Introduction
The Autism Science Foundation invites applications for its new COVID-19 Pivot Grant Program. This funding is intended to help researchers manage changes in research projects due to the COVID-19 emergency.

The funding will not fully support a project, but rather is meant to help support new costs encountered due to adaptations or modifications to an original research plan due to the current shutdown across research institutions.

While there are no restrictions on the level of seniority of applicants or scope of the project, priority will be given to pilot or feasibility grants that were in process as well as investigators who are early career investigators. Early career investigators are those from pre-doctoral training to 7 years after completion of a postdoctoral fellowship.

ASF intends this to be a fast-turnaround mechanism and to support multiple calls for awards this year. During this first round, we are limiting awards to those with established university or research institution affiliation.

Awards
The Autism Science Foundation will make a number of Awards determined by its available financial resources. The term of the award cannot exceed the IRB approval period or the changes approved by the IRB for the alterations to the research plan.

Grants of up to $3000 are available for a 6-month term to help researchers conform to current restrictions due to the COVID-19 emergency. All changes in protocol to the initial project must have prior IRB approval, if applicable. Changes to animal care protocols must be approved by the appropriate review boards at your research institution. If you have applied for IRB approval but have not received it yet, you are not eligible at this time. No portion of these funds shall be used to cover indirect university costs.

Be creative in your use of these funds! Some examples of how funds can be used are:

1. Honorariums associated with participant retention in research;
2. Costs of new biological agents or preparations proposed to either pivot or readjust the research plan;
3. Direct storage costs of biological agents to preserve previously acquired
samples;
4. Costs of technological platforms or technological tools to collect data from families remotely;
5. Costs associated with making various materials available to families or to other researchers which were not intended in the original proposal. These can include infrastructure to support sharing or dissemination expenses.

Proposal Preparation

- **Cover Page**
  - The cover page should include the following information:
    - Full name and contact information of the applicant
    - University where research will occur
    - Current grant name, scope and number
    - Current funding source
    - Amount of funding requested

- **Application**
  - A maximum of 3 pages written in 12-point Arial font with margins of 0.5 inch or greater.
  - **In bold, describe in 2-3 sentences how this pivot award will help offset additional costs incurred by the COVID-19 emergency.** Your application should start with this brief, succinct rationale of why you need the funds. The rest of the application space should be used to expand upon this summary.
  - The application should include a brief background of the research project, expected aims, challenges posed by the current emergency, and a strong rationale of the change in research plan. In addition, provide information around any outside expertise obtained to make decisions on how the plan was changed. In other words: what were you going to do, why, what are you doing differently, how, and who helped you decide what to do? Indicate the exact dollar amount you are applying for and specify exactly how the funds will be spent.

- **References**
  - A maximum of 1 page written in 12-point Arial font with margins of 0.5 inch or greater.

- **Biosketch of Applicant**

- **Original grant proposal and budget**

Applications should be submitted as one PDF bundle. Applicant’s last name and page number should appear on the bottom right of each page.

**Additional requirement for pre- and post-doctoral fellows:**
Pre-and post-doctoral fellows applying for this mechanism should include a letter from their mentor ensuring that they will receive the proper support for the project and that they agree with the changes in direction or adaptations that have been proposed.

Letters of support/recommendation should NOT be included in the application bundle and must come directly from the email of the mentor.
Submission of Proposals

Applications should be submitted as one PDF and be ordered as follows:

1. Cover page – 1 page
2. Proposal – up to 3 pages
3. References – 1 page
4. Biosketch of applicant
5. Original grant proposal and budget.

Proposals should be submitted to grants@autismsciencefoundation.org with the subject line: (Last Name of Applicant/Institution/Pivot Grant Application).

Example: Martin/Tulane/Pivot Grant Application

Letters of support (when applicable) go to grants@autismsciencefoundation.org with the subject line: (Last Name of Applicant/Institution/LOS/Pivot).

Example: Martin/Tulane/LOS/Pivot

*Reminder, letters of support must come directly from mentors/recommenders*

Successful electronic submission will be confirmed by email notification to the sender.

- Applications are due May 10, 2020 by 5:00 pm EST. Any applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed.

- We expect to notify applicants by June 1, 2020 and the grant can start no later than June 20, 2020.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the proposal complies with the conditions prescribed in the RFA. Autism Science Foundation reserves the right to return without review any proposal found not to be in compliance with the conditions prescribed on the RFA, or any proposal that is not responsive to its research goals or exceeds its funding limits or available resources, at any time during the application and review process.

The Autism Science Foundation reserves the right to make changes to this RFA at any time. Changes will be posted at www.autismsciencefoundation.org/ApplyForaGrant.html. We advise applicants to check this website frequently.

Payment of Awards

We will issue a contract to the investigator’s sponsoring institution and make a single payment of the full amount.

Because of the fast turnaround, ASF has limited time to negotiate with universities on the content and terms of the grant. A sample contract has been posted on our website and applicants should know that if a university cannot agree in spirit to the grant contract or provide adequate turnaround, the funds will not be released.

Awardees must submit a brief written report to the Autism Science Foundation at the conclusion of the award, documenting the status of the research funded and detailing
the use of funds. A form will be provided by ASF for this purpose. Past forms can be found on [http://autismsciencefoundation.org/what-we-fund/resources-for-grantees/](http://autismsciencefoundation.org/what-we-fund/resources-for-grantees/)

Questions about proposal submission, proposal content and review, or applicant eligibility should be addressed to Casey Gold-Casey, Director of Operations, Autism Science Foundation. (cgold@autismsciencefoundation.org)