

Alzheimer's Association Large-Scale Science Transition Funding Program (LSSTF) Program

Program Objective

Federal investment in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD/ADRD) research over the past decade, primarily through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), led to a number of large-scale studies and programs. These are supported largely through various cooperative grant mechanisms (U01, U19, U24, U54) and have produced deeply characterized cohort studies, high-quality data resources, new model systems, enabling research infrastructure and new drug candidates. This progress was made possible by the highly collaborative structure of the studies themselves.

The Alzheimer's Association Large-Scale Science Transition Funding Program (LSSTF) aims to support these initiatives as they transition to their next stage of development, or as they pursue new funding mechanisms. LSSTF funds the transition itself: sustaining the science and the scientific team while an initiative moves into a new direction, diversifies its funding streams, or adjusts its overall program scale. The transition is also an important component of how these projects will be evaluated through this program.

Funds are intended to support one or more of the following:

- Scientific Continuity - retaining the key investigators and study personnel needed to keep the science moving through a funding gap.
- Study Continuity - sustaining active data collection, biospecimen handling, and study operations so that participant cohorts and datasets are not disrupted.
- Diversification Planning - developing alternative funding mechanisms, including co-funding partnerships, industry collaboration, or philanthropic support, to reduce reliance on a single federal funding stream.

LSSTF is a competitive funding program that can only be awarded one time per precipitating U award. It is not a mechanism for new scientific projects, for expansion of an initiative's scope, or for bridge support that has no stated endpoint or plan.

Applicant Information

Applicants must be associated with an NIH U01, U19, U24 or U54 award (or equivalent) that supports a major AD/ADRD research initiative and that is either active at the time of pre-submission query submission or lapsed within the 12 months preceding the pre-submission query deadline. Eligible applicant(s) for this can be any of the multiple principal investigators (mPI) or principal investigator on the initiative. There must be one named contact PI and institution to be the award recipient. Awards will be funded to the institution. The institution on record may issue subcontracts. All participating institutions must accept the conditions of the Alzheimer's Association and of the LSSTF program, including the indirect cost and salary conditions described under Funding and award period.

There is no career-stage or academic-rank restriction on the applicant. Applicants at any career level, including postdoctoral fellows, are eligible provided the U-award condition above is met.

Applicants must present a credible one-year plan toward a more diversified or more stable funding structure to be reached by the end of the funding period, and must state clearly how LSSTF funds will be used.

Funding and award period

Awards range from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 for a period of up to 12 months.

- Indirect costs are not allowed under this program. The indirect cost rate is 0 percent, inclusive of

the implementing institution and of any subcontracts.

- Salary requested for any individual is subject to the NIH salary cap in effect at the time of application.
- Details about allowable and unallowable costs are included in the sections below. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to not allow unbudgeted expenses.

All grants are paid in U.S. dollars. The Association does not adjust the total funded amount in relation to fluctuations in exchange rates. Once selected for funding, awards will begin the period of performance within three months of the award notification. Extensions to this period are only granted if requested prior to application submission, in writing, by contacting grantsapp@alz.org. Only one no cost extension up to 6 months will be allowed for each awarded grant.

Key Dates

Pre-submission query and application submissions must be received by 5:00 pm eastern by their respective deadlines. Late submissions will not be accepted - no exceptions.

Pre-submission Queries Launch and Deadlines	October 2026 Pre-submission queries should be submitted by email to Heather Snyder, PhD at hsnyder@alz.org with a CC to grantsapp@alz.org. Pre-submission queries will be accepted through December 15, 2026. The LSSTF Program will be evaluated for potential future needs at that time.
Application Deadline	Following pre-submission query, selected applications will be invited with deadline of 6 weeks from the date of invitation.
Application Review	Review will occur over up to 8 weeks.
Award Notifications	Award notification will be made within 6 weeks of review being complete.

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.

Eligibility (Applicant):

- The applicant must be associated with an active, or recently lapsed, NIH U01, U19, U24 or U54 award (or equivalent) supporting a major AD/ADRD research initiative. A lapsed award qualifies if the project end date falls within the 12 months preceding the pre-submission query deadline.
- Documentation of the underlying award, including award number, project period and awarding institute, is required at the pre-submission stage.
- There is no restriction on academic rank or career stage.
- Applicants must be considered full-time employees based on the organization or institution definition of full-time.
- The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to request further documentation to confirm eligibility of an applicant and to make the final determination as to whether an investigator is eligible for this program.

