The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2027 Well-Being in FTD Pilot Grant

RFP release: August 10, 2026

Applications due: October 30, 2026 by 8pm ET

Decision Notifications: February 2027

Grant Start: April 2027

AFTD Pilot Grants provide seed funding to advance innovative research across the full spectrum of FTLD disorders (behavioral variant FTD, primary progressive aphasias, progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal syndrome, and FTD-ALS). Pilot Grants are intended to enable the acquisition of data that will be the basis for follow-on grant applications to other funders.

The Well-Being in FTD Pilot Grant supports research to improve the well-being of persons diagnosed, families, and caregivers and to improve access to equitable, high-quality diagnosis, care, support, and research participation options.

Examples of suitable research topics include *but are not limited to*:

- Development and testing of:
  - Nonpharmacologic interventions to relieve symptoms or improve functionality
  - Interventions to promote caregiver health, well-being, or understanding
  - Interdisciplinary and neuropalliative care approaches as well as other novel strategies for improving clinical care outcomes
  - Strategies for adapting interventions developed in other neurodegenerative disease spaces (such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, or ALS) for use in FTD
  - Interventions to reduce inequity in access to diagnosis, care, or support services
  - Interventions to improve the well-being of research participants and to improve the equity of access to research participation
- Research on social determinants of health in FTD, particularly the factors underlying disparities in access to FTD diagnosis and care
- Health economic and outcomes research focused on FTD

Grant Specifics

- One Well-Being in FTD Pilot Grant will be awarded. The award amount is $110,000 (USD). Up to $10,000 of this amount may be applied to indirect costs.
- The combined allocation for PI salary and benefits should not exceed 10% of the total budget ($11,000 maximum).
- 1-year grant duration.

Eligibility

- The intent of this program is to encourage new research focused on well-being in FTD and enable the acquisition of data that will be the basis for follow-on grant applications to other funders. **Investigators with current or previous substantial funding (e.g., R01), already secured for the proposed topic, or similar efforts in well-being, will likely not be competitive**. Investigators are encouraged to apply who:
    - Are early in their career
    - Or are shifting directions to a new subject area
- The Principal Investigator (PI) submitting the proposal must have a faculty appointment or an equivalent position at a nonprofit/academic research institution.
- Early-career investigators are especially encouraged to apply. Collaborations between senior and early-career investigators are also welcomed.
- Postdoctoral researchers and clinical fellows are not eligible to apply unless they can provide a letter of employment verifying they will begin a faculty position at, or equivalent to, an assistant professor level by the beginning of the funding period in April of 2027. Fellows are instead encouraged to review AFTD's annual Holloway Scholars programs.
- US **and** international researchers are eligible to apply.
  AFTD encourages applications by researchers from underrepresented or historically excluded populations.

Application Procedure

- Detailed instructions for completing the Pilot Grant application can be found on the AFTD website. These instructions include AFTD's policies on resource sharing, data sharing, and the publication of funded research.
- AFTD utilizes an online submission portal, also accessed on the AFTD website. If you are using the portal for the first time, follow the instructions on the portal homepage to create an account and begin the application process. **All Pilot Grant applications must be submitted through the portal by the indicated deadline to be considered for funding**.
- Applications will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD and an external Scientific Review Panel which includes experts across the breadth of eligible research fields. The Research Committee of the AFTD Board of Directors will make final award determinations upon recommendation from the Scientific Review Panel.

Review Criteria

- **Likelihood of the proposed project to significantly advance well-being in FTD**
    - Is the project addressing a specific need in FTD? Is it original and relevant?
    - If successful, is the project likely to make a meaningful impact?
    - Are there indications this work could be scaled up or progressed if seed funding is secured?

- **Quality of investigator, research team, and resources**
    - Does the investigator have the relevant expertise to carry out the work?
    - Do they have a supportive environment to complete the work rigorously?
    - Is this a new direction or early career researcher for whom seed funding would be particularly helpful?

- **Likelihood of the proposed project to be completed and informative**

- Is the research plan feasible and rigorous?
- Is the methodology well-considered, including potential pitfalls?
- Is there strong rationale and/or supporting/preliminary data?

For questions on scientific scope or the review process, contact:
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