



Autism Science Foundation

searching. solving. sharing.

Request for Applications: 2023 Suzanne Wright Memorial Research Accelerator Grants

RFA Released: **April 20, 2023**
Applications Due: **June 21, 2023 5:00 PM ET**

Introduction

The Autism Science Foundation invites applications for its Suzanne Wright Research Accelerator Grants. These grants are designed to reasonably expand the scope, speed the progress, increase the efficiency or improve final product dissemination of active autism research grants. This mechanism is also meant to allow creative use of existing data that has not previously been analyzed to ask a question relevant to autism research. ***The funding is not meant to fully support a project, but to leverage existing resources to accelerate the discovery of research findings.*** Projects that do not fit the goal of the mechanism or that do not adhere to the proposal preparation instructions will be returned without review.

We invite proposals from all areas of autism research, but are especially interested in proposals that address profound autism. We specifically invite researchers from universities that have not received funding from ASF before, including HBCUs.

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 on the underlying or primary grant.

Grants of up to \$7,500 US dollars are available to enhance, expand and enrich grants currently funded by other sources (including ASF). Staff salary may be covered by this award. All projects must have prior IRB approval. No portion of these funds shall be used to cover indirect university costs.

Be creative in your use of these funds. Check our website for examples of the types of projects we fund with these grants. We will accept accelerator grants in any area of research, but are particularly interested in studies of profound autism.

Eligibility

Applicants eligible for this grant include:

- Postdoctoral fellows who are at least one full year (12 months) into their postdoc by the time of application. (Note: postdoctoral fellows will be required to have a letter of recommendation submitted on their behalf)
- Individuals who hold the title of assistant professor or higher.

ASF funds internationally. U.S. citizens enrolled in universities inside or outside of the United States are eligible to apply. Non-U.S. citizens enrolled in universities based inside or outside of the U.S. are also eligible to apply.

Proposal Preparation

This year, submissions will be managed using the Reviewr software platform. Please see the *proposal submission* section of this RFA to familiarize yourself with how to use Reviewr to submit the following required information and materials.

Basic information and budget

- Full name, current and permanent email address, degree held, position/title, demographic information (race/ethnicity), and affiliation of the proposed PI of the accelerator grant
- Full name and contact information of the PI of the parent grant (if applicable)
- The current grant name, scope of current funding, grant number, and funding source
- Describe in 2-3 sentences how the accelerator funds will enrich and accelerate the current or primary project
- Indicate the exact dollar amount you are applying for and specify exactly how the funds will be spent

Research proposal and references

- Use 12 point Arial font, with 1.5 spacing and margins of 0.5 inch or greater.
- No longer than 5 pages - up to 4 pages for the research proposal plus a maximum of one page for references
- The proposal should clearly state the existing research question, what problem or question will be addressed with accelerator funds, how the proposed study builds upon, expands, or enhances a currently funded research project, and what knowledge will be generated as a result of the accelerator funding.

Biosketch

- Include the NIH biosketch for the proposed PI of the accelerator grant

Letter of commitment or recommendation (only if applicable)

- If the PI of the accelerator is not the PI of the parent grant, you are required to include a letter of commitment from the PI of the parent grant acknowledging use of data or resources
- Postdoctoral fellows applying for an accelerator grant must submit a letter of recommendation
- Tenured academic appointees and others should NOT submit letters of recommendation

Proposal Submission

Applicants will submit applications using the Reviewr submission management platform. Go to <https://my.reviewr.com/site/ASF/accelerator> to create a Reviewr account (or log in to an existing account), and continue to the online application form.

The basic information and budget will be entered directly into the submission form as text. **We strongly encourage applicants to write and edit within a word document and copy-paste into the Reviewr form. This will minimize loss in the event of any technical difficulties with the platform.** The research proposal, biosketch, and letter of commitment (if applicable) must be uploaded in .pdf format.

Letters of recommendation (***applicable to postdoctoral fellows only***) will be requested from the recommender directly from Reviewr. Applicants will need to provide the recommender's contact information which will prompt an email to the recommender with a link where they can upload their letter as a .pdf. Please note that all fields must be completed in order to submit the request for your letter of recommendation. This means do NOT wait until the last minute to apply. Recommendation letters and applications have the same due date of June 21, 2023 at 5:00PM ET. *Please alert the person that will be submitting your letter that they will be receiving an email from "grants@autismsciencefoundation.org" and ask them to check their junk mail/spam folders if they do not receive the request.*

When you are finished with your application, be sure to hit 'save and submit' not 'save and exit'.

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

Applicants are able to save, continue, and modify the contents of their proposal on Reviewr at any time before the submission period closes. Video tutorials and Frequently Asked Questions regarding the use of Reviewr [can be found here](#).

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 on the website. We advise applicants to check this link frequently: <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/apply-for-a-research-accelerator-grant/>

Award Notification and Start Dates

Award notifications will be made in August 2023. We expect the grants offices will have signed off on the contract and the project to begin no later than December 1, 2023. If the grants office has significant delays in signing off on the contract, we have the right to rescind the offer.

Payment of Awards

Upon notification of award, we will require a copy of the underlying project's IRB approval letter. Upon receipt of the IRB letter by ASF, we will issue a contract to the investigator's sponsoring institution and make a single payment of the full amount.

Please note, sponsoring institutions must accept the contract as presented and may not request any changes. The goal of this mechanism is to accelerate existing projects and so that the funds can be disbursed as quickly as possible, ASF will not be engaging in contract negotiations. Those considering an application should send the sample contract to their grants office to ensure the institution will be able to agree to the terms. A sample contract can be found at <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Sample-ASF-Grant-Contract.pdf>.

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. The format for this form will be provided by ASF. All forms can be found at <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/grantee-resources/>

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)