

Research Funding Opportunities Bulletin

A Monthly Digest of Funding Opportunities to Fuel your Research

This funding bulletin features funding opportunities, resources, and announcements to support your research endeavors.

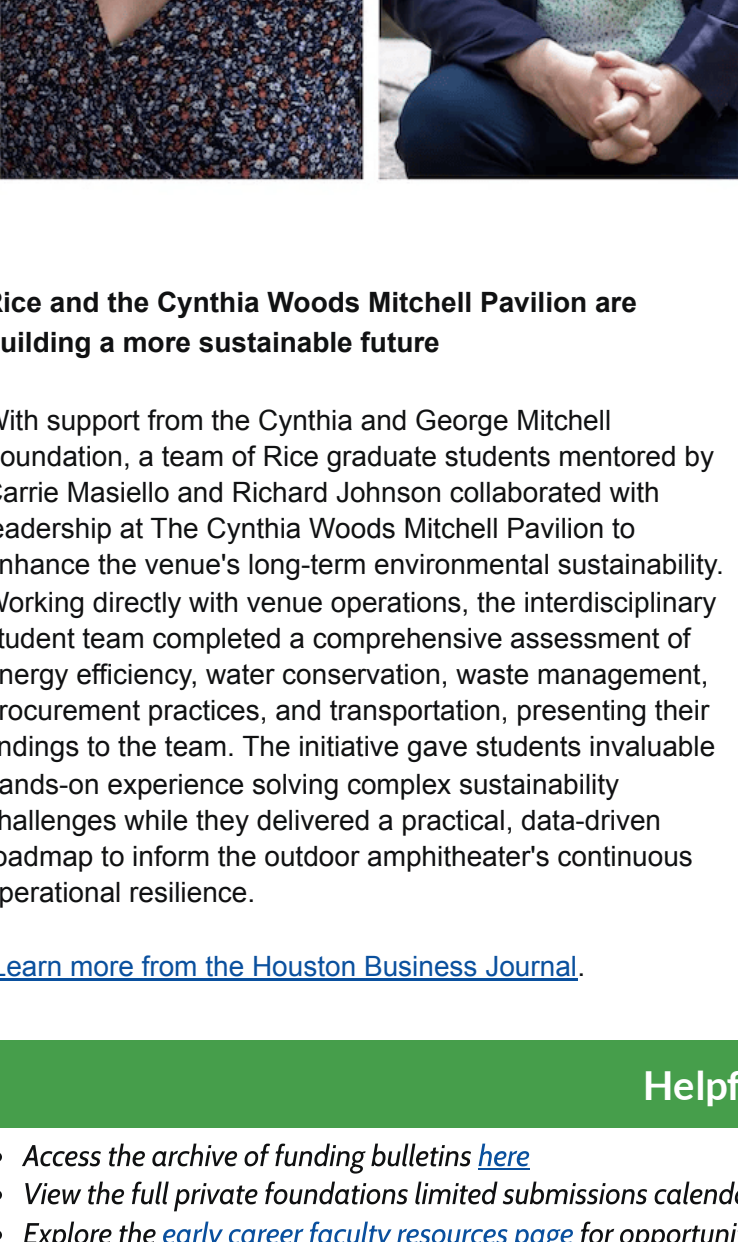
Funding sources across disciplines include private foundations, companies, and federal and state agencies.

Contents

Anchor links

- [Multidisciplinary Opportunities](#)
- [Science & Engineering Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Social Sciences & Humanities Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Preproposal & Strategy Support](#)
- [Research in Action](#)

Research Funding in Action



Rice, Baylor College of Medicine and UT School of Public Health team wins Burroughs Wellcome Fund grant to tackle climate and health challenges together

Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Texas School of Public Health were awarded a \$10 million grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to launch FORECAST, a collaborative research and educational initiative focused on the intersection of climate change and human health. The coalition leverages statewide surveillance data, viral pathogen detection, and climate modeling to track and predict how changing weather patterns will increase the emergence and expansion of infectious diseases. In addition to data analysis and practical healthcare modeling, the initiative establishes a new Center for Climate and Environmental Health at Rice providing seed grant opportunities and cross-disciplinary educational pathways that bridge STEM and humanities to build community trust and prepare future health leaders.

