RICE

November 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. 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.

Faculty Review Committee | Limited Submissions Process

The 2025 Faculty Review Committee is active and has begun reviewing internal pre-proposals for upcoming limited submission opportunities. The committee, chaired by Eduardo Salas and Michael King, is comprised of a diverse group of senior faculty members whose primary goal is to review and select the most competitive applications to move forward. Beyond selecting the strongest proposals for institutional endorsement, a core function of the committee is to provide constructive feedback to all applicants. This feedback is designed to help researchers strengthen and improve their proposal ideas, maximizing their chances for success in subsequent funding cycles or other opportunities.

Faculty interested in limited submissions should visit rice.infoready4.com to view open competitions, internal deadlines, and required submission requirements. Please email Jalon Martin with any questions about the internal process or the faculty review committee.

Early Career Page

The Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations (OCFR) offers a tailored resource hub for early-career researchers seeking support from private foundations and corporations. The page provides strategy tips on crafting a compelling impact narrative, guidance on interpreting eligibility requirements (which often differ from one funder to another), and a curated list of funding opportunities. You'll also find peer insights—such as an interview with Rice bioengineer Kevin McHugh—and direct help via OCFR's support and request-forms to get you started building your funding strategy

Enhance your funding strategy with the "Funding Strategy for Early Career Faculty: Foundations and Corporations" webpage. This page is for faculty in the "early" phase of their career – a definition that can vary depending on the situation – to develop their research funding strategy in the realm of private foundation and corporate support.

Upcoming Events

Join us at our Open House to Discuss Your Funding Needs - November 7th

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 to 11a.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.

And of course, coffee is on us! We look forward to seeing you there.

Academic Analytics Coffee Break Webinar Series - November 19 - 10:00 am

The Industry Partnership Imperative: Aligning Academic Research with Industry Need.

As the federal research funding landscape shifts, the importance of strong industry partnerships has never been greater. Universities that adapt—by aligning research expertise with industry needs—are better positioned to secure new funding, accelerate innovation, and demonstrate real-world impact.
In this session, Chelsea Bassett (Senior Product Manager, Academic Analytics) and Caroline Whitacre (Senior Advisor, Academic Analytics; Former Senior VP for Research, The Ohio State University) will discuss how to:

- Build a culture and structure that makes your institution attractive to industry partners
- Break down internal silos to accelerate collaboration across the research enterprise
- Unlock new funding streams by aligning research strengths with industry needs, diversifying beyond federal sources

If you're interested in exploring practical strategies for strengthening your institution's industry connections and positioning your research enterprise for long-term success, please register here.

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: 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 here.*
- *Explore the early career webpage for timely resources and support.*
- *Check out the Private Foundations Limited Submission Funding Opportunities web page.*

Anchor links

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(s). An interdisciplinary Research Awards Committee will then review all pre-proposals and inform applicants if they've been selected to move forward.

If you have any questions about the limited submissions process, please contact Jalon Martin, the Research Development Coordinator in the Office of Research.

Multidiscipline Opportunities

Corporate Opportunities

Lush

The Lush Prize - The Lush Prize is the largest prize fund in the non-animal testing sector, with a prize fund of £250,000 to support initiatives to end or replace animal testing. Nominations are now open for the 2026 Lush Prize, and will close on Friday 28th November 2025. The Lush Prize has five main prize categories: Science, Training, Public Awareness, Political Advocacy, and Young Researcher. In addition there are Recognition Awards, for Political Achievement, Major Science Collaboration and the Andrew Tyler Award for outstanding contribution towards ending animal testing. Please review the eligibility criteria. Funding: Varies by prize | Submission Deadline: November 28

