, and innovative therapies that will impact overall health outcomes of those affected by Primary Immunodeficiency. This program aims to advance the growing knowledge of genotype-phenotype correlations and the underlying mechanisms of immune function/dysfunction, converting research to meaningful clinical application. **Funding: Up to \$250,000 | Proposal Deadline: March 13**

Packard Foundation | Packard Foundation Fellowships in Science and Engineering

Early career faculty can apply internally for consideration as a Packard Fellowship nominee. **Funding: \$875,000 | Internal Deadline: February 16**

The Glaucoma Foundation | TGF Grant Research Program

The Glaucoma Foundation's TGF Grant Research program is looking for projects regarding Exfoliation Syndrome and Exfoliation Glaucoma, Pressure Independent Mechanisms of Glaucoma, Neuroprotection, and Genetics of Glaucomas that affect people under the age of 40 years. Examples of research range from basic science to clinical interventions, such as genetics and genomic medicine, disease modeling, assessment of ocular perfusion, artificial intelligence, and clinical research. **Funding: \$75,000 | Application Deadline: March 16**

Bay Area Lyme Foundation | Lyme Disease Award

This award provides funding for innovative biomedical projects and aims to attract aspiring new scientific talent to the field of Lyme and other tickborne pathogen research. Those who have not previously worked in Lyme or tickborne disease research are encouraged to apply. While the foundation is particularly interested in applicants who have identified a defined approach to improving diagnostics or therapeutics for Lyme and other tickborne diseases, this award is open to all areas of research needed for patients. **Funding: \$150,000 | Application Deadline: February 15**

Bay Area Lyme Foundation | Tick-borne Pathogen Award

This award provides funding for innovative biomedical projects and aims to attract aspiring new scientific talent to the field of Lyme and other tickborne pathogen research. Those who have not previously worked in Lyme or tickborne disease research are encouraged to apply. While the foundation is particularly interested in applicants who have identified a defined approach to improving diagnostics or therapeutics for Lyme and other tickborne diseases, this award is open to all areas of research needed for patients. **Funding: \$150,000 | Application Deadline: February 15**

Henry Luce Foundation | Clare Boothe Luce program for Women in STEM

This program supports undergraduate scholarships and research awards, graduate fellowships, and professorships for women students and professors in Astronomy, Mathematics, or Physics. **Funding: \$750,000 | Application Deadline: March 2**

Kavli Foundation | FutureHouse Fellowship program

The Kavli Foundation invites applications for a Kavli-sponsored 2026 AI-for-Science Fellow to pursue an independent, AI-enabled research project in neuroscience through FutureHouse's Independent Postdoctoral Fellowship program. **Funding: \$125,000 | Application Deadline: February 13**

Social Sciences & Humanities Funding Opportunities



Federal Opportunities

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) | Continuum of Care Competition and Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants

The goal of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is to support the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness and sharing that experience with and mobilizing communities around the country toward the same end. The population to be served by the demonstration program is youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth. **Funding: Varies | Submission Deadline: February 25**

Foundation Opportunities

Daniel Singer Millennium Prize Foundation | Daniel Singer Prize

The Daniel Singer Millennium Prize Foundation is offering a \$10,000 prize for a published article addressing the following question: Why and how have ethnonationalism and anti-immigrant politics become a central response to the crises of inequality, climate change, capitalism, and war? What forms of resistance have emerged? 8,000 words (with footnotes), and the essay must include a motivating statement of 500 words or less and a URL link to the published essay. **Funding: \$10,000 | Submission Deadline: March 1**

Schmidt Sciences | [Humanities and AI Virtual Institute \(HAVI\)](#)

Schmidt Sciences is requesting proposals to the Humanities and AI Virtual Institute (HAVI), aimed at fostering research in the digital humanities with a particular focus on artificial intelligence. Register for the foundation's webinar on February 24, 2026. **Funding: \$100-800,000 | Proposal Deadline: March 13**

Russell Sage Foundation | [Future of Work \(FOW\)](#)

