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# TOS Grants Programs

The Obesity Society's (TOS) grants program reflects our commitment to promoting, rewarding, and advancing research in obesity.



## Why Apply for a Grant from The Obesity Society (TOS)?

Applying for a TOS grant offers researchers, clinicians, and organizations the opportunity to advance impactful work in obesity science and care. TOS grants provide **non-repayable funding**, making them an accessible way to support projects that can meaningfully improve patient outcomes and expand scientific understanding.

### Key Reasons to Apply:

- **Non-Repayable Support:** Grant funding does not need to be paid back, allowing applicants to pursue high-value research or community health initiatives without financial burden.



## Letter of Intent (LOI)

**We will begin accepting new grant applications May 1 – June 1, 2026.**

- Applicants may apply for multiple grants.
- Descriptions and application instructions for each grant are provided below.
- If you have any questions, please contact: [grantsandawards@obesity.org](mailto:grantsandawards@obesity.org)



## Common Areas Supported by TOS Grants:

- Obesity prevention and treatment research
- Clinical care improvement projects
- Community health and outreach initiatives

- **Advance High-Impact Research:** TOS prioritizes innovative, evidence-based obesity research. Funding helps investigators explore new interventions, technologies, and treatments that may otherwise be financially out of reach.
- **Improve Patient Care:** Grants can enable projects focused on clinical management, patient support programs, and strategies to improve health outcomes in underserved or high-risk populations.
- **Build Infrastructure & Capacity:** Funding may support equipment, data collection tools, training, or program expansion—strengthening the capacity of researchers and institutions working in obesity care.
- **Career Development Opportunities:** Early-career investigators benefit from grant funding that enhances their scientific credentials, supports training, and provides a foundation for future research success.
- **Increased Credibility & Future Funding Potential:** Receiving a competitive grant from TOS strengthens professional reputation and can make it easier to secure future grants from federal agencies or private foundations.
- Education, training, and professional development
- Operational or program support related to obesity science

# Early Career Research Grant

The grants are offered by The Obesity Society as a member service to foster and stimulate new research ideas in any area of obesity research. Two grants are given each year, one for Basic Science and the other for Clinical Research. The grants target early-career investigators and postdoctoral fellows by funding proposals that demonstrate a high likelihood of yielding new and innovative approaches to obesity research. Early-career investigators are defined as individuals who have received a PhD/DSc, DVM, MD, or DO at the time of application. Investigators must also currently have a full-time, entry-level position (e.g., post-doctoral fellow, instructor, and up to Assistant Professor) at an established academic/research institution. Applicants may request up to \$25,000. No indirect cost will be paid from this grant. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will be notified approximately one month later. All applicants must be TOS members in good standing. **This is a one-year grant, and funding will begin the next calendar year.**

## Eligibility Criteria:

The Principal Investigator must:

- Be a member of The Obesity Society (domestic or international)
- Be an early-career investigator or post-doctoral research fellow:
  - Hold a **PhD/DSc, DVM, MD, or DO** at the time of application
  - Hold a full-time, entry-level position (e.g., post-doctoral fellow, instructor, up to Assistant Professor)
  - Not yet have received an NIH **K-award**, equivalent career-development award, or **R-level** research project grant
- Have a mentor (required for post-doctoral fellows and instructors; not required for Assistant Professors)
- Demonstrate the potential to secure future research funding

### Additional requirements:

Degree must be obtained by the application date, and applicants cannot have more than **five years** of post-doctoral experience.

## How to Apply

### Phase 1

- Submit a Letter of Intent Cover Page
- Submit a 1-page Letter of Intent – (describe the scientific project, statement of specific aims, hypotheses, and how the study is new and innovative)
  - 1-page on institutional letterhead
  - 1/2 inch margins
  - 11-point font size
- Submit an NIH-style biosketch for the principal investigator. If the principal investigator is a post-doctoral fellow, the biosketch of the mentor should also be included

- The LOI and biosketch(es) must be collated and submitted as a single pdf

## Phase 2

Applicants selected by The Obesity Society's Science Development Committee will be notified and requested to submit a full proposal package. Required documents include:

- Original LOI and Biosketch(es), from the LOI submission
- 3-page proposal (references not included)
  - Brief introduction to the proposed study and rationale for investigation (How will this work benefit the field?)
  - Statement of specific aims and hypotheses
  - Material and methods, feasibility
  - Anticipated results, limitations, alternatives
  - Future plans (How will the findings of this project be leveraged for future work? What are the next steps, next grants?)
- Timeline
- Budget Form (1-page) with justification (1-page limit)
- Allowable Expenses
  - Salary for technical staff, supplies, core use, subject recruitment, patient care costs, and other research-related expenses.
  - Equipment/capital expenses up to \$5,000.
  - Travel up to \$2,000 (ObesityWeek® encouraged).
  - If principal investigator requires salary support, a maximum of one month summer salary or 8% effort support is allowable.
- Mentor Letter of Support (1-page, for post-doctoral fellows and instructors)

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## Criteria for Evaluating Applications

- Significance – impact, innovation
- Investigator – potential in academic research, diversity/inclusion
- Research Plan – study design, methods, feasibility, alternatives/limitations
- Future Plans – (How will the findings of this project be leveraged for future work? What are the next steps, next grants?)

**Want to view past grantees? Click here.**

Read more about the TOS Terms and Conditions.