Eligibility (Organization/Institution):

- In general, non-profit public or private research laboratories, medical centers, hospitals and universities are eligible to apply.
- Apart from Veteran's Administration hospitals, state and federal government-appropriated

laboratories in the U.S. and abroad are prohibited from applying as the applicant institution.

- State and federal government scientists can participate as collaborating scientists with research teams from other eligible applicant institutions.
- Institutions are required to upload proof of not-for-profit status. An IRS Letter of Determination is not accepted. 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 U.S. entities
 - a W-8 or W-8-BEN that is signed and dated within the past five years by the signing official, for international entities
- The form must include the EIN, TIN or VAT number.
- For non-profit, non-academic organizations, additional documentation may be required to confirm your organization has segregation of duties between transaction execution and transaction recording.

Ineligibility (Applicant):

- Investigators or organizations who are delinquent in reporting to the Alzheimer's Association are not eligible to apply.
- 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. Please contact grantsapp@alz.org with 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/Institution):

- State and federal government-appropriated laboratories in the U.S. and abroad are prohibited from serving as the applicant institution for this program.
- Applications will not be accepted if the institutional official responsible for fiscal oversight of the award also serves as the Principal Investigator on the project. Additionally, no familial relationship may exist between the PI and the institutional official with fiscal authority.

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 Queries

By submitting a pre-submission query 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. Pre-submission queries should be submitted via email to Heather Snyder, Ph.D. at hsnyder@alz.org with a cc to grantsapp@alz.org. Applicants whose pre-submission queries are approved will be invited to submit a full application within six weeks of notification.

Pre-submission Queries should include the following information:

- Principal Investigator (PI) name(s) and contact information, Current academic rank or position and contact PI and Lead Institution, in English
- Details about the U mechanism:
 - Award number, mechanism, awarding NIH institute or equivalent funder, and project period of the U01, U19, U24 or U54 award supporting the initiative
 - Current status of that award: active, in a no-cost extension, or lapsed with the end date given
 - Current total annual budget of the initiative and the portion at risk
- A brief description (2-3 paragraphs) about the scientific goals and scope of the original U Initiative title and a description of the scientific scope of the initiative
- Intended use of LSSTF funds across scientific continuity, study continuity and diversification planning and goals for the LSSTF funding.

Pre-submission Queries Review

Each Pre-submission Query is evaluated with attention to:

- Eligibility of the applicant and/or application
- A clear plan/path forward for the initiative. Feedback may also be shared with applicants of details needed for the application to move forward.

Applications

Following the pre-submission query review, select queries will be invited to submit full applications within six weeks of notification. Once an invite is sent, the contact PI will receive a specific link to submit the full application through the Association's grant portal. 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.

Note: Proofread your application before submission; you will not be allowed to make any changes after the deadline or once applications are under review.

- 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 and time deadline. Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation email 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.

Only a single copy of an application will be accepted.

Institutional signatures are not required at the time of submission by the Association. Should your institution or organization require it, a signature page is provided for use. The Alzheimer's Association does not override any institutional policies 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 Letters of Intent 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.

Application Components:

Further detail on content is provided in the application instructions on proposalCENTRAL.

- Initiative Status Statement [up to 2 pages] - the current state of the initiative, the underlying award, the funding gap and its timing, and the scientific assets at risk. Supplemental materials that are allowed include NIH summary statements, timelines, progress reports and any other

documentation regarding your NIH award that you believe will support your request to this program. If you have a question about whether something is allowed as a supplement, please email grantsapp@alz.org.

- Scientific Continuity Plan [up to 2 pages]- the science to be sustained during the funding period, the personnel to be retained and their roles, and what is deferred or stopped.
- Transition and Diversification Plan [up to 3 pages]- the target funding structure at 12 months, the specific mechanisms to be pursued, the milestones and dates for each, and the evidence that these are realistic. Letters from prospective co-funders, industry partners or philanthropic sources should be included where they exist.
- Study Operations Plan [2 pages] - only applicable where the award will sustain active data collection, participant contact or biospecimen handling.
- Data Management and Sharing Plan [2 pages]
- References and Citations [1 page]
- Biosketches [5 pages each] for the Principal Investigator and key personnel
- Non-profit documentation: W-9 or W-8-BEN (Note this should be only from the contact PI institution)
- Available Resources and Budget Justification (2 pages). A budget justification is required and must be submitted within the allowable 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.