IBM Center for the Business of Government

Research Report Stipends - This opportunity offers support to scholars, non-profit staff, and journalists who can produce practical, actionable research reports (10,000–12,000 words or 30–40 pages) aimed at government leaders and public managers. Proposals must address one of the Center's five key research areas—**Advancing Multi-Sector Partnerships, Improving Financial and Operational Effectiveness, Leveraging Technology to Improve Service and Efficiency, Using Data to Drive Performance, or Strengthening the Government Workforce**—or an integrated framework across these topics. Applicants will be informed of a decision ten weeks after the deadline. **Funding: $20,000 per report | Submission Deadline: February 2, 2026**

Foundation Opportunities

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Early Career Researcher Innovation Grants - Funding supports promising new investigators at or below the assistant professor level. These grants aim to fund research that advances the understanding of suicide and tests new prevention interventions. A unique feature of this program is that it requires a portion of the grant to be allocated for a mentor ($7K per year), providing crucial guidance to early-career researchers. While applications on all suicide prevention topics are welcome, AFSP also prioritizes research focused on ethnic and racial diversity, understudied populations, and the experiences of survivors of suicide loss. **Funding: Up to $140K over a two-year term | LOI Deadline: November 15**

RRF Foundation for Aging

Research Grants - This program supports applied research that identifies effective interventions, policies, and practices to improve the lives of adults aged 60 and older and their caregivers. The foundation prioritizes projects that generate practical knowledge for advocates, policymakers, and providers, with a preference for interventional, translational, and health services research. Projects should have robust plans for sharing their findings. The foundation does not fund biomedical research, basic social science theory development, or new technology research and development; instead, it seeks to fund studies with a direct and immediate impact on the well-being of older adults. Funding: $44K-$500K | LOI Deadline: November 1

Open Technology Fund

Open Technology Fund - OTF funds technical projects that protect global internet freedom by countering digital repression, censorship, and surveillance from authoritarian governments. They support various initiatives, including applied research, new tool development, emergency digital security assistance for human rights defenders, and the long-term maintenance of critical open-source software. OTF offers several distinct funding options: the Rapid Response Fund, Internet Freedom Fund, Free and Open Source Software Sustainability Fund, Surge and Sustain Fund, and the Information Controls Fellowship. The Rapid Response Fund and Internet Freedom Fund are currently accepting concept note submissions. Funding: $50K-$300K | Submission Deadline: Concept notes are accepted on a rolling basis

BD2

Discovery Research, Cycle 4 - Funding supports collaborative, multidisciplinary teams of scientists to investigate the fundamental biological mechanisms of bipolar disorder. The program aims to accelerate the discovery of effective interventions by funding teams of three to five researchers who will explore the genetic, molecular, cellular, circuit, and behavioral underpinnings of the disorder. A central component of this initiative is a commitment to open science, with a goal of fostering a vibrant research community that rapidly shares data and resources. Funding: Up to $4.5M over a three-year term | LOI Deadline: November 21

Alpha Phi Foundation

Heart to Heart Grant - Funding supports women's heart health initiatives with two distinct funding arms: Clinical and Community. The Clinical grant supports traditional bench/clinical research projects, while the Community grant funds projects focused on community engagement, education, and programming. Both grants aim to lessen the impact of heart disease in women. Funding: Up to $100K | Submission Deadline: October 31

Klingenstein Philanthropies

Transformation of Mental Health Care Program - This program funds academic investigators conducting research on novel ways to deliver mental healthcare or prevention to children and adolescents. The program specifically targets those from low-income families, under-resourced communities, and other minoritized populations. KTGF is interested in research that builds upon pilot data, adapts interventions for future scaling, and has the potential to lead to a larger demonstration project. The grant particularly supports projects that leverage mental health services and implementation science, and it encourages applications from investigators with lived experience or from underrepresented and minoritized groups. Funding: $200K over a two-year term | Submission Deadline: December 15

Science & Engineering Funding Opportunities

Corporate Opportunities

Raymond Corporation, a Toyota Industries Company

University Research Program - Funding supports women's heart health initiatives with two distinct funding arms: Clinical and Community. The Clinical grant supports traditional bench/clinical research projects, while the Community grant funds projects focused on community engagement, education, and programming. Both grants aim to lessen the impact of heart disease in women. Funding: $100,000 - $250,000 for one year | Submission Deadline: October 31 by 11:59pm EDT

