



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:
CANCER HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH CENTER**

AWARD OVERVIEW AND RFA POLICIES

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2024

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 15, 2024

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.

Extramural Discovery Science Department

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Web site link to RFA: [HERE](#)

MISSION

The American Cancer Society's mission is to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

Table of Contents

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW	3
2. RESEARCH TO BE FUNDED	3
3. APPLICATION DEADLINE	4
4. ELIGIBILITY	4
5. CHERC GRANT TERMS	6
6. SUB-AWARD GRANT MECHANISMS	12
A. CLINICIAN SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT GRANT (CSDG)	12
B. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (PF).....	15
C. RESEARCH SCHOLAR GRANT (RSG).....	17

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The American Cancer Society believes that everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer (Alcaraz et al., 2020). Societal conditions where people are born, grow, live, worship and age, have a profound effect on their health status and their ability to access cancer care and to carry-out care recommendations (Alfano et al., 2020; Braveman, 2017). This funding is intended to support the formation of Cancer Health Equity Research Centers (CHERCs) designed to target cancer health disparities unique to a local or regional community. We anticipate this funding will stimulate novel collaborations and approaches to mitigate societal risk factors contributing to our goals for achieving health equity and reducing cancer mortality.

References

Alcaraz KI, Wiedt T, Daniels ED, Yabroff KR, Guerra C, Wender RC. Understanding and Addressing Social Determinants to Advance Cancer Health Equity in the United States: A Blueprint for Practice, Research, and Policy. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2020; 70 (1):31-46.

Alfano CM, Leach CR, Smith TG, Miller KD, Alcaraz KI, Cannady RS, Wender RC, Brawley OW. Equitably Improving Outcomes for Cancer Survivors and Supporting Caregivers: A Blueprint for Care Delivery, Research, Education, and Policy. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2019; 69:35-49.

Braveman P. A new definition of health equity to guide future efforts and measure progress. *Health Affairs Blog Health Equity.* 2017.

2. RESEARCH TO BE FUNDED

Due to the complexities associated with social determinants of health and cancer, multi-level and multi-sector research that addresses the interactions of factors responsible for cancer inequalities within communities is required. This RFA is a call for **solution-based research** addressing cancer health disparities that will contribute to achieving health equity. **Thirty percent (30%) of the planned research participants must be racial and ethnic minorities or live in rural or medically underserved areas.** Teams may propose collaborations with consortia of community hospitals and/or oncology practices, public hospitals, or other academic institutions or medical centers to accrue study participants. Collectively, the CHERC funds will support innovative research and facilitate new collaborations centered on a common goal of achieving sustainable health equity in your community.

Research topics could include:

- Integration of social determinants of health screening tools and intervention into practice and ensuring that needs revealed are addressed and monitored.
- Strategies to prevent diagnostic or treatment delays regardless of health insurance or socioeconomic status, geographic location, age, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.
- Strategies to increase participation of medically underserved populations in clinical trials.
- Strategies to overcome barriers or promote facilitators of treatment adherence, and interventions to targeting care planning and coordination between teams of health professionals caring for persons being treated for cancer.

3. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted electronically via ProposalCentral by 11:59 PM EST on October 15, 2024. No supplemental materials will be accepted after the deadline unless requested by staff for administrative purposes or when requested by the reviewers.

4. ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligible Institutions and Institutional Responsibilities

Only 1 CHERC application can be submitted per Institution.

The Society's grants and awards are made to not-for-profit institutions located within the US and its territories. Eligible institutions should meet the following criteria:

- A current letter form the Internal Revenue Service conferring nonprofit status.
- Evidence of an active research program with a track record of extramural funding and publications in peer reviewed journals
- Documentations of appropriate resources and infrastructure to support the proposed research, including:
 - Adequate facilities and services
 - Fiscal and grants management infrastructure to ensure compliance with ACS policies and with federal policies regarding protections for human and animal subjects (e.g., a sponsored programs office or a contract with an IRB or IACUC)
 - A process for appointment and promotion equivalent to those in academic settings for staff scientists if appropriate to the grant mechanism; and
 - Evidence of education, training, and mentoring for fellows and early-stage researchers if appropriate to the grant mechanism and applicant.

Grant applications will not be accepted, nor will grants be made, for research conducted at

- For-profit institutions;
- Federal government agencies (including the National Laboratories);
- Organizations supported entirely by the federal government (except postdoctoral fellowship applications);
- Organizations that primarily benefit federal government entities, such as foundations operated by or for the benefit of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC). However, qualified academic institutions may submit applications on behalf of a VAMC if a Dean's Committee Memorandum of Affiliation is in effect between the 2 institutions

The American Cancer Society does not assume responsibility for the conduct of the activities that the grant supports, or for the acts of the grant recipient, because both are under the direction and control of the grantee institution and subject to its medical and scientific policies.

