



Alzheimer's Association World Wide FINGERS Network Funding Program (ALZ WW-FNFP)

Program Objective:

The World Wide FINGERS (WW-FINGERS) Network launched in 2017 as the first global network of multidomain lifestyle intervention trials for dementia risk reduction and ultimately prevention. Studies that participate in the WW-FINGERS network aim to apply, test and optimize the FINGER-like model to reduce risk across the spectrum of cognitive decline in different geographical, cultural and economic settings in individuals at greater risk as they age. In order to succeed in providing broad accessibility to and representation of the global community, there is a significant need for seed funding and opportunities to advance a WW-FINGERS network study. The WW-FINGERS network is a collaboration led by the FINGER Brain Health Institute and the Alzheimer's Association.

To support the expansion and opportunity for advancing this research, the Alzheimer's Association has launched a pilot funding program for multimodal behavioral intervention studies that incorporate at least 3 domains. **The Alzheimer's Association WW-FINGERS Network Funding Program (ALZ WW-FNFP)** is designed to support research studies across multiple stages, offering initial or startup funding as well as opportunities for ongoing studies to further develop multimodal interventions and capitalize on unique opportunities that enhance research outcomes. This will be a competitive funding program and all submissions will be reviewed.

The Alzheimer's Association believes that there is scientific value associated with having scientists from underrepresented groups in the field as it strengthens the research enterprise for Alzheimer's and related dementia. Clinicians and scientists from these groups are encouraged to apply.

This award is structured as an individual research grant, with funding administered through the recipient's institution. Proposals focused on multimodal behavioral intervention studies for dementia risk reduction are welcome, provided they are supported by a strong scientific rationale. For a study to be eligible, it must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Trial is active (in recruiting participants, implementing intervention and/or ongoing follow up); Data collection is harmonized with the WW-FINGERS Network; The trial is funded; OR
- Research teams are actively working to advance trial planning, protocol development or explore proof of concept within the local setting; trial is funded.
- Studies that are actively working to advance a WW-FINGERS trial within their country/population; trial is not funded

Applicant information:

The ALZ WW-FNFP is open to international (non-U.S.) researchers conducting multi-domain lifestyle intervention studies.

Only one primary principal investigator is allowed per proposal. Multiple Principal Investigators (PIs) are not permitted, though collaborators and key personnel may be included.

Funding and award period:

The Alzheimer's Association has invested over USD \$12,000,000 to fund multidomain lifestyle intervention trials internationally and the ALZ WW-FNFP will continue to grow this commitment.

- The total award will not exceed \$500,000 in direct costs. Detailed guidelines on allowable and not allowable costs are included below.
- No indirect costs are allowed.
- Award duration up to 3 years



- Each study is limited to one unique award through this program's first iteration; with potential for follow-on funding

The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to not allow unbudgeted expenses.

Key Dates:

Pre-Submission Inquiry Surveys that are completed by **October 15, 2026** will be considered for this round of invited proposals. The timeline is outlined below.

Application submissions must be received by 5:00 pm Eastern time by their respective deadlines. Late submissions will not be accepted - *no exceptions*.

Pre-Submission Inquiry Deadline*	October 15, 2026, at 5:00 pm ET
Application Deadline	December 21, 2026, at 5:00 pm ET
Application Review	January – March, 2027
Award Notifications	By April 30, 2027

** Note, due to the high number of submissions, specific feedback and reviewer comments are not provided at the Pre-Submission Inquiries stage.*

Eligibility and Ineligibility Considerations:

To avoid disqualification, investigators are encouraged to carefully consider these eligibility and ineligibility requirements before applying. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to find an investigator ineligible to submit for a particular program, based on the guidelines below. This section describes general inclusion and exclusion criteria. Specific requirements and additional exclusions to eligibility are noted in some detailed competition descriptions.

Eligibility (Applicant):

- The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups to strengthen the research enterprise for Alzheimer's and related dementia. Scientists from these groups are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must be considered full-time employees based on the organization/ institution definition of full-time. Independent investigators at all career stages are eligible to apply
- **Applicants must be international (non-U.S.) researchers conducting multi-domain lifestyle intervention studies**
- The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to request further documentation to confirm eligibility of an applicant.
- Only one primary PI per application. Multiple PI projects are not allowed. However, collaborators may be included as key personnel on the project.