Eni

Eni Award - Advanced Environmental Solutions Award
Energy Transition Award
Energy Frontiers Award
Funding: €200,000 | Submission Deadline: November 14 by midnight CET

Funding Highlight

Wellcome

Mental Health Award

This two-phase grant supports collaborative, multidisciplinary teams to test and implement scalable early interventions for anxiety, depression, and psychosis in young people. The program prioritizes psychological and social interventions that have already demonstrated efficacy and are suitable for real-world application in the UK or low- and middle-income countries. The funding is structured to first support teams in developing their detailed research proposals and partnerships before they apply for the substantial second-phase funding to carry out their projects.

- **Funding: £200K (~$271K)**
- **November 11**

Private Company

Defining biomarker fingerprints of optimal micronutrient and health statesFunding: $25,000 to $100,000 for a 6-month proof-of-concept project | Submission Deadline: October 31

Bio-Rad Laboratories

Sample preparation for droplet digital PCR applications - Bio-Rad Laboratories is seeking a partner to develop a universal sample preparation method for food safety testing using droplet digital PCR (ddPCR). The goal is to create a method that can consistently and accurately quantify pathogens or DNA in a wide range of food matrices, from simple rinses to complex samples like ground beef. The ideal solution will be able to purify and concentrate low-abundance targets, be completed within a single lab shift, and be scalable for parallel processing. Bio-Rad is open to various approaches, including filtration, magnetic beads, microfluidic cartridges, or novel extraction kits. The acceptable technology readiness level (TRL) is 3-9. Funding: $20,000 per report | Submission Deadline: February 2, 2026

Federal Opportunities

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

2025 Human Exploration Research Opportunities (HERO) NOFO - The research will fall into one or more categories corresponding to HRP's five Elements: Space Radiation, Human Health Countermeasures, Exploration Medical Capability, Human Factors and Behavioral Performance, and Research Operations and Integration. This NOFO covers all aspects of research to provide human health and performance countermeasures, knowledge, technologies, and tools to enable safe, reliable, and productive human space exploration.

Awards generally range from under $250K per year for focused, limited efforts (e.g., data analysis) to $1.2M per year for extensive activities (e.g., development of scientific hardware) and will be made as grants. The funds available for awards in each research opportunity offered in this NOFO range from less than one million to several million dollars. This range allows selection from a few to as many as a dozen proposals depending on the program objectives and the submission of proposals of merit. The period of performance for an award can range from one to five years. [g1] Any changes or modifications to any of these guidelines will be specified in the descriptions of the relevant research opportunities in the appendices of this solicitation. Funding: $250,000 to $1,200,000 per year | Submission Deadline: October 31

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Trailblazer Award for New and Early Stage Investigators (R21 Clinical Trial Optional) - The application of principles and techniques from engineering and the quantitative sciences, such as physics, mathematics, chemistry, and computer sciences, is providing innovative technologies and novel methods to accelerate the pace of biomedical research, producing new understanding of disease mechanisms and translating these new discoveries to improve human health. The Trailblazer Award seeks to catalyze the development of transdisciplinary research approaches with the potential to open new areas of biomedical investigation.

A Trailblazer project may be exploratory, developmental, proof of concept or have high risk-high impact goals. Importantly, the proposed research for this NOFO may be technology design-directed and may or may not be hypothesis-driven. In the context of this NOFO, innovation encompasses approaches to address well-defined, unmet biomedical research needs through the development of new methods, ideas, or technologies; early steps along the path toward delivery of a new capability or method; and the integration of existing components in a previously unproven format. High-impact projects should transform our understanding or practice by applying an innovative approach to an important biomedical challenge. For projects supported by a Trailblazer Award, successful results should provide a solid foundation for further research under other funding mechanisms, such as the R01. Applicants will be considered ineligible for this funding opportunity if they have submitted an R01, R15 or any other R21 application, with a participating IC as the primary IC within the same review cycle. An awardee may not hold concurrent Trailblazer awards. Funding: Up to $400,000 | Submission Deadline: October 16

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Integrated Data Systems & Services - The Integrated Data Systems and Services (IDSS) program supports operations-level national-scale cyberinfrastructure systems and services that broadly advance and facilitate open, data-intensive and artificial intelligence-driven science and engineering research, innovation, and education.

