

Capacity Building in International Dementia Research (CBIDR) Program

Program background and overview

Globally, there are more than 50 million individuals affected by dementia, including Alzheimer's dementia and Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (AD/ADRD). Research infrastructure and capacity are needed to address this global health crisis. The **Alzheimer's Association** and **Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI)** have funded numerous international studies aimed to address multifaceted approaches to cognitive impairment and dementia. This funding has produced results advancing our understanding of cognitive decline in diverse geographical, cultural, and economic settings. Despite this impressive work, investigators need support mechanisms to maintain momentum. For many, this work is completed within research environments that are pieced together and may not always include long-term prioritization of institutions. Once these projects are completed, there may be no further legacy of the work besides scientific presentations and/or publications.

This funding mechanism is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association and GBHI at the University of California, San Francisco. We explicitly target capacity building for scientific investigation within institutions located in Low- and Middle-Income countries (LMIC) where prior research funding has been received, but barriers for sustainability exist.

Potential applicants are encouraged to consider proposals that would fill current gaps in their research infrastructure and enable them to build larger and more sustainable portfolios. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Developing or expanding training programs
- Creating or adapting culturally appropriate research tools
- Collecting normative data
- Engaging in community outreach activities to raise awareness and bolster recruitment
- Supporting personnel who enable sustainable research including statisticians, laboratory managers, technicians, research administrators, and database analysts
- Building research databases
- Arranging for investigators to have protected time for research
- Organizing workshops around specific research skills such as grant writing and statistical methods
- Providing translation and proof-reading services
- Coordinating training and workshops for institutional personnel in topics that bolster research infrastructure, such as grant submission, research administration and laboratory skills

Applications for traditional research studies (e.g., observational or experimental studies) are not appropriate for this program. This mechanism is also not intended to fund construction/renovation of facilities or the purchase of major equipment (above a unit price of USD\$10,000). Those in need of financial support for equipment purchases are encouraged to explore opportunities through programs such as these (<https://seedinglabs.org/>).

It is expected that representatives of the applicant institution (beyond the Project Lead and their team) will participate in both the preparation of the proposal and the proposed work itself. Once invited to submit a full application, those applicants will be expected to conduct a needs assessment that incorporates relevant organizational and community partners, including institutional representatives and non-governmental organizations linked to the community or the institution/ university. This needs assessment should be led by the applicant with advice from key leaders from within the institution and the surrounding environment, as well as from GBHI at UCSF and the Alzheimer's Association. The goal of this assessment is to understand current challenges, identify opportunities, and ensure that proposed strategies are aligned with local and regional priorities. Methods may include surveys, informal interviews and focus groups that collect input from participants at all levels (e.g., students, staff, faculty, institutional officials, community partners, local government representatives). The assessment should result in outcomes that confirm local support for the proposed work and outline a clear plan for implementation. Further guidance on this process will be provided as described below.

Funding and award period

Budgets should reflect the actual needs of the proposed work and should typically not exceed \$250,000 in total costs (direct + indirect) per year with a total cost for all years not to exceed \$1,000,000. The award duration should be aligned with the scope of the proposal with a minimum duration of three years and a maximum duration of five years with evidence of sustainability built into later years. Annual disbursement of funds is not guaranteed and will be dependent on demonstrated progress toward pre-defined milestones.

Eligibility criteria

- This opportunity is currently open to institutions/organizations in LMIC. A full list of eligible countries can be found [here](#).
- The Project Lead must be a full-time faculty member or full-time paid employee of the organization submitting the proposal. There are no specific degree requirements. It is expected that for applications from more senior level faculty that there is a plan to engage and develop junior faculty members through this support.
- The Project Lead or other key personnel at the institution/organization must have active or recently completed research funding upon which this proposal builds.
- Investigators who have previously received Alzheimer's Association funding and are currently delinquent in submitting required reports or have awards closed as "Incomplete" or "early termination" are not eligible to apply.

Key dates

Letter of Intent Launch	March 16, 2026
Letter of Intent Deadline*	June 3, 2026, 5:00 PM EST/USA
Letter of Intent Notifications	Week of June 29, 2026
Application Deadline*	September 2, 2026, 5:00 PM EST/USA
Application Review	September - November 2026
Award Notifications	By December 30, 2026
Start date of Award	Award can have a start as early as January 1, 2027

***The Letter of Intent and application must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME on their respective deadlines.** They will not be accepted after these dates -- no exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

Submission process

Interested applicants should submit a letter of intent through ProposalCentral using the provided template.

The letter of intent should include:

- Project Summary (limited to 7,000 characters including spaces):
 - Description of institutional/organization environment
 - Overview of research success to date, including description of funding received
 - Outline of proposed work
- List of individuals who will be engaged, including titles, institutional/organizational affiliations, and proposed roles
- Biosketch of the Project Lead (s)
- Proposed total budget amount (direct + indirect costs; indirect costs are restricted to no more than 10% of direct costs)

- W8 Documentation for the applicant organization

Letters of intent that meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed by the program committee and evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Availability of research funding on which this proposal will build
- Feasibility of the proposed work in the institutional/organizational environment
- Potential impact of the proposal on the applicant's ability to secure future research funding
- Qualifications of the proposed team, including demonstrated commitment to collaboration

The program committee consists of representatives from the Alzheimer's Association and GBHI at UCSF, including research and clinical experts as invited by the funding partners. Following this review, applicants will receive additional information regarding next steps. Should a project be invited for full submission, the Project Lead will receive additional instructions and timeline for a full application.

