

Celebrating the Breakthroughs Shaping the Future of Canine Health. [Meet the 2025 Canine Health Discovery Award Finalists.](http://www.akcchf.org/discoveryoftheyear) (<http://www.akcchf.org/discoveryoftheyear>)



Search

(<https://www.akcchf.org>)
Project Budget

Project Period

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Contact

Go Back

[Home](https://www.akcchf.org/) (<https://www.akcchf.org/>) / [Request for Proposal Schedule](https://www.akcchf.org/investigator-opportunities/request-for-proposal-schedule/) (<https://www.akcchf.org/investigator-opportunities/request-for-proposal-schedule/>)
/ Spring 2026 Cycle

Spring 2026 Cycle

Application Deadline

OAK

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The spring 2026 open request for proposals follows a two-tiered system of competitive review. Applicants must submit a Pre-Proposal Application through the online application system that demonstrates meritorious work closely aligned with CHF's mission to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease. A review committee will invite some Pre-Proposal applicants to submit a Full Proposal due at 11:59PM ET on Friday, May 1, 2025.

Research Focus Area

Applications will be reviewed and awards may be determined on a rolling basis upon submission.

Project Budget

Pre-Proposal Due: Tuesday, Feb 10th

Proposal Invite Issued: ~ Monday, Mar 16th

Project Period

Full Proposal Due: Friday, May 1st

Notifications: Late Summer 2026

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Contact

For studies >\$30,000 including 15% maximum indirect costs.

Start Oak Pre-Proposal

(<https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/ef89f3da-56b0-450c-979b-b34dfbd62712>)

ACORN

For studies up to \$30,000 including 15% maximum indirect costs.

Start Acorn Pre-Proposal

(<https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/ef89f3da-56b0-450c-979b-b34dfbd62712>)

Scope

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs through funding scientific research. In support of our mission to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease, we seek high-impact research proposals that foster critical discoveries that enable dogs to live healthier lives.

Research projects should investigate canine disease processes, apply fundamental knowledge to develop solutions to canine health problems, or explore outcomes-based solutions in the clinical setting or any combination thereof. Priority will be given to studies that address demonstrated areas of need, foster critical discoveries, or have outcomes that impact canine health care and enable dogs to live healthier lives.

Research Focus Area

This award aims to promote studies leading to significant advancements in all areas of canine health research (see CHF's **25 Research Program Areas** (<https://www.akcchf.org/research/research-portfolio/program-area/>)), with particular interest in innovative studies related to hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, and epilepsy.

Scope

Research Focus Area

Project Budget

Project Period

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Contact

Project Budget

Both Acorn (\$30,000 maximum including 15% maximum indirect costs) and Oak (\$30,000+ including 15% maximum indirect costs) grant proposals that can be completed within the budget will be accepted for review.

Project Period

Since the nature and scope of proposed projects vary, the duration of awards also varies.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

- Research proposals must be in line with the AKC Canine Health Foundation's mission to advance the health of all dogs by funding sound scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease.
- Instructions can be found on the **Grant Submission and Report Template** (<https://www.akcchf.org/investigator-opportunities/research-tools-templates/>) webpage and must be followed. Conformance to application requirements is enforced, and submissions that do not comply may be declined or delayed. Projects must strictly adhere to the Foundation's Humane Use of Animals Policy and **eligibility requirements** (<https://www.akcchf.org/investigator-opportunities/how-to-apply/funding-eligibility/>). While not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to fully address the suggested criteria provided in blue font in the application template.
- For **Early Career Investigators** (<https://www.akcchf.org/investigator-opportunities/early-career-investigator/>), proposals must also include:
 - Principal investigators must have a DVM (or VMD) and/or a PhD and a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in canine health research.
 - Applicants should be within 6 years after the date of completion of training at the time of submission. Training includes DVM, PhD, or post-graduate studies including residency programs.
 - A **letter of institutional appointment** should be provided from the institution's dean or research administration official assuring the principal investigator's protected research time for development as an independent researcher. The letter must also address mentorship, career development opportunities, and other support available to promote the success of the applicant as a thriving investigator.

Scope

Research Focus Area

Project Budget

Project Period

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Contact

- A letter of support from a mentor must address mentorship, career development opportunities, and other support available to promote the success of the applicant's project. This letter must also include a statement that the mentor has reviewed the application prior to submission.

Contact

Administrative and scientific inquiries regarding this RFP should be directed to Programs Staff at chfgrants@akcchf.org (<mailto:chfgrants@akcchf.org>) or the appropriate contacts listed below.

Scientific Contact

Stephanie Montgomery, DVM, PhD, DACVP
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Email: stephanie@akcchf.org (<mailto:stephanie@akcchf.org>)

Programs Contact

Andrea Fiumefreddo, MS
Chief Operating Officer
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- Home
- Who We Are
- Research Discovery
- Investigator Opportunities
- News & Stories
- Knowledge Hub
- Get Involved
- Careers

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