[Learn more from Rice News here](#)

Helpful Links

- [Access the archive of funding bulletins here](#)
- [View full private foundations limited submissions calendar page](#)
- [Explore the early career faculty resources and the opportunities and support](#)
- [Office of Foundation Relations home page](#)
- [Corporate Partnerships home page](#)

Active Limited Submissions

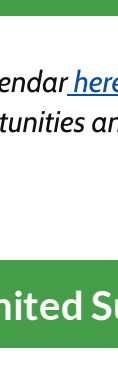
For certain funding opportunities, Rice can only submit a limited number of proposals. When this occurs, we **hold internal competitions** to determine which application(s) will be submitted to the sponsor. If you're interested in a **limited submission opportunity**, you must complete and submit an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

- [Kecck Foundation Research Program \(U27\) | Internal Pre-Proposal Deadline: October 6, 2026](#)
- [CPRI Core Facility Support Awards | Internal Pre-Proposal Deadline: September 16, 2026](#)

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

Multidisciplinary Opportunities



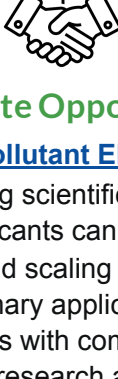
Foundation Opportunities

Wellcome Trust | [Wellcome Prize for Mental Health Science](#)

The Wellcome Prize for Mental Health Science awards researchers who are developing new, effective interventions for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. **Funding: Up to \$1M | Application Deadline: September 24, 2026**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation | [Connecting Champions for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the Health Professions](#)

RWJF seeks to fund one lead organization or consortium to serve as a national network-weaver for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the health professions. The selected grantees will connect and support leaders, organizations, and institutions across the ecosystem, strengthening relationships, aligning strategy and communications, and facilitating shared learning and collective action. **Funding: Up to \$2,000,000 over 2 years | LOI Deadline: Sept. 24, 2026**



Corporate Opportunities

Georgie | [2026 Georgie Carbon Removal and Superpollutant Elimination R&D Awards](#)

This award grant program supports projects targeting scientific and operational breakthroughs in carbon dioxide removal and superpollutant emissions abatement. Applicants can submit proposals under one of twelve priority research areas focused on enhancing climate impact certainty and scaling potential, or under an Open Call for novel interventions that fall outside the defined priority themes. Eligible primary applicants must be principal investigators at accredited universities, non-profit institutions, or commercial entities with comparable R&D experience and a demonstrated record of open science. Applicants may submit one proposal per research area for up to two distinct areas. Proposals must exclude proprietary or confidential information, as application materials will be evaluated by external reviewers and may be made public.

1. Environmental and ecological impacts of Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE).
2. Assessing the scaling potential of Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE).
3. Next-generation CO2 capture systems for Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) Facilities.
4. Offsets of Geophysical Processes for Carbon Capture and Storage.
5. Improving the resilience of mangrove restoration to sea-level rise.
6. Optimizing land use in nature-based carbon removal projects.
7. Addressing the energetic challenges of low-concentration CO2 capture.
8. Abatement of methane in diffuse emission streams.
9. Improve constraints on methane lifetime in the atmosphere and its underlying removal mechanisms (in collaboration with Spark Climate Solutions).
10. Optimizing the climate impact of carbon removal through tidal wetland restoration (in collaboration with Spark Climate Solutions).
11. Monitor, report, and verify (MRV) for open-system landfill interventions.
12. Development, field validation, and climate impact verification of perennial crop systems (led by Google Climate & Sustainability).

Funding: \$250,000-\$500,000 per project (varies by research area) | **Application Deadline:** September 25, 11:59 pm BST

Federal Opportunities

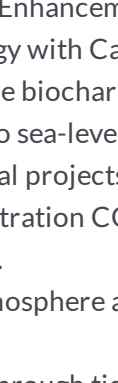
The **National Science Foundation (NSF) | [EDU Core Research](#)**

The EDU Core Research (ECR) program invites proposals for fundamental research (curiosity-driven basic research and use-inspired basic research) that contributes to the general, exploratory knowledge that underlies STEM education in one or more of the three broadly conceived Research Areas: Research on STEM Learning and Learning Environments, Research on Broadening Participation in STEM fields, and Research on STEM Workforce Development. Within this framework, the ECR program supports a wide range of formal and informal settings. Fundamental research generates knowledge and understanding with the potential for broad relevance. The potential implications of ECR fundamental research for improving STEM education practice may be indirect and long-term rather than direct and immediate. **Funding: Up to \$2,500,000 | Application Deadline: October 1**

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) | [Engagement Awards](#)