Eligibility (Organization):

- In general, public, private, research laboratories, medical centers, hospitals and universities are eligible to apply. State and federal government-appropriated laboratories in the U.S. and abroad, and for-profit organizations are prohibited from serving as the applicant organization for this program. However, state and federal government scientists can participate as collaborating scientists with research teams from other eligible applicant organizations.
 - For the Pre-Submission Inquiry, you will be required to upload proof of your organization's not-for-profit status. An IRS Letter of Determination is no longer accepted and you must submit either of the following:
 - a W-9 that is signed and dated within the past five years by the signing official for US entities
 - a W-8 or W-8-BEN that is signed and dated within the past five years by the signing official
 - The form must include the EIN, TIN or VAT number
- For non-profit organizations (non-academic), additional documentation may be required to confirm your organization has segregation of duties between transaction execution and transaction recording.

Ineligibility (Applicant):

- Individuals currently enrolled as a student in an undergraduate, master or doctoral program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status.
- Temporary, part time, or acting faculty are not eligible.
- Investigators who are delinquent in reporting to the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association will not accept new grant applications from investigators currently awarded an Association grant who are delinquent in submitting required reports and other deliverables on active grants. Investigators that have previous Alzheimer's Association awards closed as 'Incomplete' are not eligible to apply without exception. This policy will be strictly adhered to with no exceptions.
- Applications that represent the same aspects of a project should not be submitted to different programs of the Alzheimer's Association. There are some exceptions so please contact grantsapp@alz.org if you have questions.
- Current Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and International Research Grant Programs (IRGP) Council members of the Alzheimer's Association cannot serve as principal investigators in any award. They may serve as key personnel or collaborators, provided there is no financial benefit and/or salary allocated to them.

Ineligibility (Organization):

- State and federal government-appropriated laboratories in the U.S. and abroad and for-profit organizations are prohibited from serving as the applicant institutions for this program.
- Non-profit organizations based in the U.S. are not eligible.
- Applications will not be accepted if the institutional official responsible for fiscal oversight of the award also serves as the Principal Investigator (PI) on the project. Additionally, no familial relationship may exist between the PI and the institutional official with fiscal authority.
- Applicants without a current Pre-Submission Inquiry are ineligible.

Note: Alzheimer's Association grants are generally open to scientists and researchers across the globe; however, as a U.S.-based charity, the Alzheimer's Association is subject to, and complies with, U.S. law. As a result, the Alzheimer's Association cannot award, and will not award, grants in violation of applicable U.S. statutes and regulations. This means, among other things, that the Alzheimer's Association cannot, and will not, fund any individual or entity (i) that is subject to U.S. comprehensive or targeted sanctions or if awarding funding would result in a



violation of such sanctions, (ii) that is on the U.S. List of Specially Designated Nationals or entities owned or controlled by such persons, or (iii) when doing so is otherwise prohibited by U.S. laws related to combating terrorism.

Pre Submission Inquiries- Additional Details:

Pre-submission inquiries are welcome at any time and will be reviewed by the Alzheimer's Association with appropriate experts to evaluate the eligibility, feasibility, and potential impact of a proposal. Successful pre-submission inquiries will be invited to submit a full application, with deadlines discussed with applicant PI. Full applications will be reviewed by an expert group and panel for consideration to make recommendations to the Alzheimer's Association. If a submission is not accepted, the application is allowed one resubmission.

Pre-Submission Inquiries will be accepted at any time. Please use the template provided and include the following:

- Describe the status of the project and what is being requested
- Overview of the geographical location of the study (cultural, economic, sites, etc.), expertise of the study team, information on the population to be engaged and community that will be involved, and a high level description of the proposed intervention.
- Describe future plans or long-term goals of the initiative (i.e. are there opportunities for federal funding, for partnership, other ways for sustainability, etc).
- Level of study as defined by the above criteria and Kivipelto et al (2020) Alzheimer's & Dementia.
- In addition, the following information is required:
 - Principal Investigator name & contact information
 - Current academic rank/position
 - Must be current at the time of submission; pending promotions are not allowed
 - ORCID ID
 - Lead Institution (in English)
 - Applicant must be a full-time employee at time of submission
 - Employer Identification Number (EIN) or TIN
 - This number must match the non-profit documentation
 - This information is specific to the institution, not the applicant.
 - Non-profit verification
 - W-9 (US entities) signed and dated within the past five years by an authorized institutional signing official and must include the EIN number
 - W-8-BEN (non-US entities) signed and dated within the past five years by an authorized institutional signing official and must include the EIN/TIN or VAT number
 - This information is specific to the institution, not the applicant.
 - *Biosketch*
 - For Principal Investigator only. Applicants will be able to provide biosketches for other members of the project team at the full application stage.
 - The Alzheimer's Association highly recommends using the latest NIH biosketch format (excluding Section D. Scholastic Performance), but any format will be accepted. Hyperlinks are allowed in biosketch only for individual research projects.

Please send the pre-submission form to grantsapp@alz.org.

Pre-submission Inquiries are welcome at any time. Following pre-submission inquiries, applications will be invited for those that meet the program objectives. Proposed deadlines will be discussed with teams invited to submit full applications.

Applicants may revise and resubmit an application that was previously submitted for an earlier

grant cycle; however, a new Pre-Submission Inquiry is required each year. A current Pre-Submission Inquiry corresponding to the application year must accompany each application. Revisions of previous submissions will be treated as new applications. Efforts will be made to provide some continuity in reviews. The resubmission of an approved Pre-Submission Inquiry does not guarantee that you will be invited to resubmit a full application in a future cycle. Resubmissions may be submitted to a different program in this call and still be a resubmission. Resubmissions are reviewed holistically again, and merely responding to reviewer critiques is not enough to be funded on resubmission.

By submitting a Pre-Submission Inquiry or application to this program, the applicant organization acknowledges that it has reviewed the program's terms and conditions of award and agrees to accept them as written. The conditions of award are non-negotiable, and submission constitutes the organization's confirmation that it is prepared to comply with them in full should an award be made.

Applications:

For those invited to submit a full application, additional materials will be required. Templates, instructions and application deadlines will be provided following approval of the pre-submission inquiry. The PI who submits the application must be the same PI who submitted the approved Pre-Submission Inquiry. The application does not need to be completed in one session; a partially completed application can be saved and completed at any time before the deadline. It is imperative that you proofread your application before submission; you will not be allowed to make any changes to the application after the deadline or once applications are under review.

Full applications will not be accepted without an approved Pre-Submission Inquiry from the current cycle. If you did not receive an email from an Alzheimer's Association staff member about your approval to submit a full application for the current cycle you should not submit an application, even if one is available in your proposalCENTRAL Account.

The application must be submitted by the receipt date/time deadline. Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail from proposalCENTRAL that your application was successfully submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation, click the Proposals tab and under the "Status" column make sure it says **Submitted** and not **In Progress** which indicates you have not yet submitted your application. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that the application is complete and accurate before submission. Only a single copy of an application will be accepted.

Signatures are not required at the time of submission by the Association, however, the signature page provided is for use should your institution/organization require signatures; the Association does not override any institutional policies and/or procedures. Please do not submit the signature page with your application.

Applicants may use LLMs and other generative AI tools in the preparation of their Pre-Submission Inquiries and full applications. **Applicants are fully responsible for the content of their proposal, even those parts produced by an AI tool.** Using one of these tools will not affect the review of your application.

Applications require the following components. Further detail on content is provided in the application instruction available on proposalCENTRAL:

- Executive Summary (1 page) - provide an overview of the project and summary of the application.
- Background Rationale (1 page) - description of the knowledge gap and research question to be addressed in the application and how this will positively impact the field.
- Workplan (5 pages): description of the background, scientific rationale, research strategy, alternative approach, and expected outcome(s).
- The Data Management and Sharing Plan (3 pages) description of the analysis plans,

including appropriate statistical and power analyses.