Each proposal invited to submit a full application will be invited to attend a webinar to learn more about the needs assessment, engagement of local partners, and development of the full application.

The full application will include:

- **Background:** A description of the institutional/organizational environment, research success to date, and identified gaps. Should include an overview of the needs assessment process and results, including how these findings informed the final proposal. (2 pages)
- **Milestones:** Clearly defined annual milestones. Examples of milestones may include workshops held, personnel engaged, systems developed, new programs established, new and fortified collaborations, publications, independent research dollars raised. (use template)
- **Workplan:** Detailed outline of the proposed work including reference to the annual milestones and appropriate methods to measure these milestones. Should include a timeline and a description of individuals who will participate in the proposed work, detailing specific roles and responsibilities. (5 pages)
- **References:** A list of references cited should be provided. There is no required reference style. (1 page)
- **Letters of support:** Letters of support from key partners and local leaders should be included. These should detail how these individuals will be engaged and describe any financial or in-kind support committed to the project. At least one letter demonstrating and outlining the commitment of the institution must be included. (no more than three letters; maximum 2 pages each)
- **CVs/Biosketches:** A CV or Biosketch for the Project Lead and each key individual who will participate in the proposed work should be provided. (no more than 5 pages each)
- **Budget:** A detailed budget broken down by year and aligned with the annual milestones should be provided. (use template)

- **Budget Justification:** The budget should be accompanied by a justification describing each of the proposed costs, including rationale for proposed level of effort for personnel (2 pages)
- **W9/W8 Documentation** (use form)

A review committee will be assembled to evaluate each full application received. Applications will be reviewed and selected for funding based on the following criteria:

- How well does the applicant describe the current gaps and how appropriate are the proposed activities to address these gaps? Is the focus on capacity building rather than primary research? (25%)
- Does the application clearly set expectations for impact in successfully gaining future research funding from traditional sources? (35%)
- Does the application demonstrate a commitment to the proposal by the host institution? (25%)
- Does the application demonstrate a commitment to collaborative research? (15%)

Multiple and overlapping submissions

Multiple submissions from one applicant are not permitted. This includes multiple submissions from the same group and/or collaborators.

Allowable costs

Allowable costs under this award include but are not limited to:

- Salary support for the Project Lead and other personnel engaged in the proposed work
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies (up to a unit price of USD\$10,000)
- Computer hardware and software
- Tuition & fees for trainees
- Research supplies & participant related costs
- Limited support for travel related to the proposed work
- Indirect costs are allowed at a rate of 10% of direct costs; indirect costs may be used to cover any expenses necessary from the costs not allowed, including wire and currency fees

Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Construction or renovation costs.
- Rent for laboratory/office space.
- Major equipment (unit price over USD\$10,000).
- Wire and currency exchange fees.
- 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.

Ethical/regulatory assurances

Although unlikely for this program, the Alzheimer's Association and GBHI at UCSF note that applications that include any research and/or related infrastructure for animal or human participant research must also provide appropriate assurances and ethical considerations. Any applicable animal welfare and human participant approvals are not required at the time of application. Project Leads have until their chosen start date to submit these documents provided the start date is within 6 months from award notification. However, GBHI at UCSF and the Alzheimer's Association encourage Project Leads to initiate their certification applications on a schedule that recognizes that ethical approval(s) at many institutions can take more than 90 days. Certifications must apply specifically to the funded project and must include the name of the awardee.

Additional notes to applicants

The Alzheimer's Association and GBHI at UCSF note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure and verify that:

- The application is correctly submitted. Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from proposalcentral.com 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.
- The application is complete and accurate before submission. Only a single copy of an application will be accepted. We do not require signatures at the time of submission. The signature page provided is for use should your institution/organization require signatures; we do not override any institutional policies and/or procedures. Please do not submit the signature page with your application.
- Only the documents described above are submitted. Revisions, additional materials, and/or reference manuscripts, appendices, etc., are not allowed and, if attached, will be removed from your application.

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 will not be considered for the letter of intent stage. 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 Associations grant 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 may send a two-page, double-spaced formal letter of appeal (Word document) to grantsappeals@alz.org. Any supporting documents included must be submitted as a PDF. Appeals must be submitted within two weeks 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.

Reporting Requirements, if Funded:

For funded awards through this program, there will be required milestone annual update, scientific and financial reporting. Interim Scientific, Milestone Annual Updates & 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.

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 6 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. 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.

Any questions regarding applications should be directed to grantsapp@alz.org. The CBIDR program is funded through a partnership of the Alzheimer's Association and GBHI at UCSF.