Personnel and 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 listed. Effort should be listed as a percentage of overall total commitment to research, not as the percentage of salary covered by the grant's budget.

Direct Costs Allowed:

- Salary for the principal investigator(s), scientific and technical staff, and study personnel directly related to the funded initiative, subject to the NIH salary cap; personnel included should only include essential personnel.
- Study operations costs, including participant visits, participant travel and reimbursement, biospecimen collection, processing and storage.
- Core time and support, such as neuropathology, microscopy, husbandry and sequencing
- Purchase and care of laboratory animals.
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies. Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget.
- Data sharing and data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data.
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection, with prior approval.
- Publication costs.
- Travel necessary to carry out the funded work, including site visits.
- Childcare costs provided by a licensed childcare provider, up to \$2,500 per budget period

Direct Costs Not Allowed:

- Indirect costs of any kind, including institutional overheads associated with staff time
- Computer hardware or standard software.
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR machines and imaging equipment.
- Service contract fees of equipment.
- Construction or renovation costs.
- Tuition.
- Rent for laboratory or office space.
- Visa costs and fees.

- General liability insurances.
- Wire and currency exchange fees.
- The Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG), 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; they are not allowed to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found at alz.org/grants.
- The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to decline any charge that is an institutional fee or service charge.

Application Review Criteria and Process

All applications are subject to a multiple-stage peer-review process carried out with an online system. This multi-stage process is central to the Alzheimer's Association's award decisions and is designed to ensure both scientific rigor and fairness in the review of all submitted applications.

In the first stage, applications are reviewed and rated by peer scientists with expertise in the proposed area of research. Applicants may include recommended reviewers and have the option to exclude specific reviewers from evaluating their application if a conflict of interest exists.

Conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to:

- The applicant trained with or by the reviewer.
- The reviewer published with the applicant in the last four years. This excludes workshop or large consortia participation.
- The reviewer has been a co-investigator on a grant application or award with the applicant in the last four years.
- The reviewer has a conceptual difference of opinion with the applicant that will prevent a fair review.
- The reviewer will receive financial benefit from the applicant receiving an award.

Because this program funds established large-scale initiatives, the pool of qualified reviewers may overlap substantially with the pool of applicants.

The pre-submission queries will be reviewed by Alzheimer's Association staff scientists. For applications invited to submit, the next tier of review will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Scientific importance of the initiative, including the value and irreplaceability of the cohorts, datasets, biospecimens and infrastructure at risk
- Urgency and credibility of the transition risk, including the timing of the funding gap and the consequences of no action
- Feasibility of the proposed diversification plan, including whether the target funding structure is achievable within 12 months and whether the named mechanisms and partners are realistic
- Appropriateness of the personnel retention plan to the science being sustained
- Quality and adequacy of available resources and the budget relative to the scale of the initiative
- Field-level impact of sustaining, or of losing, the initiative

The next tier of review will be an evaluation of the review by Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) to make a final recommendation for each submitted application to ensure alignment with the Alzheimer's Association's program and mission across the full scope of its objectives, as well as the proposed initiative. Final recommendations are then shared with the Alzheimer's Association for funding.

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

Appeals will not be considered.

Reporting Requirements, if Funded

For funded awards through this program, there will be required scientific and financial reporting at bi-annual (6 month) intervals. An Interim Scientific and Financial Report must be submitted at the midpoint of the award period. Final Scientific and 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 and Contracts Office at the recipient's institution.

Because the purpose of this program is to fund a transition, the Final Report must also describe the funding structure the initiative has reached at the end of the award period, the status of each mechanism identified in the Transition and Diversification Plan, and the current status of the cohorts, datasets and biospecimen collections the award was intended to sustain.

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, Presentations and Publications and Intellectual Property

If awarded, confirmation of ethical approvals will be required for award issue and payments. These approvals must be received within 3 months of award start date.

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.