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Discovery Research Grants

Discovery Grants are for established scientists with a history of published work in the maternal and infant health and related fields.

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GOT IT

available through March of Dimes

These grants are awarded to seasoned researchers seeking to make consequential translational discoveries that will drastically alter clinical care for pregnant people and babies, whether through evidence-based prevention, diagnosis, or intervention.

Discovery Grants are funding vehicles for research inquiries that are as practical as they are ambitious, as attainable as they are groundbreaking, and as transformative as they are necessary. These grants are given to researchers with inquiries that have the power to drastically improve pregnancy and birth outcomes across the US.

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



<>

Priority topic 1

Spontaneous preterm birth <>

This topic focuses on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disorders leading to spontaneous preterm birth. Proposed studies must have the potential to improve clinical care to prevent adverse maternal and child outcomes.

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Priority topic 2

Decreasing Maternal and Infant Morbidity and Mortality by Improving Access to High Quality Health Care <>

This topic aims to improve access to high-quality health care which impacts physical, mental, and psychological health of all moms. Proposed studies should produce tangible solutions that directly improve outcomes for all moms and babies.



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Priority topic 3

Cardiovascular health conditions developed during pregnancy or exacerbated during pregnancy <>

Proposed studies in this topic area should focus on cardiovascular conditions that begin, develop, or worsen during pregnancy and identify tangible ways to characterize, prevent, and/or mitigate their development.

Please note:

- All studies must have the potential to improve clinical care and decrease the rate of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.

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- 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.
- We encourage multidisciplinary collaborations including those with community-based partners.

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Award amount: \$200,000 over two years inclusive of 10% indirect costs

Areas of research:

1. Spontaneous preterm birth.
2. Decreasing Maternal and Infant Morbidity and Mortality by Improving Access to High Quality Health Care.
3. Cardiovascular health conditions developed during pregnancy or exacerbated during pregnancy.

Open to: 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; 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.

Note: the current cycle is now closed

Application portal opens: June 9, 2025

Application portal closes: September 8, 2025

Notification of awards: Mid-January 2026

Award start date: February 1, 2026

Award end date: January 31, 2028

Apply on portal

<<https://modresearchgrants.aibsscores.org>>