



EXTRAMURAL DISCOVERY SCIENCE (EDS) ACCELERATOR AWARD POLICIES

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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.
Extramural Discovery Science Department
Web site: <http://www.cancer.org>

MISSION

The **American Cancer Society's** mission is to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE EDS ACCELERATOR AWARD

The intent of the EDS Accelerator Award is to support the commercialization of an ongoing cancer research project and to validate and de-risk technologies. Proposals should address key experiments required to move findings toward commercialization, that do not easily fit into traditional funding mechanisms. This mechanism is not designed to initiate new projects or develop new directions for an ongoing project. The proposal should be commercially driven with the PI having a plan to license the technology, either to an established company or a start-up if the experiment(s) are successful.

2. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be independent researchers and have a full-time faculty appointment (or equivalent), at an eligible US institution. Applicants may be at any career stage.
- Applicants must be motivated to commercialize their technology.

Note: In 2025, the requirement that applicants be current or former ACS grantees or fellows was eliminated.

The Society allows only one individual to be designated as principal investigator, responsible and accountable for the overall conduct of the project (i.e., no co-principal investigators, unless explicitly stated in the Policies for that grant mechanism).

Applicants may apply for multiple ACS awards, but the scientific scope of the proposed projects must be different. Accelerator grantees may hold the award concurrently with other ACS funding but cannot apply for or hold multiple Accelerator Awards concurrently.

The ACS does not fund projects that overlap with other funded projects. Projects are considered to overlap if there are any shared *Specific Aims or areas of the budget*. Scientific Directors make final decisions regarding any questions of overlap.

The only exceptions are:

- Funds provided by the institution as start-up support to develop a new laboratory; and
- Awards that provide only salary support for the Principal Investigator. In the latter case, if the salary support for the PI's contribution to the project is covered by the other agency, no additional salary support for the PI may be requested from the American Cancer Society.

3. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Society's grants and awards are made to not-for-profit institutions physically located within the US and its territories. Eligible institutions should be able to provide:

- A current letter from the Internal Revenue Service conferring nonprofit status;
- Evidence of an active research program with a track record of extramural funding and publications in peer reviewed journals; and
- Documentation of appropriate resources and infrastructure to support the proposed research. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Adequate facilities and services;
 - Fiscal and grants management infrastructure to ensure compliance with ACS policies, and with federal policies regarding protections for human and animal subjects (e.g., a sponsored-projects office or a contract with an IRB or IACUC);
 - A process for appointment and promotion equivalent to those in academic settings for staff scientists for grant mechanisms limited to early career researchers; and

- Evidence of education, training, and mentoring for fellows and early stage researchers if appropriate for the grant mechanism.

Grants may include subcontracts with secondary institutions. Subcontracts for the research project may be with public or private institutions, provided they do not violate ACS policies. Subcontracts involving a contractor residing outside the borders of the United States are not permitted, unless the applicant can document that it is not feasible to have the work performed within the United States.

Grant applications will not be accepted, nor will grants be made, for research conducted at:

- For-profit institutions;
- Federal government agencies (including the National Laboratories);
- Organizations supported entirely by the federal government (except postdoctoral fellowship applications);
- Organizations that primarily benefit federal government entities, such as foundations operated by or for the benefit of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC). However, qualified academic institutions may submit applications on behalf of a VAMC if a Dean's Committee Memorandum of Affiliation is in effect between the 2 institutions.

The American Cancer Society does not assume responsibility for the conduct of the activities that the grant supports, or for the acts of the grant recipient, because both are under the direction and control of the grantee institution and subject to its medical and scientific policies. The institution of the PI is responsible for the accuracy, validity, and conformity with the most current institutional guidelines for all administrative, fiscal, and scientific information in the application.