Every grantee institution must safeguard the rights and welfare of individuals who participate as subjects in research activities by reviewing proposed activities through an institutional review board (IRB), as specified by the National Institutes of Health Office for Human Research Protections of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Furthermore, applicants, applicant institutions, and grantee institutions must adhere to DHHS guidelines as well as ACS guidelines regarding conflicts of interest, recombinant DNA, scientific misconduct, and all other applicable ACS policies and procedures.

To signify agreement with all ACS policies and procedures, an application for a grant must bear the e-signature of the principal investigator. Space is provided for e-signatures for the departmental chair (or equivalent) and institutional official to accommodate institution-specific requirements for proposal submissions, but neither are required for submission to ACS. **Note:** the PI must enable other users' access to the application on ProposalCentral to permit their e-signatures.

Once a grant is awarded, an institutional official signature's is required signifying institutional agreement with all ACS policies and procedures. The institution is responsible for verifying that all documentation related to the grant is correct, including all representations made by any named researcher (e.g., position or title). Further, the institution is responsible for verifying that the grantee is either a US citizen, a permanent resident with a Resident Alien Card ("Green Card") where applicable, or a non-US Citizen with required US government visa status. If the award does not require US citizenship or permanent residency, the institution is responsible for documenting the grantee's legal eligibility to work in the US for the duration of the award. For Postdoctoral Fellowships, if the terminal degree is granted after submission of the application, the institution must verify that the degree has been awarded prior to grant activation.

It is the responsibility of the institution to immediately report to ACS any finding that any information presented to ACS in connection with the application and/or grant is false. It is also the responsibility of the institution to immediately report to ACS any action including recertification, loss of certification, breach of contract, misconduct, or change in employment status for a named researcher with the institution. This includes administrative leave, which may occur during the term of any award pertinent to the work described in the grant application.

Failure to abide by the terms above, or by any other ACS policy or procedure, may result in suspension or cancellation of the grant, at the sole discretion of ACS. By accepting an American Cancer Society award, you agree to the Guidelines for Maintaining Research and Peer Review Integrity found in the Appendix of the [All Grant Policies](#).

B. Eligible Investigators

Co-PIs or Multi-PIs are not allowed.

All investigators must be at an accredited college, university, or medical school, within the United States (in accordance with ACS grant policies). Applicants from underrepresented groups and from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are ***strongly encouraged*** to apply. MSIs are institutions of higher learning that serve minority populations. For more information see U.S.C. Title 20.

We use the [NIH criteria](#) for populations underrepresented in the scientific workforce.

The CHERC PI must meet the following criteria:

- A full-time faculty member at the rank of Associate or Full Professor at a college, university, medical school, or eligible non-profit within the United States or its territories. Assistant Professors who have led large R-level or equivalent grants and have held health leadership positions may apply.

- A track record addressing cancer health disparities or health equity as evidenced by: Extramural cancer research funding, a track record of mentoring junior investigators, publications in peer-reviewed journals, and administrative/leadership experience (e.g., deputy director or director of a program, center or department).
- A minimum of 10% effort is required for the Center PI.
- The CHERC PI **may not** be a Sub-Award PI. The CHERC PI may be a Key Person on a sub-award, including the primary mentor of a PF or CSDG.

Note: Scientific investigators or individuals who are funded for any project by the tobacco industry, or whose named mentors are so funded, are not eligible for ACS grants. See our full policy regarding Tobacco-Industry funding in our [All Grant Policies](#) document.

5. CHERC GRANT TERMS

A. BUDGET AND AWARD PERIOD

A total budget of \$4.07 M (\$3.7M direct costs plus 10% indirect cost) for a 4-year project period will be given as an institutional block grant to support research sub-awards, collaboration, training, and community engagement.

B. INDIRECT COSTS

The CHERC can budget 10% indirect costs of the direct cost total. The calculation of allowable indirect costs includes all budget items except permanent equipment.

Sub-Awards at the CHERC institution do not claim indirect costs individually but are included in the direct cost total of the Center's budget. However, Sub-Awards at institutions other than the CHERC institution may budget indirect costs – 10% for RSG, 8% for CSDG, 0% for PF. Subcontracts may claim indirect costs for the work performed at the secondary institution (10% for RSG or 8% for CSDG), but the primary institution must exclude the subcontract direct costs when calculating their indirect cost total.

C. GRANT MANAGEMENT AND PAYMENTS

New grantees will receive a packet of information with instructions for activating the award. The activation form as well as other important information about the grant can also be found at <https://ProposalCentral.com/> (select the Award tab to see the Post Award Management site).