The Engagement Award Program funds projects that build communities equipped to engage in patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) and disseminate PCORI-funded research results to those who need them. Engagement Award funding projects must include dissemination activities that increase awareness of the findings of CER and may not be offered in every funding cycle: Capacity Building: Funds projects that build the capacity and skills of patients, caregivers and the broader healthcare community to engage in and with patient-centered CER and partner with researchers in meaningful ways throughout the research lifecycle. Projects may also strengthen researchers' patient-centered CER engagement skills or help prior awardees broaden the impact of their capacity-building work. Dissemination Initiative: Funds projects that help organizations and communities actively communicate relevant PCORI-funded research findings to specific audiences. Projects should focus on effective dissemination activities that increase awareness of the findings of PCORI-funded research findings. The funding opportunity identifies the eligible sources of PCORI-funded research findings that may be proposed as the basis for dissemination activities under this award. Convening Support: Funds projects that help patients, caregivers and the broader healthcare community to hold conversations and conferences to promote patient-centered CER, share patient-centered CER engagement methods, disseminate PCORI-funded research findings or plan for future patient-centered CER. Building Capacity for Small Organizations To Engage in Patient-Centered CER: Funds projects that build capacity and infrastructure for organizations to engage in patient-centered CER and reflect the unique perspectives and contributions that small organizations can bring to the patient-centered CER process. Awardees participate in a peer learning network in addition to carrying out their project activities. **Funding: Up to \$300,000 | LOI Deadline: October 1**

Social Sciences & Humanities Funding Opportunities



Foundation Opportunities

Jerry M Lewis MD Mental Health Research Foundation | [Research Grants](#)

The Jerry M. Lewis Foundation is requesting research on the crucial aspects of interpersonal relationships, connections between interpersonal relationship characteristics and psychological/physical health or dysfunction, and/or evaluations of relevant services or educational programs. Please inquire with [oct@jmlrf.edu](#) if you are interested in this opportunity. **Funding: Up to \$45,000 | Application Deadline: November 3**

Jerry M Lewis MD Mental Health Research Foundation | [Educational or Service Programs Grants](#)

The Jerry M. Lewis Foundation is looking to support educational or service programs focusing on couple, parent-child, or family system psychological research or interventions; psychoeducational training and community-based programs; and/or dissemination of interpersonal system information to healthcare systems or the public. Please inquire with [oct@jmlrf.edu](#) if you are interested in this opportunity. **Funding: Up to \$45,000 | Application Deadline: November 3**

Brady Education Foundation | [Research Projects](#)

The Brady Education Foundation is soliciting proposals for developmental or educational research that will inform future Accredited technology readiness levels (TRL). Examples of eligible projects include measurement development, studies investigating factors associated with achievement outcomes, research on the strength families bring to the learning environment and how those can be capitalized upon to promote children's learning/achievement outcomes, and/or public policy studies. **Funding: Studies collecting data: Up to \$125,000; Studies using existing data sets: Under \$100,000 | LOI Deadline: September 15-30**

Brady Education Foundation | [Existing Program Evaluations](#)

The Brady Education Foundation is requesting proposals that evaluate the effectiveness of programs promoting positive cognitive, achievement, and/or learning outcomes for children. Projects may also explore one of the following topics: activities that advance the science of learning; reading, and/or public policy. Examples of eligible projects include research, practice, and/or Cost-benefit analyses of a given program. Applications must include information to promote future education research, practice, and/or public policy. **Funding: Studies collecting data: Up to \$125,000; Studies using existing data sets: Under \$100,000 | LOI Deadline: September 15-30**

Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood | [Early Childhood Grants](#)

The Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood is seeking innovative proposals that exhibit the greatest chance of improving the lives of young children (ages 0-7 years) on a national scale. Funding areas include Parenting Education, Early Childhood Welfare, and/or Early Childhood Education and Play. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: September 30**

Samuel H. Kress Foundation | [History of Art Grants](#)

This program supports projects that will enhance the appreciation and understanding of European works of art and architecture from antiquity to the early 19th century. Grants are awarded to projects, including those incorporating the use of digital methodologies and tools, that create and disseminate specialized knowledge, such as archival projects, development and dissemination of scholarly databases, documentation projects, museum exhibitions and publications, photographic campaigns, scholarly catalogues and publications, and technical scientific studies. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: September 30**

Samuel H. Kress Foundation | [Conservation Grants](#)