Every grantee institution must safeguard the rights and welfare of individuals who participate as subjects in research activities by reviewing proposed activities through an institutional review board (IRB), as specified by the National Institutes of Health Office for Human Research Protections of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Furthermore, applicants, applicant institutions, and grantee institutions must adhere to DHHS guidelines as well as ACS guidelines regarding conflicts of interest, recombinant DNA, scientific misconduct, and all other applicable ACS policies and procedures.

To signify agreement with all ACS policies and procedures, an application for a grant must bear the e-signature of the principal investigator. Space is provided for e-signatures for the departmental chair (or equivalent) and institutional official to accommodate institution-specific requirements for proposal submissions, but neither are required for submission to ACS. Note: the PI must enable other users' access to the application on ProposalCentral to permit their e-signatures.

Once a grant is awarded, an institutional official signature's is required signifying institutional agreement with all ACS policies and procedures. The institution is responsible for verifying that all documentation related to the grant is correct, including all representations made by any named researcher (e.g., position or title). Further, the institution is responsible for verifying that the grantee is either a US citizen, a permanent resident with a Resident Alien Card ("Green Card") where applicable, or a non-citizen with required US government visa status. If the award does not require US citizenship or permanent residency, the institution is responsible for documenting the grantee's legal eligibility to work in the US for the duration of the award.

The institution is required to ensure IRB approval is obtained for the grant to start, and the approval documentation is uploaded into ProposalCentral within 3 months of grant activation.

Furthermore, IACUC approval must be obtained before animal work begins. An IACUC approval letter must be uploaded to ProposalCentral within 3 months of grant activation.

It is the responsibility of the institution to immediately report to ACS any finding that any information presented to ACS in connection with the application and/or grant is false. It is also the responsibility of the institution to immediately report to ACS any action including recertification, loss of certification, breach of contract, misconduct, or change in employment status for a named researcher with the institution. This includes administrative leave, which may occur during the term of any award, pertinent to the work described in the grant application.

Failure to abide by the terms above, or by any other ACS policy or procedure, may result in suspension or cancellation of the grant, at the sole discretion of ACS.

By accepting an American Cancer Society award, you agree to the Guidelines for Maintaining Research and Peer Review Integrity found in the Appendix of these policies.

4. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications may be submitted on a rolling basis. Once an application is started in ProposalCentral, the applicant will have 1 month to submit the application before it expires. Applicants may start a new application if an application expires.

5. REVIEW OF ACCELERATOR AWARDS

Accelerator award proposals will be reviewed by the Scientific Program Offices and BrightEdge for merit, technical appropriateness, potential impact, and commercialization plan. Applicants will be informed of a decision (approval, contingent, or rejection) within a 12-month period. If a high-scoring application is not funded initially after review, the proposal may be given contingent status, and it may be funded at a later date, pending availability of funds. The program office will communicate this with the applicant.

Accelerator Award applications cannot be resubmitted, unless requested by the ACS.

6. BUDGET AND TERM

Applicants can request up to \$75,000. Indirect costs cannot be claimed. Awards are for 1-year.

7. GRANT MANAGEMENT AND PAYMENT

New grantees will receive a packet of information with instructions for activating the award. The activation form as well as other important information about the grant can also be found at <https://proposalcentral.com/> (select the Award tab to see the Post Award Management site). The activation form must be submitted before the grant can be activated and payments can be processed.

Grant payments will be made at the end of each month. The ACS makes all payments to the sponsoring institution via electronic funds transfer or via a mailed check depending on the preference selected on the grant activation form.

Acknowledgement of payment by the sponsoring institution is not required. Continued funding by ACS throughout the grant period is contingent upon the institution's compliance with all terms related to the grant; failure to comply with all of the grant terms may result in a suspension or cancellation of the grant, to be determined by ACS at its sole discretion.

Personnel compensated in whole or in part with funds from the ACS are not employees of the Society. Consequently, institutions are responsible for issuing appropriate IRS tax filings for all

individuals receiving compensation from ACS grants, and for withholding and paying all required federal, state, and local payroll taxes for such compensation. Any tax consequences are the responsibility of the individual recipient and the sponsoring institution. We advise all grant and award recipients to consult a tax advisor regarding the status of their awards.