Grant payments will be made at the end of each month. The ACS makes all payments to the sponsoring institution via electronic funds transfer or via a mailed check depending on the preference selected on the grant activation form.

Acknowledgement of payment by the sponsoring institution is not required. Continued funding by ACS throughout the grant period is contingent upon the institution's compliance with all terms related to the grant; failure to comply with all of the grant terms may result in a suspension or cancellation of the grant, to be determined by ACS at its sole discretion.

Note: If a Sub-Award is terminated early for any reason, the Sub-Award PI is only entitled to the pro-rated amount of the award.

Personnel compensated in whole or in part with funds from the ACS are not employees of the Society. Consequently, institutions are responsible for issuing appropriate IRS tax filings for all individuals receiving compensation from ACS grants, and for withholding and paying all required federal, state, and local payroll taxes for such compensation. Any tax consequences are the

responsibility of the individual recipient and the sponsoring institution. We advise all grant and award recipients to consult a tax advisor regarding the status of their awards.

D. PROGRESS REPORTING

All progress reporting forms are available at <https://proposalcentral.com/> under the “Deliverables” tab. Annual research progress reports are required for the Center and all Sub-Awards. The Center Principal Investigator must submit a report of the annual Cancer Health Equity Research Center progress. This report shall consist of the following:

- The name of each awardee with degree(s).
- The title of the project, its term, and the amount awarded; and
- A copy of each Sub-Award’s technical abstract submitted initially with the Cancer Health Equity Research Center project application.

The Center PI is responsible for collected and uploading annual progress reports for the Sub-Award projects. These can be uploaded as attachments with the Center’s annual progress report deliverable.

In addition, the Technology Transfer Officer at the institution will be required to submit a yearly Intellectual Property (IP) report.

Please note that up-to-date annual reports are required when requesting any grant modifications, including institutional transfers or no-cost extensions.

E. FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REPORTING

For the Society's purposes, funds are considered expended once they have been allocated from the Cancer Health Equity Research Center to the individual investigator, who has 2-4 years to spend the monies, depending on the Sub-Award mechanism. The final report of expenditures is due 90 days following the expiration date of the project period stated in the award letter. The necessary forms can be found under the “Deliverables” tab at <https://proposalcentral.com/>.

For example, if a Cancer Health Equity Research Center was in effect from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028, the report of expenditures will be due on March 31, 2029.

F. EXPENDITURES

This award is not designed to cover the total cost of a Cancer Health Equity Research Center. Furthermore, American Cancer Society *research* grants are not designed to cover the total cost of the research proposed or the investigator's entire compensation. The grantee's institution is expected to provide the required physical facilities and administrative services normally available at an institution.

The budget of the CHERC may include partial salary support for the Cancer Health Equity Research Center Principal Investigator.

The Society is flexible in response to the changing needs of a research program. The Center PI may make minor alterations (changes \$15,000 per year) within the approved budget except where such expenditures conflict with the policies of the Society. Major changes in expenditures (>\$15,000 per year) require written approval from your Scientific Director. However, for permanent equipment, the annual threshold requiring written approval is >\$5,000. Contact your Scientific Director for guidance.

In addition, the Society's **research grants** do NOT provide funds (direct budget) for such items as:

- **Administrative**
 - Secretarial or administrative salaries not specifically related to a research project.
 - Membership dues
- **Tuition, books, and fees**
 - Student tuition and fees (graduate or undergraduate). However, tuition is an allowable expense for the principal investigator of a Clinician Scientist Development Grant.
 - Books and periodicals, except required texts for coursework in the approved training plan for Postdoctoral Fellowships or Clinician Scientist Development Grants.
- **Office or laboratory setup and expenses**
 - Office and laboratory furniture
 - Office equipment and supplies
 - Rental of office or laboratory space
 - Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings, laboratories, or lab equipment (such as service contracts)
- **Other**
 - Recruiting and relocation expenses for personnel
 - Non-medical services to patients (travel to a clinical site or patient incentives are allowable expenses)

Society research and mentored grant funds may be used for computers for research and training purposes, which can be purchased with direct funds from the equipment budget. In addition, the Society's research grants may provide funds (direct budget) for *foreign travel*, but this requires **pre-approval** by your Scientific Office. See specific policies for each Sub-Award mechanism.

G. OWNERSHIP OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment purchased under ACS research grants or grant extensions is for use by the principal investigator and collaborators. Title of such equipment shall be vested in the institution at which the principal investigator is conducting the research. In the event the ACS authorizes the transfer of a grant to another institution, equipment necessary for continuation of the research project purchased with the grant funds may be transferred to the new institution, and title to such equipment shall be vested in the new institution.

H. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

As a not-for-profit organization supported by public contributions, the Society wishes to adopt policies and practices that enhance the likelihood that potentially beneficial discoveries and inventions will be exploited to the benefit of humankind. It is the desire of the Society that such inventions be administered in such a manner that they are brought into public use at the earliest possible time. The Society recognizes that often this may be best accomplished through patenting and/or licensing of such inventions. Accordingly, the Society has adopted the following patent policy that is binding on all Grantees and not-for-profit Grantee Institutions (hereinafter "Grantee"), excluding postdoctoral fellowship Grantees at the National Institutes of Health and other government laboratories, for whom the applicable patent policies of the federal government shall apply. To the extent the Grantee Institution's own policies permit individual investigators to own any right, title or interest in any Funded Invention, the Grantee Institution shall ensure that each Investigator complies with the provisions of these terms and conditions with respect to such Funded Invention.

Acceptance of a Grant from the Society constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of this policy. In the event of any conflict between this policy and the Grantee's policy, the terms

and conditions of this policy shall govern.

- A. All notices required pursuant to this policy shall be in writing, and in this policy, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth below.
- i. "Invention" shall mean any potentially patentable discovery, material, method, process, product, program, software or use.
 - ii. "Funded Invention" shall mean any Invention made in the course of research funded in whole or in part by a Society Grant.
 - iii. "Gross Income" shall mean gross royalty income received by Grantee in respect of a Funded Invention inclusive of income from a single sale of the Funded Invention, less a total of \$25,000 towards United States patent filing fees and an additional \$25,000 USD for international patent filing fees.
 - iv. "ACS Award" shall mean the total monetary amount of the Grant provided to the Grantee.
- B. The Grantee technology transfer officer shall provide the Society with an annual report for each Funded Invention. The annual report will be due by January 31 of each calendar year after an ACS Grant Award has been received. The annual report shall include a listing or description of the following information for each Funded Invention: (1) all issued patents and pending patent applications, (2) all licenses, leases, or other revenue generating agreements, (3) all gross revenue for each preceding calendar year, (4) the filing, publication and issuance or grant of any application for a patent or other statutory right for a Funded Invention, and (5) the latest stage of development of any product arising from each Funded Invention.
- Grantee shall pay all costs and expenses incident to all applications for patents or other statutory rights and all patents and other statutory rights that issue thereon owned by Grantee (other than patent filing fees as provided for in Section A).
- C. Both the Society and Grantee, (the appropriate Grantee technology transfer officer managing Funded Invention), shall promptly inform the other of any suspected infringement of any patent covering a Funded Invention and of any misappropriation, misuse, theft or breach of confidence relating to other proprietary rights in a Funded Invention. Grantee and Society will discuss in good faith further action to be taken in this regard.
- D. Grantee will license a Funded Invention in accordance with Grantee Policy and established practices.
- E. The Society waives the receipt of income until the Gross Income from the Funded Invention exceeds \$500,000.

Once the Gross Income from a Funded Invention exceeds \$500,000, Grantee shall pay the Society annually 5% of Gross Income. Such payment shall be accompanied by an appropriate statement of account. The income to the ACS from Grants other than Mission Boost Grants and block grants will not exceed four (4) times the amount of the total ACS Award. The income to the ACS from Mission Boost Grants will not exceed ten (10) times the amount of the total Mission Boost Award. The income to the ACS from block grants where grant funding is allocated to multiple subaward projects, such as Institutional Research Grants (IRGs), shall not exceed four (4) times the portion of the total award allocated by the institution to the subawardee.

Payments shall be made on an annual basis by January 31, the year after the year that Income was received. Should Grantee not be able to make a payment by January 31 for any calendar year in which income was received, Grantee shall inform the Society at least seven days prior to missing a payment. Grantee shall have a grace period of 90 days to make the missed payment. Failure to make payments after the 90-day grace period will be deemed a breach of this agreement. The Society shall have the right to audit, at the Society's expense, the Grantee's books and records annually.

The term of this Agreement shall extend until the expiration of the last to expire patent in any jurisdiction that covers the Funded Invention, or three years past decline of revenue to \$0, or once the cap has been met.

F. Development and Commercialization of Funded Invention

The Society wishes to support and accelerate the commercialization and deployment of the results from Grantee's research. To help Grantee bring its Funded Invention to market as quickly as possible, Grantee shall inform The Society if Grantee decides to commercialize or seek investment in any Funded Invention. The Society requests that the Grantee offer The Society an opportunity to fund, facilitate, invest, or otherwise participate in such commercialization efforts via ACS BrightEdge, its impact venture capital fund (<https://www.acsbrightedge.org/>).

Please note that the American Cancer Society is unable to renegotiate the terms of this agreement with any individual institution.

I. PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER GRANT-RELATED COMMUNICATIONS

When and how to acknowledge your ACS grant:

Publications resulting from research or training activities supported by the American Cancer Society must contain the following acknowledgment: "Supported by [name of grant and number] from the American Cancer Society." When there are multiple sources of support, the acknowledgment should read "Supported in part by [name of grant and number] from the American Cancer Society," along with references to other funding sources.

The Society's support should also be acknowledged by the grantee and the institution in all public communication of work resulting from this grant, including scientific abstracts (where permitted), posters at scientific meetings, press releases or other media communications, and internet-based communications.

Although there is no formal ACS approval process for publications by Society grantees, it is helpful to notify your Scientific Director when manuscripts have been accepted for publication. This will allow ample time for additional public or Society-wide notifications. If your institution plans a press release involving any of your Society-supported research, please notify the ACS communications representative (contact information on your award letter) or your Scientific Director in advance.

ACS grants to you a limited, revocable, non-transferable license to use the ACS logo (as shown below) in association with your funded work. We encourage you to use it on scientific posters, Power Point presentations, and any other visual presentation about your funded work where the ACS is noted as a funding source. In turn, you agree to provide any materials featuring the ACS logo upon our request.

Permission to use the logo is limited to the uses outlined in the above paragraph. It should not imply ACS endorsement of products such as guidelines, websites, software for mobile devices (apps), tool kits, and so on.



J. GRANT MODIFICATIONS

All forms can be found under the Deliverables tab at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. Please note that up-to-date annual reports are required prior to approval of any grant modifications including transfers and no-cost extensions. **The ACS reserves the right to deny requests for extensions, leaves of absence, or transfers.**

Sub-Award specific grant modifications can be found in their respective sections [below](#).

- **Leave of absence**
Requests for a leave of absence will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If possible, please contact the Scientific Director at least 30 days prior to the proposed beginning of leave. ACS Postdoctoral Fellowship awardees only: A separate parental leave policy is available.
- **Request to transfer institution**
A grantee who plans to change institutions during the grant period must contact the Scientific Director to initiate the transfer request process.
- **Key Personnel**
Contact your Scientific Director to request modifications to Key Personnel, including a need to change a Sub-Award PI, Center PI, or co-investigators and collaborators.
- **No Cost Extensions**
If an extension for a Sub-Award or the CHERC is needed, the Center PI should discuss the request, amount of funds to be carried over, and the timeline with the ACS Scientific Director. The Scientific Director must receive this request 60 days before the expiration date of the grant. The maximum no cost extension that can be requested is for 1 year (Center, RSG, CSDG only).

K. CANCELATION OF GRANT

If a grant is to be canceled prior to the original termination date, contact your Scientific Director, and submit the cancellation form in the Deliverables tab at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. If a Sub-Award is canceled, but the overall CHERC award will remain active, contact the Scientific Director to discuss. The ACS may cancel a grant at its sole discretion if the institution fails to comply with the terms and obligations related to the grant.

In the event a grant is canceled, the institution is only entitled to the prorated amount of the award accumulated between the start and termination dates. If a Postdoctoral Fellowship is canceled prior to its end date, payments of the fellowship allowance will be prorated on a monthly basis. The Society assumes no responsibility for expenditures in excess of the prorated amount.

If an award is canceled after the initiation of the grant period, a final report will be due within 60 days of the termination date describing the work completed up to that point.

L. RESUBMISSION OF UNFUNDED GRANTS

Unfunded CHERC applications may be resubmitted up to 2 times. The entire CHERC (Center and all Sub-Awards) may be resubmitted, or individual Sub-Award projects may be resubmitted, if they did not receive a fundable score during review. **Exception:** Postdoctoral Fellowships can only be resubmitted 1 time.

M. ADDITIONAL ACS GRANT POLICIES

The following Policies apply to all ACS Grants. More information can be found in the [All Grant Policies](#) Document.

- Authority for Making Grants
- Source of Funds
- Tobacco-Industry Funding Policy
- Collaborations with ACS Intramural Scientists
- Receipt and Peer Review of Applications
- Guidelines for Maintaining Research and Peer Review Integrity (Appendix A)
- Instructions for submitting deliverables (Appendix B)

6. SUB-AWARD GRANT MECHANISMS

The following ACS research grant mechanisms will serve as the CHERC Sub-Award mechanisms: Clinician Scientist Development Grant (CSDG), Postdoctoral Fellowship (PF), and Research Scholar Grant (RSG). Each Sub-Award PI must prepare their Sub-Award application. The Center PI may propose any combination of Sub-Award grant mechanisms that collectively does not exceed the maximum allowable budget. This format is intended to provide flexibility based on the research and workforce needs of the CHERC. All Sub-Awards must focus on at least 2 social determinants of health.