The Conservation Grants program supports the professional practice of art conservation, especially as it relates to European works of art from antiquity to the early 19th century. Grants are awarded to projects that create and disseminate specialized knowledge, including archival projects, development and dissemination of scholarly databases, documentation projects, exhibitions and publications focusing on art conservation, scholarly publications, and technical and scientific studies. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: September 30**

American Psychological Foundation | [Direct Action Visionary Grants](#)

The APF Direct Action Visionary Grants seek to fund innovative interventions, based on psychological knowledge, that directly address pressing needs of marginalized communities. Refer to the full RFP for examples of eligible projects. **Funding: Up to \$60,000 | Application Deadline: October 30**

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

RSF is seeking innovative research that will expand our understanding of social, political, and economic inequalities and the mechanisms by which they influence the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Projects can explore the relevance of economic, racial, ethnic, age, gender, income, residence, or other statuses for the distribution of social, political, and economic outcomes within and across different groups. **Funding: Up to \$200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 28**

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

The Future of Work program supports 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. RSF is especially interested in proposals that address questions about the interplay of market and non-market forces in shaping the well-being of workers. **Funding: Up to \$200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 28**

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](#)

RSF is soliciting proposals that advance social science research on the social, political, and economic effects of this 2023 Supreme Court decision and the future of race-conscious policies more generally. **Funding: Up to \$200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 28**

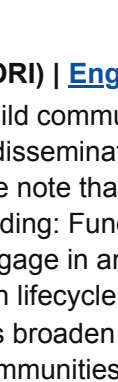
Russell Sage Foundation | [Sheldon Danziger Pipeline Grants](#)

This early-career scholar (Assistant Professors, Lecturers, and Adjunct Professors) program supports projects across all RSF research priorities. **Funding: Up to \$65,000 | Application Deadline: October 21**

Council on Library and Information Resources | [Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices](#)

The program supports projects digitizing rare and unique content that addresses public understanding of the histories of people of color and/or other underserved/underrepresented communities. **Funding: \$500,000 - \$300,000 | LOI Deadline: October 20**

Science and Engineering Funding Opportunities



Foundation Opportunities

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation | [Experimental Physics Investigations Initiative](#)

This Moore initiative will support approximately 20 mid-career individuals in advancing their creative and physics research and exploring new ideas that might not otherwise attract conventional funding. Individuals must have earned their doctorate after October 1, 2015, and be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. **Funding: \$1,350,000 | Pre-application Deadline: October 9**

The Moore team will host virtual office hours on September 10th and September 15th. The presentation slides from the most recent Q&A session are linked here.

BrightFocus Foundation | [National Glaucoma Research Standard Awards](#)

The National Glaucoma Research Standard Awards provide support for high risk, high reward research that will enhance our understanding of the etiology, prevention, or treatment of glaucoma. **Funding: Up to \$150,000 | Application Deadline: September 24**

Kenneth Rainin Foundation | [Innovator Awards](#)

Through the Innovator Awards program, the Kenneth Rainin Foundation provides early support for innovative ideas that can lead to improvements in preventing, predicting, diagnosing, and treating Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Eligible research topics include Gut Biology, Complement and Immunity, Therapeutics, Diet & Nutrition, Immunity & Inflammation, Microbiome, and New Technologies in regards to IBD. **Funding: Up to \$300,000 | Application Deadline: September 30**

Pershing Square Foundation | [2027 MIND Prize](#)

The MIND Prize supports early-to-mid-career investigators pursuing innovative, translational research in neurodegenerative diseases. Research domains may include—but are not limited to—neurobiology, brain imaging and mapping, machine learning, drug delivery, and synthetic biology. Applicants must have completed at least one peer-reviewed manuscript in the field of neurodegenerative diseases as a tenure-track faculty member (or equivalent) by the start date of the Prize (May 2027). **Funding: \$750,000 | LOI Deadline: September 15**

Schmidt Sciences | [Decarbonization Modeling of Urban Mobility and the Built Environment](#)

Schmidt Sciences is soliciting proposals for modeling the decarbonization of urban mobility and the built environment, including relevant interdependencies such as land use, land-use electrification, and shared infrastructure, among others. Modeling efforts should be anchored in multiple, diverse city contexts and produce applicable methods/insights to areas beyond the selected cities. Project teams must consist of members from multiple institutions. **Funding: Up to \$5,000,000 | LOI Deadline: October 29**