- Recruitment Plan (1 page) - only applicable for studies with human volunteers
- Data Analysis plan (1 page) - description of the analysis plans, including appropriate statistical and power analyses.
- Resubmission Statement (1 page, optional): Resubmissions are granted a one-page summary addressing comments raised by reviewers in a prior review cycle(s). It is up to the investigator whether they wish to declare their application a resubmission, even if it is a similar application to a prior submission.
- Biosketch (5 pages)
- References and Citations (1 page)
- Available Resources and Budget Justification (2 pages):
 - A budget justification for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. If the application is to be awarded a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds. All budgets must be in U.S. dollars.
 - Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, and Key Personnel & Effort: The Alzheimer's Association uses research effort in its application materials to capture time spent directing and performing research.
 - All personnel on the grant must have the amount of their effort on the project list.
 - Effort should be listed as a percentage of their overall total commitment to research, not as the percentage of salary covered by the grant's budget.
 - It is not required that Co-PI's and Key Personnel accept salary from an award, but Key Personnel should have the amount of research effort associated with the project listed.
 - Indirect costs are not allowed.
 - Direct Costs Allowed: It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any subcontracts. Allowable costs include:
 - Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
 - Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget
 - Core time and/or support, such as neuropathology, microscopy, husbandry, etc.
 - Computer software if used strictly for data collection (requires prior approval)
 - Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant); there is no salary cap
 - Support for travel to scientific and professional meetings and additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned – this may include site visits. Travel should not to exceed \$2,500 in any given year. If you request the full \$12,500 towards just two years of travel and are requesting a three-year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.
 - Training costs to visit and perform research related to the awarded project on another laboratory/facility (this is not to be included in the travel costs)
 - Travel expenses for projects involving human volunteers are allowable expenses not included in the travel above. This can be captured under other expenses (itemized) in the budget.
 - Publication costs, such as open access publication fees that are appropriate and reasonable for the project budget.
 - Direct Costs not allowed:
 - Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse

- monitor, computer parts, AppleCare)
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR machine, microscopy/imaging equipment
- Service contract fees of equipment
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Visa costs and fees
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services. However, data sharing and/or data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data is allowed.
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Wire and currency exchange fees; it is important to note that the Association does not adjust total funded amount in relation to fluctuations in exchange rates. All grants are paid in U.S. dollars.
- Institutional overheads associated with staff time
- The Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG), the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council members and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website alz.org/grants
- The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to decline any charge that is an institutional fee and/or service charge.

Application Review Criteria and Process:

Applications will be reviewed by the Alzheimer's Association and a select panel of experts with special attention to:

- Significance and rationale of the population/question being studied
 - Is this population/question unique to ongoing WW-FINGERS studies?
 - Does the proposed study harmonize data with other WW-FINGER studies?
- Quality of the proposed trial Examples of questions and issues, which the reviewer might consider include, but are not limited to:
 - How well does the proposed study align to the WW-FINGERS studies?
 - Is the overall plan of work appropriately paced in relationship to the requested budget and stated duration of the project?
 - Is the design of the study well considered?
 - Are the plans for data analysis appropriate?
 - Has the applicant demonstrated awareness of the limitations of the methods of data acquisition and analysis?
- Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget Examples of questions and issues, which the reviewer might consider include, but are not limited to:
 - Will the available institutional resources and facilities support the completion of the project?
 - Is there a supportive research milieu of experienced investigators and technical expertise? Does the applicant have the necessary equipment, instruments, populations, animals, samples, reagents, assays, analytical methods or other technical supports available for the conduct of this project?
 - What additional resources are required to complete this project satisfactorily?
 - Does the applicant present a reasonable strategy to acquire the necessary resources?
 - Is the budget well justified and are the requested funds appropriate?

- Study team expertise
 - Does the applicant and if appropriate his/her co-workers have the required experience and scientific or technical training to carry out this research project?
 - Does the applicant have experience, which suggests that he/she can successfully lead a research team? If not, are there adequate backup scientific and management personnel?
 - Is there a milieu of senior investigators and technical expertise that can help foster this research effort?
 - Does this proposed project introduce or recruit any new investigators to this line of research?.

Financial Responsibility:

Funding is awarded to the institution and/or organization, not to the individual principal investigator. The principal investigator or a first-degree relative cannot be listed as the signing official or financial officer, or have checks sent to their attention if awarded.