Through this solicitation, the IDSS program is accepting proposals for three categories of projects:

Category I. Development, deployment, and operation of novel national-scale integrated data systems and services, which may include interfacing with or leveraging other existing capabilities, systems and services, as appropriate to the project;
Category II. â¯Transition of established smaller scale, regional, pilot, or prototype data-focused systems and services to national-scale production/operational quality/level. This may also include enhancement and expansion of existing national-scale data-focused operational systems and services; and
Category III. Planning grants for future potential development/deployment or transition/enhancement IDSS projects. Funding: Up to $30,000,000 | Internal NOI: October 6 | Funder Deadline: December 4

Department of Defense (DOD-DARPA)

Biological Technologies - BTO's mission is to develop capabilities that leverage the unique properties of biology - adaption, replication, resilience and complexity, to revolutionize how the United States defends the homeland and prepares and protects its Warfighters. Research in BTO creates biotechnological capabilities that provide tactical care and restore function to injured warfighters, increase operational resilience, develop novel functional materials, and detect and protect against threats to maintain force readiness.

BTO is interested in submissions related to the following topic areas:
General Topic: Biological technology topic areas that fit the national security scope of BTO's mission; Research into market opportunities, constraints, and communities affecting financing and commercialization of bio-industrial and biomedical technologies.
Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Human Performance
Materials, Sensors, Processing
Ecosystem and Environmental
Biosecurity and Biosafety
Biomedical and Biodefense
Funding: Unspecified | Submission Deadline: October 9

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Foundations for Operating the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource: the NAIRR Operations Center (NAIRR-OC) - The NAIRR Pilot is a pioneering public-private initiative to catalyze a competitive national artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem for discovery and innovation by connecting U.S. researchers and educators to the most advanced public and private-sector computational and data platforms, datasets, software, AI models, and technological expertise necessary to accelerate AI-driven discovery and innovation. Beginning in January 2024, U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) – together with 14 other federal agencies and 28 private sector partners – established the NAIRR Pilot, which has immediately advanced innovative AI and science research and accelerated AI workforce training and education. As recommended by America's AI Action Plan, the NAIRR Operations Center (NAIRR-OC) will serve as a lean and sustainable operations capability and be the focal point for operational transition from the current Pilot towards a sustainable long-term NAIRR.

This solicitation seeks proposals to establish a community-based organization that will be responsible for the foundational visioning, coordination, operations, and development activities in support of an integrated national infrastructure for AI research and education. The resulting award would advance the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) vision for a public-private partnership to accelerate AI innovation and national competitiveness. This NAIRR Operations Center (NAIRR-OC) will be responsible for the following overarching goals and responsibilities:

Organizational leadership: Establishing the operational framework, organizational management, and success metrics for the NAIRR and its successful operations according to the vision, goals, and requirements established by the NSF and other federal partners.
Building NAIRR capabilities and community: Undertaking specific development activities in support of NAIRR stakeholders, including interfacing with partner organizations and resources, deploying a unified web portal, integrating data-focused and other resources into the NAIRR, and conducting outreach and community building activities. Interfacing with Pilot Operations: Coordinating with existing NAIRR Pilot contributing partners and interfacing with the independently supported teams conducting NAIRR Pilot operational functions, while developing tailored plans to execute such functions via the NAIRR-OC in the future. Funding: Up to $35,000,000 | Internal NOI: October 27 | Funder LOI: December 15