Simons Foundation | [Simons Collaborations in Mathematics and the Physical Sciences](#)

This program supports multi-disciplinary, often multi-institutional collaborations researching a mathematical or theoretical topic of fundamental scientific importance, where a significant, new development creates a novel area for exploration or provides a new direction for research in an established field. The project should involve researchers in a range of career stages. **Funding: Up to \$8,000,000 | Application Deadline: October 29**

Simons Foundation | [Simons Collaborations in Ecology and Evolution](#)

This program supports multi-disciplinary, often multi-institutional collaborations that are identifying new, emerging research on the basic principles of ecological and evolutionary dynamics, especially their interplay, and that may be too long-term or high-risk to pursue in the new area. The objective of CBE&E is to sustain the infrastructure by continuing the growth of the faculty base and consolidating research cores. **Funding: Up to \$7,500,000 | Application Deadline: September 2**

Simons Foundation | [SFARI New Ideas Award](#)

The Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) New Ideas Award provides early-stage support for bold, exploratory research that tests novel hypotheses and opens new conceptual/experimental directions advancing the basic science of autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD). **Funding: Up to \$600,000 | Application Deadline: Rolling through December 31**

National Geographic Society | [Understanding Ecosystem Dynamics and the Ecology of the Okavango River Basin](#)

The RFP will support scientific research projects about ecological dynamics (structure and function) in the Okavango River Basin in Angola, Namibia, and Botswana. **Funding: \$20,000 | Application Deadline: September 2**

Water Research Foundation | [Practical Playbook for Adaptive Utility Capital Improvement Planning Under Deep Uncertainty](#)

The Water Research Foundation is seeking research assessing adaptive capital improvement planning (CBIP) strategies for utilities facing deep uncertainty. Projects should use findings to develop a practitioner-focused playbook that equips utilities to apply adaptive CBIP in practice. **Funding: \$250,000 | Application Deadline: October 5**

Water Research Foundation | [Guidelines to Develop Best-in-Class Maintenance Strategies for Vertical Assets](#)

This RFP is seeking structured approaches to identifying and implementing best-in-class maintenance strategies for vertical assets across water utilities. **Funding: \$250,000 | Application Deadline: October 5**

Water Research Foundation | [Innovative Approaches to Extend Lifetime and Minimize O&M for Nature-based Installations](#)

This call supports projects identifying and evaluating innovative design, construction, and management approaches that extend the functional lifetime of nature-based installations and reduce ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) requirements. **Funding: \$250,000 | Application Deadline: October 5**

Water Research Foundation | [Optimizing PFAS Treatment Systems for Multi-contaminant Removal and Operational Benefits](#)

The Water Research Foundation is seeking projects that accomplish the following: Optimize per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) treatment trains for multi-contaminant removal, Characterize pretreatment and oxidation tradeoffs, and Develop decision-support guidance for utilities. **Funding: \$450,000 | Application Deadline: October 5**

Water Research Foundation | [Investigation of Non-Point Sources of PFAS in Sewersheds and Potential Mitigation Strategies](#)

The Water Research Foundation is soliciting applications on how non-point and dispersed PFAS sources within sewersheds—such as contaminated groundwater infiltration—impact wastewater treatment plants. Successful projects will also identify potential strategies to mitigate this loading. **Funding: \$250,000 | Application Deadline: October 5**

Water Research Foundation | [Advancing Actionable Climate Resilience Metrics for Water Supply Planning](#)

This RFP is seeking projects identifying alternative metrics needed to support resilience-based decision-making for water utilities. **Funding: \$250,000 | Application Deadline: October 5**

Water Research Foundation | [Bioavailability and Transformation of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen and Phosphorus Across WRRFAs](#)

The Water Research Foundation is seeking research assessing dissolved organic nitrogen and phosphorus (DON/DOP) concentrations and speciation across North American wastewater facilities, pinpointing the dynamics of DON/DOP in effluent. **Funding: \$275,000 | Application Deadline: October 5**

Water Research Foundation | [Unlocking Value and Opportunities from Carbon Flows in Water Utilities](#)

This RFP is seeking projects mapping carbon flows across the entire water cycle to identify carbon recovery, capture, and reduction opportunities as well as to evaluate potential value-creation pathways and establish practical decision frameworks for utility GHG accounting. **Funding: \$300,000 | Application Deadline: October 5**

American Academy of Sleep Medicine Foundation | [Strategic Research Grant](#)