Requesting a formal evaluation of eligibility

Applicants who are not eligible for a sub-award mechanism but have experienced extenuating circumstances or are unsure about their eligibility status should contact grant.eligibility@cancer.org.

- In the body of the email, briefly state the reason for your request. Include 1) A letter describing the rationale for an exception to the eligibility rules, 2) A full curriculum vitae, and 3) A Biosketch
- The request must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the grant application deadline.
- You will receive an email following the review of your eligibility with the outcome. If your request is approved include a copy of the email or the approval letter (if provided) in the Appendix of your application.

A. CLINICIAN SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT GRANT (CSDG)

Description: The Clinician Scientist Development Grant (CSDG) supports faculty with clinical responsibilities but without an independent research program to become independent investigators as clinician scientists. This grant is designed for individuals, trained primarily as clinicians, who seek to maintain clinical practice and conduct research. During the award term,

individuals are expected to have an active role in clinical care and acquire the research training, mentoring, and experience necessary for transitioning into a successful career as an independent investigator. In addition to the research project itself, the activities during the award period must be designed to develop the necessary knowledge and skills in relevant areas through mentoring and training such as course work, lectures, seminars, self-directed learning, or workshops.

Note: Doctoral-level applicants who are non-clinicians, and clinicians no longer involved in clinical care, are not eligible to apply for the CSDG. If eligible, these researchers are encouraged to apply for the Research Scholar Grant or the Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Eligibility: Individuals meeting the following criteria are eligible to apply without prior approval from the American Cancer Society:

1. Have a doctoral degree (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, DNP, DSW, PharmD, PsyD, DVM, etc.) or terminal degree for their field with an active license (or equivalent certification for their field) to provide clinical care. Applicants may also hold dual degrees such as MD/PhD.
2. Must be a current full-time faculty member. Applicants must provide justification to support the need for mentoring. Faculty serving as PI of an independent research program and/or independent extramural research funding (e.g., PI of an NIH Research Grant or equivalent) may not apply.
3. Current or former PIs of individual development grants (e.g., K08, K22, K23, or equivalent) are not eligible to apply.
4. Must have institutional commitment for the applicant to devote at least 50% effort to research and training.

Mentor(s)

The candidate is required to identify a mentor before submitting an application, who is actively engaged in research in the proposed area and has a track record of mentoring individuals at a similar career stage to the applicant. The mentor is expected to be committed to the proposed research project, supervising the applicant's research, and the career development of the candidate. Applicants may have co-mentors or a mentoring team, if appropriate for the development of the project and the applicant, but a primary mentor must be identified. The applicant should work with their mentor(s) in the development of the application.

Term

Applicants may apply for a project period of 3 or 4 years, depending on the amount of mentored research training that they require based on their previous experience. Applicants must adequately justify the requested grant project period.

Budget

Awards are made for up to 4 years and up to \$135,000 direct costs per year (maximum is \$540,000). If the CSDG Sub-Award is at an institution other than the CHERC institution, 8% allowable indirect costs can be budgeted.

- Applicants must obtain institutional commitment to dedicate at least 50% of their time to the proposed research project and training plan.
- The budget for the grant period may include the applicant's salary, prorated according to the percent of effort devoted to the project, and additional funds for the research and training activities proposed.

- The budget may include salary and benefits for the mentor(s) up to \$10,000 per year — the maximum amount regardless of the number of mentors.
- Grant-funded salaries of the applicant and mentor(s) may not exceed the NIH cap. If the salary of either exceeds this cap, the institution may supplement the Society's contribution from other sources.
- Budgets must be realistic estimates of the funds required for the proposed research.
- CSDG applicants should reserve approximately \$1,500 per year for the PI to travel for ACS-designated conferences, to include the biennial [Jiler Professors and Fellows conference](#) in their first or second year of the grant.

Expenditures

The Society is flexible in response to the changing needs of a research program. The principal investigator may make minor alterations (changes <\$15,000 per year) within the approved budget except where such expenditures conflict with the policies of the Society.

Major changes in expenditures (>\$15,000 per year) require written approval from your Scientific Director. However, for permanent equipment, the annual threshold requiring written approval is >\$5,000. Contact your Scientific Director for guidance.

No Cost Extensions (NCE)

The CSDG PI may request an extension to the termination date for up to one year, without additional funds. The Scientific Director must receive the request from the CHERC PI and CSDG PI at least 30 days before the expiration of the grant. The PI must consult with their Program Office prior to submitting the NCE request form found on ProposalCentral. Typically, the total dollar amount that is allowed to be carried over must be equal to or less than one year of direct costs, plus 8% allowable indirect costs (if applicable).

