

restless legs syndrome foundation blog

RLS FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

CALL FOR 2026 RLS RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS



Call for RLS Research Grant Proposals

December 3, 2025

The RLS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that aspires to achieve universal awareness of restless legs syndrome, to support the identification of effective treatments, and to find a cure for the millions of individuals who suffer from RLS.

The RLS Foundation calls for grant proposals of a one year-duration, with funding levels of up to \$50,000 (including 8% for F&A costs), based on the number of funded applications. A renewal or extension of a previously funded proposed project may be considered, but any extension would be subject to the regular competitive approval process for year two.

The number of total awards will depend on the number and quality of the applications submitted. Currently, the Foundation is expecting to support up to two proposals for the 2026 – 2027 grant cycle. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine has agreed to co-sponsor two grant awards for the 2026 round of funding.

Spring 2026 Priorities

For this round of funding, the primary research priorities are:

- **Iron homeostasis:** - e.g. Elucidate the genetic/epigenetic, developmental and biological factors that contribute to RLS-relevant alterations in the central nervous system.
- **Comorbidities:** - e.g. Elucidate the interactions between RLS and comorbid disorders, such as cardiovascular disease and sleep apnea.
- **Genetic/epigenetic:** - e.g. Elucidate the interactions between RLS-relevant genetic/epigenetic factors or the consequence of these genetic/epigenetic factors on RLS-relevant neurobiological factors.
- **Other topics:** Other research areas related to RLS may also be accepted for funding consideration.

Requirements

- **Eligibility:** All institutions within the United States, Canada and other countries where supervision of grant administration is possible are eligible.

ABOUT ME

Restless Legs Syndrome F

[View my complete profile](#)

[Home](#)

RLSF LINKS

[RLS Foundation Website](#)

[Discussion Board](#)

[Support Groups](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

POPULAR POSTS



Magnesium and

June 14, 2021 M

RLS By Maddie

Foundation Res

Coordinator Magnesium is a occurring miner...



Triggers That M

October 4, 201

Triggers A trigg

that causes a w

RLS. Certain foods, beverage

[Eating with RLS](#)

Award Process

Schedule: The RLS Foundation Scientific and Medical Advisory Board (SMAB) and external reviewers strive to review all applications in a timely manner. The goal is to provide the results to the LOI applicants within two months of the respective grant deadline and four months after submission of the full proposals.

Review: The SMAB will evaluate and rank the full proposals based on scientific merit. Overall impact, significance, approach, innovation (conceptual, technical) and individual criteria will be taken into account for funding consideration.

Award: The RLS Foundation Board of Directors will make final award decisions in accordance with available funds, based on the evaluation provided by the SMAB and other prioritization factors as determined by the Board of Directors.

Recipient Requirements:

In order to receive an RLS Foundation research grant, the recipient must:

1. Within one month of the grant award, provide a photo of the grantee and a one-page article for publication in NightWalkers (the Foundation's quarterly news magazine), describing in layman's language the importance of the research to the RLS community and the recipient's intention for future research.
2. Use the terminology restless legs syndrome in all grant-related publications and correspondence.
3. For 1-year awards, agree to submit a progress report after 6 months and 12 months from the starting date of the grant.
4. Acknowledge the RLS Foundation's support in any published work or audiovisual productions resulting from research that the Foundation has supported. (Provide PDF copies of any reprints to the Executive Director of the RLS Foundation.)
5. Agree, if RLS Foundation funded research is commercialized or generates revenues, to devote a portion of the revenues to repaying the entire amount of the grant received, plus interest at the-prevailing prime rate, to the Foundation. Interest will be calculated semi-annually on the unpaid portion of the amount to be repaid.

Lastly, the intent of the RLS Foundation Research Grant Program is to provide seed monies to support researchers in their research endeavors and help them obtain the data to successfully request large scale funding elsewhere.

Thus, while an application may be also submitted to other organizations or agencies for funding, the applicant may not receive funding from the RLS Foundation, if any of those other projects are awarded or funded prior to the award being granted by the RLS Foundation.

The applicant will notify the RLS Foundation in writing of award funding for the same proposal from another organization and withdraw the application from consideration.

Costs Not Permitted

The following costs are not allowable under the RLS Foundation's grant programs:

- New construction, alterations, or renovations of existing facilities
- Consultant fees, unless specified in the original grant application
- Travel and healthcare costs

RLS Research Grant Program

The RLS Grant Program started in 1997 and has funded over 50 grants totaling over \$2 million. Membership support is the primary funding support of the RLS Foundation Research Grant Program. Help us to continue to fund promising new RLS research and end RLS for future generations.



RESTLESS LEGS SYNDROME FOUNDATION

The Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation is the leading organization for science-based education and patient services for people suffering from restless legs syndrome (RLS). It is also the only organization with a dedicated research grant program to advance promising

► September (3)

► August (4)

► July (2)

► June (1)

► May (2)

► April (4)

► March (2)

► February (1)

► January (2)

► 2024 (26)

► 2023 (22)

► 2022 (24)

► 2021 (20)

► 2020 (28)

► 2019 (27)

► 2018 (40)

► 2017 (48)

► 2016 (22)

► 2015 (8)

► 2014 (27)

► 2013 (41)

TOP RATED

TRANSLATE

SELECT LANGUAGE

Powered by Google Translate

LABELS

Restless Legs Syn
research advocacy
support rls awareness
Quality Care Centers
Syndrome Foundation Pres:
medicine volunteer sleep
Augmentation Name Chang
treatment Take Action Webi
donate insomnia membership su

research leading to new treatments and a cure. Our goals are simple: increase awareness of RLS, improve treatments, and, through research, find a cure.

clinical trials discussion board
Contests Meetings National Sleep
foundation discussion board sleep
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Sleep Research Society Society
cardiovascular health children circa
helpful links marijuana member
narcolepsy neurology nonprofit
movement public health sleep apnea
deprivation social media travel video

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM
RLS FOUNDATION
AND AMERICAN
ACADEMY...



RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM
DEADLINE
EXTENDED: CALL FOR
RLS RES...

0 COMMENTS

NEWER POSTS

OLDER POSTS