The AASM Foundation is seeking projects that improve the ability to provide optimal, patient-centered, cost-effective diagnosis and care for people with sleep disorders. Refer to the linked RFP for more details on eligible research topics and AASM funding priorities. **Category I: Up to \$200,000; Category II: Up to \$100,000; Category III: Up to \$50,000 | LOI Deadline: October 19**

Blood Cancer Unit | [Translational Research Program](#)

The TRP Grant program supports that offer a clear path to clinical impact for blood cancer patients. Refer to the linked RFP for project criteria regarding small molecule therapies and cellular/immunotherapies. **Funding: Up to \$750,000 | LOI Deadline: October 16**

McKnight Foundation | [Neurobiology of Brain Disorders Award](#)

This program supports research that addresses the biological mechanisms of neurological and psychiatric disorders as well as the contribution of the environment to brain disorders. McKnight Foundation is particularly interested in new approaches that provide potential paths for therapeutic interventions. Collaborative and cross-disciplinary applications are encouraged. Applicants must have held a tenure or tenure-track faculty position for at least three years as the time of application (no later than September 2023). **Funding: \$300,000 | Application Deadline: October 15**

Parkinson's Foundation | [Impact Awards: Foundational Research](#)

This award supports innovative basic and mechanistic research that advances our understanding of Parkinson's disease biology. Projects should seek to provide fundamental disease mechanisms, identify new biological pathways, or develop novel experimental tools or models, or generate transformative insights that could enable future therapeutic development. **Funding: \$200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 15**

Parkinson's Foundation | [Impact Awards: Translational Research](#)

This award supports research that advances promising discoveries closer to clinical application. Projects should focus on validating therapeutic targets, developing therapeutic candidates, advancing biomarkers development, and/or generating evidence needed to support future clinical studies. **Funding: \$200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 15**

Parkinson's Foundation | [Stanley Fahn Junior Faculty Award](#)

The Parkinson's Foundation is seeking clinical, pre-clinical, or basic research proposals from promising early-career faculty members that will advance understanding or the prevention or treatment of Parkinson's disease or factors underlying a PhD, MD, or equivalent are eligible to apply. The typical applicant will hold an Assistant Professor level position. **Funding: \$300,000 | LOI Deadline: October 8**

Tiny Blue Dot Foundation | [Exploring the Perception Box](#)

The Tiny Blue Dot Foundation is seeking to fund foundational or applied research on the neural, experiential, and psychological factors related to the perception of the physical world. The mental models humans have about the world that filter and distort everything we see). The goal of the program is to better understand the construction and evolution of the Perception Box, so people can gain greater self-awareness, self-understanding, and agency in their lives. **Funding: \$900,000 | LOI Deadline: October 5**

Corporate Opportunities

Bayer Crop Science | [Lab automation for biological sample processing and screening](#)

This call seeks automated, high-throughput technologies to streamline biological sample processing, characterization, and screening workflows for early-stage discovery programs. Proposals should focus on scalable solutions—such as automated dispensing, miniaturized enzyme assays, mass spectrometry platforms, binding analysis, or high-content imaging—that reduce hands-on labor and accommodate variable protocols. Selected partners may receive technical expertise, biological materials and reagents, performance data, lab facilities for collaborative testing, and opportunities for broader technology adoption. Funding is proposal-dependent and will be aligned with the scope, maturity, and evaluation needs of the proposed solution.

Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 3-9

Funding: \$50,000-\$250,000 for initial proof-of-concept or pilot testing (with potential for additional funding or expanded collaboration for promising technologies) | Application Deadline: September 18

Private Company | [Animal-free collagen-supporting ingredients and production platforms](#)

This partner request from a global organization in the specialty ingredients space seeks scalable, non-animal production platforms or plant-, algal-, or fermentation-derived ingestible ingredients that support collagen formation, preservation, or remodeling. Submissions must demonstrate a viable path to commercial scale for food, beverage, or dietary supplement applications and be backed by basic yield data or post-ingestion efficacy evidence. Budget is available to support agreed activities that advance the technology toward commercial readiness. Activities may include collaborative testing and process optimization, application testing, technical gap closure, and further development of the ingredient or production platform. The final maturity will depend on the work plan, milestones, and maturity of the solution.

Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 4-9 **Funding: \$25,000-\$150,000 (varies based on work plan and technology maturity) | Application Deadline: September 18**

Kimberly-Clark | [Chemistries, materials, and treatment systems for home color reduction](#)

This partner request seeks innovative chemistries, functional materials, enzymes, or delivery systems to reduce or eliminate the visible red color of menstrual fluid for use in absorbent hygiene products. Proposals can address specific technical challenges—such as red blood cell disruption, heme degradation, or hygienic management—or offer integrated treatment approaches. Technologies must have a clear scientific mechanism and present a viable pathway toward a safe, scalable, and cost-effective commercial application. Funding is available to support technical validation, prototyping, and pilot trials. The level of funding will depend on the proposal scope. Partners will be assigned a company mentor to champion the project, identify gaps in expertise, and meet bi-monthly to help ensure project success.

Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 4-9 **Funding: \$50,000-\$100,000 for 6-12 month evaluations and potential for expanded funding based on outcomes | Application Deadline: September 18**

Kimberly-Clark | [Materials, surfaces, and optical solutions for stain viability reduction](#)

This partner request seeks structural designs, surface coatings, optical materials, or selective capture layers that reduce the post-use visual visibility of menstrual fluid in absorbent hygiene products. Proposals may address individual or integrated approaches—such as reducing visible optical scattering, or stain oxidation/bleaching, or novel approaches to manage product absorbency, dryness, and comfort. Funding is available to support technical validation, prototyping, and pilot trials. The level of funding will depend on the proposal scope. Partners will be assigned a company mentor to champion the project, identify gaps in expertise, and meet bi-monthly to help ensure project success.

Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 4-9 **Funding: \$50,000-\$100,000 for 6-12 month evaluations and potential for expanded funding based on outcomes | Application Deadline: September 18**

Private Company | [Accelerating recombinant protein variant design and expression](#)

This call seeks high-throughput workflows, computational tools, and automation platforms to accelerate the design, DNA construct assembly, and production of recombinant protein variants. Partners should focus on scalable solutions—such as computational modeling, automated variant library generation, or plant-relevant transient expression platforms—that reduce manual effort and accelerate sequence-to-protein timelines. Selected partners may receive technical expertise, workflow tools and specifications, biological reagents, historical performance data, and access to research facilities for collaborative benchmarking and testing. Funding is proposal-dependent and will be aligned with the maturity of the proposed technology and the scope of validation needed.

Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 3-9 **Funding: \$50,000-\$250,000 for initial feasibility or validation studies (with potential for expanded collaboration if the technology shows value in accelerating protein variant design, construct generation, or recombinant expression workflows) | Application Deadline: October 2**

Federal Opportunities

Department of Energy (DOE) National Alliance for Water Innovation (NAWI) | [NAWI Industrial Water Resuse Request for Proposals \(RFP\): Concept Paper Submission \(NAWI-NA-2026\)](#)

This RFP targets three high-priority, non-federal water sources at U.S. industrial sites: cooling water, process and rinse water, and wastewater treatment effluent. The RFP also addresses critical technical barriers and other treatment challenges specific to industrial applications. **Funding: Up to \$1,000,000 | Concept Paper Due: September 16**

Application Deadline: November 24

National Institutes of Health (NIH) | [Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence: Expansion/Sustainability Phases \(COBRE-E/S\) \(P39 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

The Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence: Expansion/Sustainability Phases (COBRE-E/S) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) supports the expansion and sustainability of biomedical research centers in DOE-funded institutions. These centers will focus on building research capacity by growing scientific areas of strategic importance for the institutions. The goal of COBRE-E/S is to expand research capacity by broadening the institutional faculty base and supporting research projects and core facilities in the new area. The objective of COBRE-E/S is to sustain the infrastructure by continuing the growth of the faculty base and consolidating research cores. **Funding: Up to \$7,500,000 | Application Deadline: September 25**

Department of Energy (DOE) | [Accelerating Scale-up and Pre-approval of Emerging Chemical Technologies \(ASPECT\)](#)

The goal of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) is to advance promising chemical technologies that utilize alternative feedstocks through multiple levels of maturity, and, in some cases, to pre-pilot scale. To accomplish this, the NFO is divided into two topic areas, each divided into two subtopic areas designed to provide different on-ramps for technologies at different stages of development.

Topic Area 1 supports the preparation of technologies if the R&D phase. Subtopic Area 1a supports advancing early-stage research to bench scale. Subtopic Area 1b is intended to move projects closer to pre-pilot scale, to a point where critical unit operations must be further developed and demonstrated.