Change of Primary Mentor

A change of primary mentor for recipients of Postdoctoral Fellowships is not routinely allowed but will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a change in primary mentor also involves a change in project and/or institution, a new application may be required. Contact your Scientific Director to discuss a change of mentor as soon as possible.

Change of Institution

The PI of a Clinician Scientist Development Grant funded as part of a CHERC and the CHERC PI should discuss an institution transfer with the Scientific Director. Due to the nature of the funding mechanism, the transfer of a Clinician Scientist Development Grant to a new institution may not be allowed. The PI should also discuss whether the change of institution will be accompanied by a change of mentor and/or project.

Grant Cancellation

If the grantee cancels their award early, the CHERC PI should contact the Scientific Director to discuss reallocation of remaining funds.

B. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (PF)

Description: Postdoctoral Fellowships are designed to support individuals in programs of research training and study to enable new investigators to competitively qualify for independent careers in cancer research. Peer reviewers will consider whether the fellowship broadens the applicant's research training and experience.

An application for a Postdoctoral Fellowship must be endorsed by the applicant's proposed mentor and the head of the department in which the training will be conducted. A plan of training must be formulated and agreed on by the mentor and the applicant and described in detail in the application. Preliminary data included in the application must be carefully attributed to the person(s) responsible. There is an expectation that the fellow will commit 100% of research efforts to this project. If the PI is a clinician scientists, then it is expected that they devote no less than 80% FTE during the award period.

Term and Eligibility

- Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded to institutions within the US or its territories to support individuals conducting postdoctoral research.
- US citizenship is not required for Postdoctoral Fellows. Non-citizens must hold appropriate visas at time of application. It is the responsibility of the applicant's institution to confirm that a non-US citizen has a visa which will allow the applicant to apply for, accept, and complete the fellowship.
- Researchers who are not designated "fellows" at their institution (e.g., research scientist, staff scientist, instructor) are not eligible to apply. Applicants may also hold the title of postdoctoral scholar, or similar.
- An awardee may not hold a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award from another funding source (federal or non-federal) at the same time as the American Cancer Society Award.
- Applicants must have obtained their doctoral degree prior to activation of the fellowship.
- Applicants may apply for two- or three-year fellowships. The Society uses the application deadline date to determine eligibility and the duration of fellowship awards. The month and year are used when determining the time that the terminal degree has been held.
- An awardee may not hold a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award from another funding source (federal or non-federal) at the same time as the American Cancer Society award.

The following table may be used to clarify eligibility:

Years PhD or MD has been held (at time of application)	Max Project Period (years)
0 to <3	3
3 to 4	2

Individuals who have held a PhD or MD for more than four years at the time of application generally are not eligible for a fellowship. However, the following are not considered in the determination of eligibility:

- **Exempt Training:** Internships, residencies, and oncology subspecialty training (i.e., clinical training) are not considered research training, and do not count toward the 4-year limit beyond the terminal degree

- **Leave of Absence:** An appropriately documented leave of absence will not be counted in the years of eligibility. Leaves of absence may include military service (that does not include research training/experience), family leave, and teaching in a non-research position.

Mentor(s)

The candidate is required to identify a mentor before submitting an application, who is actively engaged in research in the proposed area and has a track record of mentoring individuals at a similar career stage to the applicant. The mentor is expected to be committed to the proposed research project, supervising the applicant's research, and the career development of the candidate. The mentor must have sufficient funding to support the research project proposed by the applicant. Applicants may have co-mentors or a mentoring team, if appropriate for the development of the project and the applicant, but a primary mentor must be identified. The applicant should work with their mentor(s) in the development of the application.

Budget

A Postdoctoral Fellowship consists of a stipend and fellowship allowance. Institutional indirect costs may not be recovered from these funds. In most cases, No Cost Extensions are not allowed for postdoctoral fellowships.

Stipend: Awards cover \$66,000, \$68,000, and \$70,000 for the first, second, and third years, respectively. Fellows eligible for only 2 years should request progressive stipends of \$68,000 and \$70,000, respectively. The annual stipend must be used solely for the salary support of the fellow. The institution may supplement the stipend with non-grant funds, as long as 100% of the research effort on the Society Fellowship is maintained. The Society does not withhold any amount for income tax purposes. The applicant should contact the Internal Revenue Service to determine the tax status of the fellowship.

Fellowship Allowance: Each Fellow will receive \$4,000 per year during the fellowship plus \$1500 in the last year. The annual allowance may be used to help defray costs incurred for the benefit of the fellow. Examples of such costs are health insurance, workshop costs and expenses associated with attending and/or presenting at a domestic scientific meeting(s). The additional \$1,500 in the last year is to be prioritized for travel costs to attend the American Cancer Society [Jiler Professors and Fellows Conference](#), if offered that year, or expenses associated with presenting at another domestic scientific meeting.