8. PROGRESS REPORTING

All progress reporting forms are available at <https://proposalcentral.com/> under the “Deliverables” tab.

- The PI institution’s Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) is required to submit an intellectual property report.
- A final progress report is due within 60 days after the grant has terminated. The report should include information about the licensing status of the technology. The final report should cover the entire grant period. In the event a grant is extended without additional funds or is terminated early, the final report is due 60 days after the new termination date of the grant.
- In addition to a final progress report, at the end of the project period grantees are encouraged to meet with the ACS BrightEdge team to discuss the next steps of the project and commercialization.
- Grantees must submit reports in a timely manner. If this is not possible, a grantee must make a written request to extend the reporting deadline. Noncompliance may result in the withholding of payment on all grants in effect at the recipient institution until reports are received.
- Please note that up-to-date annual reports are required when requesting any grant modifications, including institutional transfers or no-cost extensions.

9. FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REPORTING

A report of expenditures must be submitted within 90 days of the grant’s expiration date shown in the award letter; annual financial reports are not required. Any change in terms, such as a no-cost extension, will alter a report’s due date. The necessary forms can be found under the “Deliverables” tab at <https://proposalcentral.com/>.

Signatures of the principal investigator and the institution’s financial officer are required. Any unexpended funds must be returned to the Society.

Grantees must submit financial reports in a timely manner. If this is not possible, a grantee must make a written request to extend the reporting deadline. Noncompliance may result in the withholding of payment on all grants in effect at the recipient institution until reports are received.

Institutions must maintain separate accounts for each grant, with substantiating invoices available for audit by representatives of the ACS. The Society is not responsible for expenditures made prior to the start date of the grant, costs incurred after termination or cancellation of the grant, costs incurred after the last date at the current institution, in the event of a transfer and, commitments against a grant not paid within 60 days following the expiration date, or any expenditures that exceed the total amount of the award. (See also Section 19, “Cancellation.”)

10. EXPENDITURES

American Cancer Society research grants are not designed to cover the total cost of the research proposed or the investigator's entire compensation. The grantee's institution is expected to

provide the required physical facilities and administrative services normally available at an institution.

It is the recommendation of the Society not to exceed the accumulated monthly installments of the grant. In the event of a cancellation or transfer, the institution is only entitled to the prorated amount of the award accumulated between the start and end dates (See Section 19, Cancellation and Transfer of Grant).

The Society's **research grants** do NOT provide funds (direct budget) for such items as:

- **Administrative**
 - Administrative salaries not specifically related to the research project
 - Membership dues
- **Tuition, books, and fees**
 - Student tuition and fees (graduate or undergraduate).
 - Books and periodicals
- **Office or laboratory setup and expenses**
 - Office and laboratory furniture
 - Office equipment and supplies
 - Rental of office or laboratory space
 - Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings or laboratories
- **Other**
 - Recruiting and relocation expenses
 - Non-medical services to patients (travel to a clinical site or patient incentives are allowable expenses)

Society research grant funds may be used for computers for research purposes, which can be purchased with direct funds from the equipment budget.

11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

As a not-for-profit organization supported by public contributions, the Society wishes to adopt policies and practices that enhance the likelihood that potentially beneficial discoveries and inventions will be exploited to the benefit of humankind. It is the desire of the Society that such inventions be administered in such a manner that they are brought into public use at the earliest possible time. The Society recognizes that often this may be best accomplished through patenting and/or licensing of such inventions. Accordingly, the Society has adopted the following patent policy that is binding on all Grantees and not-for-profit Grantee Institutions (hereinafter "Grantee"), excluding postdoctoral fellowship Grantees at the National Institutes of Health and other government laboratories, for whom the applicable patent policies of the federal government shall apply. To the extent the Grantee Institution's own policies permit individual investigators to own any right, title or interest in any Funded Invention, the Grantee Institution shall ensure that each Investigator complies with the provisions of these terms and conditions with respect to such Funded Invention.