Foundation Opportunities

Gateway for Cancer Research

Integrative Program - Funding is for Phase I and II patient-centered cancer clinical trials that have the potential to shift the paradigm for standard of care. The foundation's mission is to bring urgency to the research process by funding innovative therapies, including targeted and integrative medicine, for all types of cancers. They place a strong emphasis on studies that incorporate patient advocates, patient-reported outcomes, and quality-of-life tools in their design. Learn more by reading through their FAQs page. Funding: $200K - $1.5M | LOI Deadline: November 7

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

RUNX1 RARE Grant - The RARE Grant Program funds research focused on preventing and treating the heritable blood cancer predisposition syndrome, RUNX1-FPD. The grant's objective is to accelerate the discovery of druggable oncogenic pathways and develop new therapies that can prevent the progression of this precancerous state to MDS or AML in children and family members. It prioritizes proposals that show clear translational potential from the lab to the clinic, with an emphasis on collaborative projects. Funding: $250K over a two-year term | Submission Deadline: December 11

Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water

Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water - This international award recognizes scientific innovation in water-related fields. Awarded every two years, the program offers five prizes: four Specialized Prizes and one Creativity Prize. The prizes are open to individual researchers and research teams from around the world for work published or patented within the last five years. Funding: Up to $260K | Nomination Deadline: December 31

McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience

McKnight Scholars - Funding supports neuroscientists in the early stages of their careers. The program provides funding to exceptional young scientists who are establishing their independent laboratories and research careers, with the goal of fostering their commitment to a long-term research career in neuroscience. Funds can be used for salaries, equipment, supplies, and other direct research costs. Indirect costs are not allowed. Applicants must hold an official faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) and have served in that role for less than five years at the time of the application deadline (not started prior to December 1, 2020). Funding: $225K over a three-year term | Nomination Deadline: December 1

Longitude

Longitude Prize on ALS - Funding supports neuroscientists in the early stages of their careers. The program provides funding to exceptional young scientists who are establishing their independent laboratories and research careers, with the goal of fostering their commitment to a long-term research career in neuroscience. Funds can be used for salaries, equipment, supplies, and other direct research costs. Indirect costs are not allowed. Applicants must hold an official faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) and have served in that role for less than five years at the time of the application deadline (not started prior to December 1, 2020). Funding: ~$10M over a five-year term | Submission Deadline: December 3

Warren Alpert Foundation

Warren Alpert Foundation Prize - This prize recognizes one or more scientists or physicians for their seminal achievements that have led to the prevention, cure, or treatment of human disorders. The prize honors research that has great potential to change the way we treat disease. The award is international in scope and has been received by sixteen Nobel Prize winners since its inception in 1987. Nominees must be living scientists, physicians, or researchers whose achievements have a significant impact on human disease. Self-nominations are not accepted. An annual scientific symposium is held in October at Harvard Medical School in honor of the recipient(s). **Funding: Up to $500K | Nomination Deadline: November 4**

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Collaborative Research Grant - Funding is designed to facilitate research on new therapies for cystic fibrosis (CF), with a focus on gene repair and replacement strategies. The program specifically targets CFTR mutations that do not respond to existing small molecule modulators, addressing a significant unmet need in the CF community. The grant supports collaborative projects involving at least two, and up to four, separate research projects under a shared theme. The grant requires a collaboration of at least two independent investigators, with a high priority given to collaborations that bring new investigators into the CF research community. Proposals must contain sufficient preliminary data to justify support. All applicants must speak with program staff before submitting an application to ensure their research aligns with the program's priorities.Funding: Up to $3M over a three-year term | Submission Deadline: November 20

TMCity

TMCity - Funding supports efforts to advance neurocognitive healthcare and treatments for brain-related conditions. Funding is available for research institutions, community-based mental health organizations, direct healthcare providers, and early-stage companies developing innovative technologies. Support is provided for research, projects, and general operations. Funding: Up to $250K | LOIs are accepted on a rolling basis

