



International OCD Foundation

## 2025 Research Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP)



### Impact Statement

The mission of the IOCDF is to ensure that no one affected by OCD and related disorders suffers alone. Our community provides help, healing, and hope. Our vision is that everyone impacted by OCD and related disorders has immediate access to effective treatment and support. The IOCDF provides up-to-date education and resources, strengthens community engagement, delivers quality professional training, and advances groundbreaking research.

### IOCDF Research Grant Program

In support of its mission, the IOCDF makes annual grant awards to research scientists seeking to advance scientific understanding of OCD and related disorders, improve existing therapies, and discover new and more effective treatments. Since 1994, the IOCDF's Research Grant Program has awarded over \$11 million in funding support to researchers around the world.

### 2025 Research Grant Awards

The generosity of the IOCDF's donors has allowed for us to offer research funding in 2025 through the Michael A. Jenike Young Investigator Awards.

**Michael A. Jenike Young Investigator Awards:** These are grants of up to **\$50,000** each. They support promising young investigators who are developing their careers while pursuing creative and impactful research projects on OCD and related disorders across a range of disciplines. To be eligible for funding, researchers must be investigating OCD and related disorders (OCD, including pediatric OCD; PANS/PANDAS; hoarding disorder; body dysmorphic disorder; or body focused repetitive behaviors). Eligible applicants must be current graduate students, or must have completed their residency or their PhD (or equivalent) on or after September 1, 2020. Applicants who are still in training must submit a letter from their mentor with their application.

The usual term for the Jenike Awards is one year.

The maximum award is \$50,000. However, applications that require less than this level of funding support are welcome. If you are pursuing a smaller project that requires less than \$50,000, we encourage you to apply and request the appropriate funding amount in your application.

The Jenike Awards are funded by individual donors to the IOCDF Research Grant Fund, and because we allow donors to restrict their donations to specific purposes, we have funding set aside for projects in several areas, including:

- **2025 Topic of Interest: Increasing Access to Treatment for All** — With recognition of existing disparities related to access to effective treatments for OCD, we encourage applications for this topic in 2025.
- **2025 Special Category: Body dysmorphic disorder (BDD)**
- The role that Race, Ethnicity, and Culture play in OCD and related disorders
- OCD treatment
- Research into the causes of OCD, including genetic causes
- Pediatric OCD
- PANDAS/PANS
- Hoarding disorder

### **2025 Topic of Interest: Increasing Access to Treatment for All**

Although evidence-based treatments such as ERP and medications can help reduce OCD symptoms, they are currently not accessible to all people with OCD. Factors such as distance from providers, cost, misinformation, and stigma prevent many people from underserved and minority communities from receiving effective and potentially life-saving treatments.

Recognizing this disparity and in alignment with our mission of help, healing, and hope — for all — we are proud to continue with our 2025 Topic of Interest: Increasing Access to Treatment for All. We are particularly interested in proposals related to improving access to treatment for underserved and underrepresented groups, such as rural communities, people with lower socioeconomic status, and racial, ethnic, and sexual minority groups.

While this is our Topic of Interest for the 2025 Research Grant Program, suitable proposals for other OCD and related disorders topics will also be considered.

### **2025 Special Category: Body Dysmorphic Disorder**

We are pleased to announce one Special Category Michael A. Jenike Young Investigator Award for a research study on body dysmorphic disorder (BDD). While research about BDD, its treatment, and its impact on sufferers and their communities exists, more scientific exploration is necessary to help people with BDD access treatment, understand the disorder, and prevent consequences associated with it.

While this is our Special Category for the 2025 Research Grant Program, suitable proposals for other OCD and related disorders topics will also be considered.

### **Eligibility**

Exceptions to the eligibility requirements detailed above will be considered on a case by case basis. Questions should be directed to [research@iocdf.org](mailto:research@iocdf.org).

### **Review Process and Funding Decisions**

All grant applications that comply with program guidelines (see [iocdf.org/research](https://iocdf.org/research)) will be assigned three reviewers from our expert panel. These reviewers will score the application and provide written comments.

Reviewers will evaluate each proposal on several criteria, including: strength of the proposal's research design; its potential impact; the strength of the institutional environment(s) where the research will take place; the strength of the PI's experience and their potential to make future contributions to the field; and, if applicable, the proposal's compliance with the IOCDF's Inclusion Policy for Pre-clinical and Clinical Research, and the strength of the plan to include women and members of racial and ethnic minority groups in the proposed study. Reviewers will also be asked to consider the intent described in this RFP and to consider how well-aligned proposals are with that intent. Finally, reviewers will be asked to consider how well proposals comply with guidelines for the 2025 Topic of Interest, for those submitting proposals relevant to it.

The top-scoring applications from the initial round will advance to the second round, where they will be discussed and rated by the full reviewer panel. Ratings from this round, as well as comments received during the initial round, will be used to advise the IOCDF Board of Directors, who will make all final funding decisions.

### **Application Guidelines**

Please carefully review the application guidelines (see menu on the right side of this page) before submitting your proposal. International applicants are welcomed and encouraged to apply.

### **How to Apply**

Grant applications will be accepted beginning on Monday, January 6th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. ET via our online application system at [iocdf.org/research/apply](https://iocdf.org/research/apply). The application deadline is Monday, February 28th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. ET.



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International OCD Foundation  
PO Box 961029, Boston, MA 02196  
(617) 973-5801 | EIN: 22-2894564