Acceptance of a Grant from the Society constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of this policy. In the event of any conflict between this policy and the Grantee's policy, the terms and conditions of this policy shall govern.

- A. All notices required pursuant to this policy shall be in writing, and in this policy, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth below.

- i. "Invention" shall mean any potentially patentable discovery, material, method, process, product, program, software or use.
 - ii. "Funded Invention" shall mean any Invention made in the course of research funded in whole or in part by a Society Grant.
 - iii. "Gross Income" shall mean gross royalty income received by Grantee in respect of a Funded Invention inclusive of income from a single sale of the Funded Invention, less a total of \$25,000 towards United States patent filing fees and an additional \$25,000 USD for international patent filing fees.
 - iv. "ACS Award" shall mean the total monetary amount of the Grant provided to the Grantee.
- B. The Grantee technology transfer officer shall provide the Society with an annual report for each Funded Invention. The annual report will be due by January 31 of each calendar year after an ACS Grant Award has been received. The annual report shall include a listing or description of the following information for each Funded Invention: (1) all issued patents and pending patent applications, (2) all licenses, leases, or other revenue generating agreements, (3) all gross revenue for each preceding calendar year, (4) the filing, publication and issuance or grant of any application for a patent or other statutory right for a Funded Invention, and (5) the latest stage of development of any product arising from each Funded Invention.

Grantee shall pay all costs and expenses incident to all applications for patents or other statutory rights and all patents and other statutory rights that issue thereon owned by Grantee (other than patent filing fees as provided for in Section A).

- C. Both the Society and Grantee, (the appropriate Grantee technology transfer officer managing Funded Invention), shall promptly inform the other of any suspected infringement of any patent covering a Funded Invention and of any misappropriation, misuse, theft or breach of confidence relating to other proprietary rights in a Funded Invention. Grantee and Society will discuss in good faith further action to be taken in this regard.
- D. Grantee will license a Funded Invention in accordance with Grantee Policy and established practices.
- E. The Society waives the receipt of income until the Gross Income from the Funded Invention exceeds \$500,000.

Once the Gross Income from a Funded Invention exceeds \$500,000, Grantee shall pay the Society annually 5% of Gross Income. Such payment shall be accompanied by an appropriate statement of account. The income to the ACS from Grants other than Mission Boost Grants will not exceed four (4) times the amount of the total ACS Award. The income to the ACS from Mission Boost Grants will not exceed ten (10) times the amount of the total Mission Boost Award.

Payments shall be made on an annual basis by January 31, the year after the year that Income was received. Should Grantee not be able to make a payment by January 31 for any calendar year in which income was received, Grantee shall inform the Society at least seven days prior to missing a payment. Grantee shall have a grace period of 90 days to make the missed payment. Failure to make payments after the 90-day grace period will

be deemed a breach of this agreement. The Society shall have the right to audit, at the Society's expense, the Grantee's books and records annually.

The term of this Agreement shall extend until the expiration of the last to expire patent in any jurisdiction that covers the Funded Invention, or three years past decline of revenue to \$0, or once the cap has been met.

F. Development and Commercialization of Funded Invention

The Society wishes to support and accelerate the commercialization and deployment of the results from Grantee's research. To help Grantee bring its Funded Invention to market as quickly as possible, Grantee shall inform The Society if Grantee decides to commercialize or seek investment in any Funded Invention. The Society requests that the Grantee offer The Society an opportunity to fund, facilitate, invest, or otherwise participate in such commercialization efforts via ACS BrightEdge, its impact venture capital fund (<https://www.acsbrightedge.org/>).

12. PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER GRANT-RELATED COMMUNICATIONS

When and how to acknowledge your ACS grant:

Publications resulting from research or training activities supported by the American Cancer Society must contain the following acknowledgment: "Supported by [grant number and DOI number] from the American Cancer Society." When there are multiple sources of support, the acknowledgment should read "Supported in part by [grant number and DOI number] from the American Cancer Society," along with references to other funding sources.