Cancer Research Institute

Technology Impact Award- The award provides seed funding to bridge the gap between technology development and the clinical application of cancer immunotherapies. This program is designed to encourage collaboration between technology developers and clinical cancer immunologists. It aims to generate proof-of-principle for novel technologies—such as bioinformatics platforms, modeling systems, or new assays—that can provide deeper insights into how immunotherapies work, ultimately accelerating the development of effective treatments for all cancer patients. Funding: $150K over a two-year term | LOI Deadline: November 15

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

Fellowship in Movement Disorders- Funding aims to increase the number of neurologists specializing in movement disorders like Parkinson's disease. The program provides funding directly to academic centers to train a new clinician-researcher over a two-year period, building a global network of next-generation leaders in Parkinson's research and care. Funds can cover the fellow's stipend, benefits, and travel, as well as educational opportunities. No indirect costs may be claimed. The fellowship is not for a fellow already selected or enrolled in a program. Funding: $180K | Submission Deadline: December 4

National Marfan Foundation

Career Development Award - Funding supports investigators studying Marfan syndrome and related genetic aortic and vascular conditions. The Innovators Award funds faculty members to explore innovative concepts with potential applications to improve human health, while the Career Development Award supports early-career investigators in obtaining preliminary data for key concepts that can lead to larger research grants. Both grants provide two years of funding to advance research in this field. Funding: $100K| Submission Deadline: October 20

Parkinson's Foundation

Launch Award - This two-stage program provides research support to outstanding postdoctoral researchers who are transitioning to independent research careers. The program is designed to cultivate new, talented investigators dedicated to Parkinson's disease research. Funding: Up to $400K over a four-year term | LOI Deadline: October 29

Life Sciences Research Foundation

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships - The foundation offers a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship for researchers in the life sciences. The award supports talented researchers, both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens, who are within five years of receiving their Ph.D. The program aims to fund innovative, high-impact research projects and has historically been able to award between 18 and 27 fellowships annually. Funding: $255K over a three-year term | Submission Deadline: October 31

McKnight Foundation

Neurobiology of Brain Disorders Award - This award is a grant for scientists working to apply basic research to human brain disorders. The award funds various research activities but cannot be used for the recipient's salary. Proposals should provide mechanistic insights into neurological functions and offer potential paths for therapeutic intervention. Candidates must be independent investigators and have held a tenured or tenure-track faculty position for at least three years (by October 2022). A single person can't apply for both the NBD and the McKnight Scholar Awards in the same funding cycle, and if an applicant is unsuccessful twice, they must wait one year before reapplying. Funding: $300K over a three-year term | LOI Deadline: October 15

Simons Foundation

Collaborations in Ecology and Evolution - This program funds cross-disciplinary research teams working on high-impact projects. The goal is to address emerging, high-risk areas in ecology and evolution, especially where these two fields intersect, that may be overlooked by other funding organizations. Each collaboration is expected to receive between $1 million and $4 million USD per year for a five-year period, with the possibility of a renewal. This funding includes a 20% allowance for indirect costs. Funding: Up to $4M per year over a five-year period | LOI Deadline: October 16

Simons Foundation

Collaborations in Mathematics and the Physical Sciences - This program supports groups of outstanding scientists working together on fundamental scientific questions in mathematics, theoretical physics, and theoretical computer science. The goal is to address major, timely topics where new developments have created novel opportunities for exploration. The funding can be used for a variety of expenses, including salary support for the collaboration director and PIs (up to one month of summer salary), teaching reductions for the director, support for students and staff, conferences, travel, equipment, and administrative costs. Funding: Up to $8M over a four-year term | LOI Deadline: October 29

Cancer Research Institute

Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP) Grants - The program funds pre-clinical and translational research aimed at advancing powerful immunotherapies for all types of cancer. This grant is designed to support investigators who are studying critical topics at the intersection of laboratory findings and clinical application. The program also has specific partnership opportunities with the Chordoma Foundation and the Kidney Cancer Association to accelerate research in those areas. Funding: $300K over a two-year term | LOI Deadline: December 1

