



2023 RESEARCH GRANTS

Request for Applications Are Now Open

March of Dimes is committed to advancing the health of all moms and babies and that involves seeking answers through a diverse research portfolio. As such, March of Dimes is actively seeking applications for research grant funding for translational and actionable projects that lead directly to interventions or preventions.

The overall goal is to turn observations in the laboratory, clinic, and community into interventions, therapeutics, and devices that improve the health of moms and babies. In addition, the March of Dimes is committed to characterizing disparities in population-based outcomes in key research areas.

The proposed research should focus on one of these priority areas:

1. **Late, spontaneous pre-term birth**
2. **Racial inequities as they relate to morbidity and mortality outcomes for mothers and babies.**
3. **Cardiovascular health conditions developed during pregnancy or exacerbated during pregnancy.**
4. **Maternal stress, its impact on pregnancy outcomes, and how to mitigate the effects.**

Late Spontaneous Pre-Term Birth:

Priority topic 1 should focus on prevention and treatment of diseases in either mom or baby that leads to spontaneous premature birth. This includes research on the role of the placenta and the maternal-fetal interface on pregnancy outcomes, and immediate and long-term health outcomes for the infant. This may include, but is not limited to, studies related to inflammation and immune signaling, or placental or cervical health. Investigations addressing all pregnancy-related disorders must have the potential to improve clinical care to prevent adverse maternal and child outcomes.

Racial Inequities as They Relate to Morbidity and Mortality Outcomes for

Mothers and Babies:

Priority topic 2 should focus on physical, mental, or psychological outcomes that impact the ability of the either mother or child to thrive and maintain health during pregnancy, intrapartum, and up to one year postpartum. Factors that contribute to inequities may include, but are not limited to economic stability, neighborhood and physical environments, education, food security, environmental stress, race and discrimination, quality of care, access to health care and coverage.

Cardiovascular Health Conditions Developed During Pregnancy or Exacerbated During Pregnancy:

Priority topic 3 should focus on cardiovascular conditions that begin, develop, or get worse during pregnancy and how we can characterize, prevent, and/or mitigate the development of these conditions. These may include, but are not limited to placental development, preeclampsia, postpartum hemorrhage, hypertension, or RDS. Studies may investigate periods of pregnancy, intrapartum, and/or up to one year postpartum.

Maternal Stress, Its Impact on Pregnancy Outcomes, and How to Mitigate the Effects:

Priority topic 4 should focus on maternal stresses. These can result from several complex aspects, including, but not limited to, economic stability, neighborhood and physical environments, education, food security, environmental stress, race and discrimination, quality of care, access to health care and coverage. Maternal Stress can manifest both mentally, psychologically, or physically. We refer to these as Social Determinants and Drivers of Health studies. Applications for grants in this area should have the potential to make an impact in achieving maternal and child health equity.

Please note:

- All topics may include investigations looking at the periods of pregnancy, intrapartum, and up to one year postpartum;
- All studies must have the potential to improve clinical care and decrease the rate of maternal mortality;
- Research may include human studies or studies with human tissue or studies at the population level;

- Models systems research is discouraged, but is eligible if used to validate novel human disease processes;
- Research proposals may involve information and communications technology innovations; and
- We encourage multidisciplinary collaborations including those with community-based partners.

Key Dates

August 19, 2022.....Application portal opens

October 11, 2022.....Application portal closes

February 15, 2023.....Notification of funding decision

March 1, 2023.....Award start date

WHO CAN APPLY

March of Dimes invites submissions from health professionals, health researchers, epidemiologists and social scientists with doctoral academic degrees, and either a faculty appointment or equivalent at academic universities, hospitals and research institutions; or from those who are employees of small businesses, startup companies, non-profit organizations, or pharmaceutical companies committed to research in the area of maternal and infant health. These applications are not limited to U.S. citizens/are open to global applicants. Applicants may not hold any other current March of Dimes grants when applying.

GRANTS

The grants are \$200,000 total over two years.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

The entire process must be completed online at
<https://modresearchgrants.aibs-scores.org>.

Applicants may only submit one application, listed themselves as either a PI or Co-PI.

Required Information

- Application for the proposed research, which includes:
 - Title & Abstract of Proposed Project
 - Statement of Objective and Hypothesis

- Preliminary data and Background Studies
- Research Approach and Intended Deliverables
- Budget and Budget Justification
- Candidate's biographical sketch
- Facilities available
- Current and Pending Financial Support: list each grant or contract for the conduct of this research. If there is support, please state "NONE"

Questions

Please direct any questions to researchgrantssupport@marchofdimes.org.