Appeals of Scientific Peer Review

To maintain a fair and rigorous review system, the Alzheimer's Association has a process for appeal of funding decisions. **Appeals must be submitted within 10 business days from the date your application outcome notification is sent.** Notification of action on the appeal will be made via email, usually within 90 days of the appeal deadline. Appeals will not be considered for the letter of intent stage. Regarding applications, an appeal is intended to address extraordinary circumstances.

Appropriate reasons for initiating an appeal might include:

- Evidence that a reviewer has an undeclared conflict of interest.
- An egregious error or misunderstanding in the review process.
- Active malfeasance or demonstrable lack of due diligence.

The appeal process is not intended to provide a mechanism for routine protest of failure to receive a grant. It is anticipated that funding through the Alzheimer's Association grants programs will be extremely competitive and is limited by availability of funds.

If an applicant believes an extraordinary circumstance has contributed to failure to receive funding, the principal investigator must send a two-page, double-spaced formal letter of appeal (Word document) to grantsappeals@alz.org, *within the appropriate time period of 10 business days following outcome notification*. Any supporting documents included must be submitted as a PDF.

Reporting Requirements, if Funded

For funded awards through this program, there will be required scientific and financial reporting. Interim Scientific & Financial Reports must be submitted at the end of each reporting period as long as the grant remains active. Final Scientific & Financial Reports must be filed within 90 days of the grant's end date. All reports must be submitted electronically via proposalCENTRAL. The Financial Report must be approved and signed by someone with financial authority in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs or Grants & Contracts Office at the recipient's institution. Unobligated funds remaining at the end of the award must be returned to the Alzheimer's Association.

Note: The continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely receipt of all required reports.

Ethical Research Oversight

In addition, while animal welfare and human volunteer ethical assurances are not required at



the time of application, investigators have until their chosen start date (within 3 months or less of award notification) to submit these approved documents. The Alzheimer's Association encourages investigators to initiate their certification applications on a schedule that recognizes that rDNA certification, IRB/IACUC approval at many institutions can take more than 90 days.

The Association accepts only certifications that apply specifically to the funded project and must include the name of the awardee.

Projects involving human volunteers must address the appropriate inclusion or exclusion of individuals in the proposed research project and describe recruitment efforts to represent the community in which the study is planned or being conducted. Prior to distribution of funding, the researcher must provide a description of their recruitment plan, including an outline describing how their recruitment efforts will ensure representative diversity in their volunteers. Recruitment efforts should focus on diversity within key target groups, including a diverse representation of (but not limited to): sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity. This will be tracked throughout the duration of the grant.

Electronic copies of publications, presentations and abstracts that report research supported by funds from the Alzheimer's Association must be submitted electronically at the time of publication. These copies will become part of the official file of the grant and will be provided to the Communications Division of the Alzheimer's Association to assist in the efforts to further inform the public about the International Research Grant Program of the Association. Any intellectual property disclosures resulting from the award must be submitted electronically at the time of publication. The Alzheimer's Association may request any of the research outputs listed here from any awardee up to 7 years following the end of the award.

U.S. Sanctions

Alzheimer's Association grants are generally open to scientists and researchers across the globe; however, as a U.S.-based charity, the Alzheimer's Association is subject to, and complies with, U.S. law. As a result, the Alzheimer's Association cannot award, and will not award, grants in violation of applicable U.S. statutes and regulations. This means, among other things, that the Alzheimer's Association cannot, and will not, fund any individual or entity (i) that is subject to U.S. comprehensive or targeted sanctions or if awarding funding would result in a violation of such sanctions, (ii) that is on the U.S. List of Specially Designated Nationals or entities owned or controlled by such persons, or (iii) when doing so is otherwise prohibited by U.S. laws related to combating terrorism.

Nondiscrimination and Harassment Statement:

The Alzheimer's Association is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and discrimination. The Alzheimer's Association strictly prohibits harassment and discrimination based on race; creed; color; religion; sex; sexual orientation; national origin; ancestry; age; Veteran status; citizenship status; marital status; physical or mental disabilities; pregnancy, gender identity or expression (including transgender status); genetic information; and any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law.

Contact Information

For any inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.