Foundation Fighting Blindness

Disease Model Award - This grant is designed to accelerate discovery in the field of retinal degenerative diseases. The program supports the development and validation of innovative non-rodent disease models (in silico, in vitro, or in vivo) to aid in therapeutic development for inherited retinal diseases (IRD) and dry age-related macular degeneration (dAMD). The grant aims to provide the scientific community with crucial tools for research, rather than directly funding therapeutic development. Funding: Up to $1M over a five-year term | LOI Deadline: October 16

Breakthrough T1D

Several Awards - Breakthrough T1D offers a range of grant mechanisms to accelerate research for type 1 diabetes (T1D). The organization funds a global research ecosystem, including academic institutions and industry partners, with a focus on curing T1D and improving the lives of those affected. Open funding opportunities for FY26 cover a variety of research areas and career stages: Beyond Pediatrics: Advancing Early Detection in Adult-Onset Type 1 Diabetes, Innovative Awards, Training Awards, Project Concept Funding, and Conference Awards. Funding: Dependent on award | $200K-$3M | LOI Deadline: October 29

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Next Gen Pregnancy Initiative - The initiative aims to stimulate creative research into healthy and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Building on a previous focus on preterm birth, this grant now funds both individual scientists and multi-investigator teams to study a broader range of conditions, including preeclampsia, intrauterine growth restriction, stillbirth, and maternal mortality. The initiative particularly encourages new collaborations between reproductive scientists and investigators from other disciplines and includes areas of emerging interest like the impact of climate change on pregnancy. Funding: Up to $500K over a four-year term | Submission Deadline: December 4

BrightFocus Foundation

Glaucoma Research - Funding supports pioneering research aimed at understanding, preventing, and treating glaucoma. This award is designed for researchers who have already collected some preliminary data and need additional funding to make significant progress before applying for larger grants from government or industry sources. Funding: $150K over a two-year term | Submission Deadline: October 30

Milken Institute

Frontotemporal Dementia Grant Program - This program funds basic and early-stage translational research on the fundamental biology and mechanisms of sporadic FTD. The grant aims to spur diagnostic and therapeutic advancements by supporting innovative, high-impact projects led by doctoral-level investigators worldwide. It specifically seeks proposals that investigate FTD that is not linked to known genetic causes, although projects may use existing genetic models as long as the findings will inform sporadic FTD. The program encourages newly independent investigators and multidisciplinary teams to apply. Funding: $500K over a two-year term | LOI Deadline: November 3

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Implementation of Synthetic Biology Principles in Immunology - CZI is funding two-year research projects that use the principles of synthetic biology to advance immunology. The goal is to revolutionize the understanding and treatment of immune-related disorders by programming novel biological systems. This grant seeks to foster interdisciplinary innovation that bridges engineering, biology, and clinical science to create breakthroughs with a far-reaching impact on public health. Funding: Up to $600K over a two-year term | Submission Deadline: November 13

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Advancing Technologies for Spatiotemporal Omics in Live Tissue - Funding supports the development of groundbreaking technologies for real-time spatial omics in live tissue. The program aims to overcome the limitations of current technologies that rely on fixed tissue, enabling researchers to monitor dynamic molecular changes in living systems. The grant seeks to foster collaboration between engineers, biologists, and computational scientists to create "instrumented tissue" systems, with a specific focus on immunology and autoimmune diseases. Funding: Up to $1M over a two-year term | Submission Deadline: November 13

Bryon Riesch Paralysis Foundation

Research Grants - This grant funds projects by American investigators focused on finding a cure for paralysis. The grant is intended to promote new research in areas such as re-myelination, axonal growth, and drug therapies that limit secondary damage from spinal cord injuries. It also supports investigations into neurological issues like spasticity and chronic pain. Funding: ~$86K | Submission Deadline: December 12

