



Request for Applications: 2020 COVID-19 PIVOT GRANTS (2nd Round)

RFA Released: June 3, 2020
Applications Due: July 15, 2020 5:00 PM EST

Introduction

The Autism Science Foundation invites applications for a second round of the 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 is not intended to support costs relating to an ongoing project, but should be used to help support new costs encountered due to adaptations or modifications to an original research plan as a result of social distancing measures and/or the current shutdown across research institutions.

The current RFA is limited to scientists early in their career with an established university or research institution affiliation. Early career investigators are defined by ASF as those from pre-doctoral training to up to 7 years after completion of a postdoctoral fellowship or following medical training including the internship and fellowship. Pre and post-doctoral fellows are required to ensure that a letter of support is sent to ASF from their mentor or PI on the existing grant.

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 or model systems;

4. Costs of technological platforms or technological tools to collect data from families remotely;
5. Costs associated with making various materials or technology 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;
6. Funding for temporary child care expenses (up to \$500) to enable parents to focus on research.

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 3-4 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 research plan 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. Scientific 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 July 15, 2020 by 5:00 pm EST. Any applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed.**
- **We expect to notify applicants by August 5, 2020 and the grant can start no later than September 1, 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. Check <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/what-we-fund/funding-calendar/> for any updates. 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/>

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)