RSF is seeking innovative research on the causes and consequences of changes in the quality of jobs for low- and moderately paid workers and their families in the U.S. The foundation is requesting investigator-initiated research proposals that cover the role of changes in employer practices, the nature of the labor market and public policies on employment, earnings, and job quality. RSF is especially interested in proposals that address questions about the interplay of market and non-market forces in shaping the wellbeing of workers. **Funding: \$200,000 | Proposal Deadline: March 11**

Russell Sage Foundation | [Implications of the 2023 Supreme Court Decision to Ban Race-Conscious Admissions at Colleges and Universities for Educational Attainment and Economic Mobility \(SCD23\)](#)

RSF is seeking innovative research on the effects of the Supreme Court decision to ban race-conscious college/university admissions. The foundation is especially interested in proposals that will advance social science research on the social, political, and economic effects of the Supreme Court decision and the future of race-conscious policies more generally. Other topic areas include the college-to-career pipeline and the effects of race-conscious policy alternatives on educational attainment/economic mobility. **Funding: \$200,000 | Proposal Deadline: March 11**

Russell Sage Foundation | [Social, Political and Economic Inequality \(SPEI\)](#)

RSF is seeking innovative investigator-initiated research that will expand understanding of social, political, and economic inequalities and the mechanisms by which they influence the lives of individuals, families, and communities. **Funding: \$200,000 | Proposal Deadline: March 11**

Arnold Ventures | [Strengthening Evidence: Support for RCTs to Evaluate Social Programs and Policies](#)

This AV program aims to strengthen the body of proven, effective policies, programs, and interventions by funding researchers to conduct rigorous RCTs (randomized controlled trials) across the spectrum of social policy. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: March 6**

Arnold Ventures | [Building Evidence: Support for QEDs to Evaluate Social Programs and Policies](#)

This AV program seeks to advance the knowledge base about potentially effective policies, programs, and interventions by funding rigorous, causal research using quasi-experimental methods (such as natural experiments, regression discontinuity, difference-in-differences, and instrumental variable designs) in the following AV policy areas: Career Pathways, Contraceptive Choice and Access, Higher Education, Infrastructure, Medicaid, and Public Finance. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: March 6**

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 in understanding funder priorities, tailoring your approach for successful engagement, and cultivating 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):** [Proposal assistance request form](#)

Available Resources

When developing your fundraising strategy, it can be advantageous to see what opportunities are posted by sponsors, including private foundations and government agencies. To enable you to do so effectively, Rice subscribes to Pivot-RP, a global database of open research funding opportunities available for faculty and staff.

To learn more about Pivot-RP, how to successfully access the database, or receive technical support from an OCFR partner visit our [internal website](#).

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 a wide range of other valuable resources designed to support those working within and alongside the social sector.

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 broader relationships 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.

Foundation Directory is a comprehensive database providing detailed profiles of grantmaking foundations, corporate giving programs, and federal funders. It serves as a crucial resource for identifying potential funding sources aligned with diverse research areas and scholarly activities. The directory offers insights into funders' priorities, past grant recipients, application guidelines, and contact information, empowering faculty to strategically pursue external funding opportunities to support their work at Rice University.

Note: Rice University faculty interested in accessing the Foundation Directory should email OCFR at ocfr@rice.edu to request login credentials.

Rice University is a member of the **University-Industry Demonstration Project (UIUDP)**, a professional organization fostering connections between universities and industry partners. UIUDP focuses on developing innovative approaches to collaborative endeavors, providing a wealth of resources accessible on their comprehensive website.

This resource is available to anyone working at Rice, and we strongly encourage you to make an account to receive updates.

Research Data Management

This presentation equips researchers with the skills to effectively manage their research data. Throughout the session, explore the importance of data management and creating a data management plan, and delve into best practices for organizing, documenting, storing, sharing, and archiving your data. The presentation was curated by the Fondren Library and draws on best practices and resources from the University of Minnesota Libraries, the New England Collaborative Data Management Curriculum, and PHL Libraries.

Access the [Research Data Management Presentation](#) here.

This email was sent by the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations

OCFR works with faculty to develop proposals, navigate the proposal process, coordinate campus visits, research potential funders, and analyze data to inform strategy.

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