ALS Association

Hoffman ALS Clinical Trial Awards - This grant supports early-stage clinical trials to accelerate the development of new and improved therapies for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The program funds Phase 1 or Phase 2a clinical trials that investigate novel or repurposed treatments, including imaging tracers, for both disease-modifying and symptomatic approaches. The program is open to researchers conducting clinical trials that test novel or repurposed therapies for ALS or imaging tracers. Trials can include people with genetic or sporadic forms of ALS, healthy subjects, or asymptomatic carriers of ALS-linked variants. Funding: Up to $1M over a three-year term | LOI Deadline: October 28

Social Sciences & Humanities Funding Opportunities

Corporate Opportunities

Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial

XXIX Alfaguara Novel Prize 2026 - Download award rules Funding: Up to $50K | Submission Deadline: September 15

Digital Justice Seed and Development Grants - The program offers two kinds of grants: Digital Justice Seed Grants for start-up projects, ranging from $10,000-$25,000 and Digital Justice Development Grants, ranging from $50,000-$100,000, for projects that have advanced beyond the proof-of-concept phase. Funding: $10,000-$100,000 | Submission Deadline: November 20

Foundation Opportunities

American Council of Learned Societies

Digital Justice Seed and Development Grants - The program offers two kinds of grants: Digital Justice Seed Grants for start-up projects, ranging from $10,000-$25,000 and Digital Justice Development Grants, ranging from $50,000-$100,000, for projects that have advanced beyond the proof-of-concept phase. Funding: $10,000-$100,000 | Submission Deadline: November 20

American Council of Learned Societies

Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowships in American Art - Fellowships support Ph.D. students researching the history of art and visual culture in the United States. The program, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, aims to strengthen humanistic scholarship by including a wide range of perspectives and experiences. The funds may not be used for tuition costs or held concurrently with any other major fellowship. The fellowship term must conclude before the fellow receives their Ph.D. Applicants must be Ph.D. students in art history or a related field and have completed all degree requirements except the dissertation before the fellowship begins. The dissertation must focus on the visual arts of the United States. Funding: $42K | Submission Deadline: October 29

American Council of Learned Societies

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship - This one-year fellowship offers support for doctoral students in the humanities and interpretive social sciences at U.S. universities who are embarking on innovative dissertation research. The program, which runs from July 1 to September 1, 2026, provides a stipend that allows fellows to focus solely on their work, free from teaching or coursework responsibilities. To be eligible, applicants must have completed at least two years of their Ph.D. program and all required coursework, but they cannot have advanced to candidacy before January 1, 2025, as the fellowship is specifically designed for projects at the formative stage. Ideal candidates will propose new methodologies and formats, make a compelling case for the timeliness of their project, and may also engage with underrepresented communities and topics. Funding: $52K | Submission Deadline: October 29

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Exploring Equitable Futures - The grant aims to fund projects that challenge the status quo and offer new strategies to dismantle structural racism, thereby fostering a more equitable future. Proposals should focus on one or more of the RWJF Prioritized Systems, with a specific emphasis on reimagining the Health Science Knowledge System. This includes exploring how trends like artificial intelligence and declining trust in institutions affect health science, how a new system could produce and use evidence rooted in equity and justice, and who gets to frame research questions and define what constitutes evidence in an equitable future. Funding: The award amount isn't fixed; request the total funding needed for your project, including direct & indirect costs. | Submission Deadline: October 15

Institute for Citizens & Scholars

Career Enhancement Fellowship - This fellowship supports outstanding junior faculty in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. This program aims to broaden the range of perspectives on college campuses and promote new scholarly voices in various disciplines. Fellows receive a stipend, funding for research and travel, and join a supportive network of scholars through a professional development retreat. The fellowship is for junior faculty who are committed to both innovative research and active campus engagement. Funding: $35K | Submission Deadline: October 24

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 toturn 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

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.

Rice University is a member of the University-Industry Demonstration Project (UIDP), a professional organization fostering connections between universities and industry partners. UIDP 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.

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.

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.

Research Data Mangement

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 MIT 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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