ACS's support should also be acknowledged by the grantee and the institution in all public communication of work resulting from this grant, including scientific abstracts (where permitted), posters at scientific meetings, press releases or other media communications, and internet-based communications. Grantees are encouraged to notify their scientific program office before public communication of their work so that external communication can be coordinated.

The American Cancer Society Extramural Discovery Science grant award process registers new grants with Crossref and assigns a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number to each. The DOI number will allow tracking and identification of publications, patents, and other work that resulted from this grant award. The DOI link in ProposalCentral is located on the Award Details page. Your Crossref DOI link leads to a page of publicly available information about this grant award. The information on Crossref includes the grant number, the grant amount, the dates of the award, the title of the research project, the names of the investigators, the research institution, and the lay summary for the research.

The American Cancer Society Extramural Discovery Science requests the use of ORCID identifiers during the application and grant award processes. ORCID enables researchers to seamlessly track and share data between their record, funders, publishers, data repositories, and other research workflows. By virtue of accepting an ACS grant, the grant recipient agrees to allow ACS permission to connect with their ORCID ID record.

Although there is no formal ACS approval process for publications by Society grantees, it is helpful to notify your Scientific Director when manuscripts have been accepted for publication. This will allow ample time for additional public or Society-wide notifications. If your institution plans a press release involving any of your Society-supported research, please notify your Scientific Director in advance.

ACS grants to you a limited, revocable, non-transferable license to use the ACS logo (as shown below) in association with your funded work. We encourage you to use it on scientific posters, Power Point presentations, and any other visual presentation about your funded work where the ACS is noted as a funding source. In turn, you agree to provide any materials featuring the ACS logo upon our request.

Permission to use the logo is limited to the uses outlined in the above paragraph. It should not imply ACS endorsement of products such as guidelines, websites, software for mobile devices (apps), tool kits, and so on.



13. GRANT MODIFICATIONS

All Forms can be found under the Deliverables tab at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. Please note that up-to-date annual reports are required prior to approval of any grant modifications including transfers and no-cost extensions. **The ACS reserves the right to deny requests for extensions, leaves of absence, or transfers.**

- **No Cost Extension (NCE)**
An EDS Accelerator grant may be extended without additional funds for up to 6 months. The NCE Request form should be uploaded to the Deliverables tab on ProposalCentral at least 30 days before the end of the grant. The PI will be notified if the NCE is granted. Typically, the total dollar amount that is allowed to be carried over must be equal to or less than 6 months of direct costs. NCEs requested after the grant's expiration date are not allowed.
- **Leave of absence**
Requests for a leave of absence will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If possible, please contact the Scientific Director at least 30 days prior to the proposed beginning of leave.
- **Request to transfer institution**
A grantee who plans to change institutions during the grant period must contact the Scientific Director to initiate the transfer request process.
- **Key Personnel**
Contact your Scientific Director to request modifications to Key Personnel, such as co-investigators and collaborators.

14. CANCELLATION OF GRANT

If a grant is to be canceled prior to the original termination date, contact your Scientific Director and submit the Request for Cancellation form found in the "Deliverables" section at <https://proposalcentral.com>. The ACS may cancel a grant at its sole discretion if the institution fails to comply with the terms and obligations related to the grant. Grantees cannot transfer the award to another PI.

In the event a grant is canceled or transferred, the institution is only entitled to the prorated amount of the award accumulated between the start and termination dates.

Follow Progress Reporting and Financial Reporting policies as described above.

15. ADDITIONAL POLICIES

See the [ACS Standard Grant Policies](#) for guidelines on the following:

- Authority for Making Grants
- Source of Funds
- Tobacco-Industry Funding
- Collaborations with ACS Discovery Scientists
- Appendix A: Guidelines for Maintaining Research and Peer Review Integrity