Topic Area 2 provides an on-ramp for technologies ready to move from R&D to full pre-pilot scale and operations. Projects applying to Topic Area 2 should aim to advance their technology to design, construct, and operate pre-pilot scale facilities. Both subtopic areas have the same goal: to move technologies into integrated pre-pilot systems and operate them, but allow for two different points of entry. Subtopic Area 2a targets preliminary pre-pilot scale testing of critical unit operations before engineering and design can commence for the entire system while Subtopic Area 2b projects will involve technologies that already ready for design and construction of an integrated pre-pilot facility. **Funding: Up to \$200,000,000 | Concept Paper: October 9**

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) | [Biological Technologies](#)

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Biological Technologies Office (BTO) is soliciting proposals that leverage biological processes and processes to revolutionize our ability to protect the nation's warfighters. Specifically outlined is research that contributes to evolutionary improvements to the existing state of practice. BTO harnesses advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to create new opportunities for transformative science across the biological spectrum. Warfighter health and well-being are critical to mission success. BTO develops diagnostic and assessment systems to monitor biological threats, medical countermeasures, and novel approaches to tactical care and warfighter performance and recovery on and off the battlefield. BTO also leverages biological processes, technologies, and manufacturing opportunities to create resilient infrastructures and supply chains, protective solutions, and innovative sensors to ensure mission success in any location. 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 bioindustrial and biomedical technologies. Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for BTO's mission. Human Performance Materials, Sensors, Processing Agricultural and Environmental Security, Safety, and Surveillance. Biomedical and Biodefense. **Funding: Unspecified | Application Deadline: September 30**

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

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 a 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
- **Pass-word:** RiceOTT

Planning to attend? Let us know ahead of time at [techtrans@rice.edu](#) so we can have the right expert available for your specific questions.

Proposal & Funding Strategy Support

Navigating the landscape of funding opportunities can be complex, but you're not alone! The Office of Foundation Relations, the Office of Corporate Partnerships, and the Office of Research Development (ORD) have the expertise and staff in place to help you in developing compelling proposals and crafting effective funding strategies for the RFPs that are 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:** For opportunities involving corporate or private foundations, our offices provide 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 application.

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:

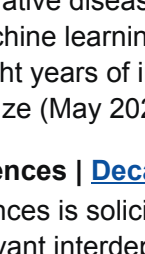
- **Office of Foundation Relations:** [oct@rice.edu](#)
- **Office of Corporate Partnerships:** [corporate@rice.edu](#)
- **Office of Research Development (ORD):** [Proposal assistance request form](#)

Office of Research Development Primer to AI Research Opps

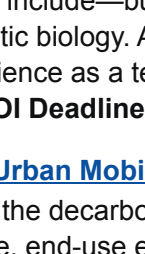
As sponsors continue to expand their interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Next-Gen Learning (NGL) research, the calendar year is chock full of federal research opportunities focused on developing AI & ML tools capable of addressing some of the world's most pressing problems. Click the link below for ORD's library of links and funder resources to help track the sundry AI opportunities that will come out this year.

View AI Opportunities

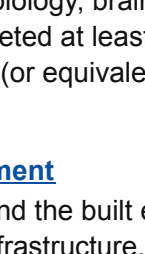
Available Resources



ExLabs
Pilot RFP



HALO



UIO

When developing your fundraising strategy, it can be advantageous to seek out opportunities supported by sponsors, including private foundations and government agencies. To enable cross-disciplinary research, ExLabs has created effectively, Rice subscribes to Pivot-RFP, a global database of open research funding opportunities available for faculty and staff.

To learn more about Pivot-RFP how to successfully access the database, or receive technical support from OCFR, please visit our [Internal OCFR 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 per grant. HALO ultimately 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 IDI website should email OCFR at [oct@rice.edu](#) to request login credentials.

Rice University is a member of the [University-Industry Demonstration Project \(UIODP\)](#), a pre-competitive organization fostering connections between universities and industry partners. UIODP aims at 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.

Candidi.

Candidi 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 Candidi's robust tools to thoroughly research and verify nonprofit organizations, effectively identifying potential funding opportunities that align with their work, and explore a diverse range of valuable datasets and information related to the philanthropic landscape.

Visit Candidi'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.

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 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 Partnerships and the Office of Foundation Relations

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

P.O. Box 1852 MS-84 | Houston, Texas 77251-1852 | 713-348-4376

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Your Information](#) | [View this email in French](#)