Paid Parental Leave

New parent postdoctoral fellows may elect to take parental leave for the adoption, fostering, or birth of a child. The fellow will not perform research during family leave but will continue to receive the ACS stipend/salary for up to 12 weeks (minimum of 4 weeks). In addition, ACS will extend the end date of the postdoctoral fellowship with a supplement equivalent to the amount of time used for ACS parental leave, allowing the postdoctoral fellow to complete the full fellowship term and retain their stipend while on leave.

The fellow should review their institution's parental leave policy prior to requesting ACS parental leave. If an institution offers paid parental leave for postdoctoral fellows, the fellows must first use institutional leave and ACS will pay for leave up to 12 weeks. They may not receive paid leave from both the institution and ACS concurrently. The fellowship supplement at the end would provide salary for a time equivalent to the amount of ACS (or institution + ACS) leave.

Postdoctoral fellows taking leave that extends beyond the grant end date would receive salary for up to 12 weeks leave and the time remaining on their grant.

Prior to notifying the ACS, fellows should discuss parental leave with their mentor(s) and notify their Scientific Director 30-60 days, or as soon as possible, before the anticipated leave. The fellow must download and submit a Parental Leave Form in ProposalCentral as well as upload a letter from their mentor/s acknowledging the leave. The fellow will be notified when their leave has been approved. The fellow and their mentor should notify their Scientific Director by email upon returning to work.

Grant Cancellation

If the fellow cancels their fellowship early, the CHERC PI should contact the Scientific Director to discuss reallocation of remaining funds.

Change of Primary Mentor

A change of primary mentor for recipients of Postdoctoral Fellowships is not routinely allowed but will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a change in primary mentor also involves a change in project and/or institution, a new application may be required. Contact your Scientific Director to discuss a change of mentor as soon as possible.

Change of Institution

The PI of a Postdoctoral Fellowship funded as part of a CHERC and the CHERC PI should discuss an institution transfer with the Scientific Director. Due to the nature of the funding mechanism, the transfer of a Postdoctoral Fellowship to a new institution may not be allowed. The PI should also discuss whether the change of institution will be accompanied by a change of mentor and/or project.

Change of Role at Institution

ACS Postdoctoral Fellows must remain in a mentored non-faculty role at their institution for the duration of the award. Fellows must dedicate 100% research effort to the funded ACS project for the entire project term. Contact your Scientific Director for guidance prior to making any role change.

C. RESEARCH SCHOLAR GRANT (RSG)

Description: Research Scholar Grants (RSGs) provide support for independent, self-directed researchers including clinician scientists. Applicants may pursue research questions across the cancer research continuum. The research must be multi-level and involve **≥2** social determinants of health. These grants typically contribute to the cost of salaries, consumable supplies, and other miscellaneous items required for the research. The application must convey the commitment of the institution to the applicant and the proposed research activities. The Society will only recognize one PI, who is responsible and accountable for overseeing the project.

Eligibility: Applicants must be independent, self-directed researchers or clinician scientists. Any career stage is allowed, and there are no citizenship restrictions. The PI's institution must provide space and other resources customary for independent investigators. There is no limit to the level of extramural funding, as long as there are no overlapping scientific objectives. Research Scholar Grant applicants responding to RFAs, may hold concurrent ACS Research Scholar Grants.

Guidelines for Independence: When peer review committees evaluate an RSG applicant, they look for evidence of administrative and scientific independence.

Administrative independence is typically demonstrated by a full-time faculty appointment (normally equivalent to Assistant Professor); a tenure-track position; allocated office and/or laboratory space; a start-up package; and institutional commitment defined and verified in a letter from a department chair or equivalent.

Evidence of *scientific independence* could include prior grant funding and senior author publications. This award will be made only for project-related work that is wholly directed by the applicant. Specific evidence of an applicant's independence may include:

- Degree: PhD, MD, or terminal degree in the field of specialty.
- Title/Appointment: Assistant Professor (or higher); Research Assistant Professor; or comparable position (i.e., Assistant Member). Individuals with the rank of Instructor may apply if that rank confers principal investigator status at their institution.
- Training Experience: In most disciplines, applicants will have completed a period of postdoctoral or other research training.
- Space: Committed independent research facilities.
- Publications: Corresponding or senior authorship for publications in the investigator's main area of research interest. This is desirable but not required.
- Institutional support: At least partially through hard-money, or money for start-up or equipment.

Budget and Award Period: RSGs fund up to 4 years at \$215,000 per year direct costs (maximum \$860,000). If the RSG Sub-Award is at an institution other than the CHERC institution 10% allowable indirect costs can be budgeted (maximum costs \$946,000).

Equipment that equals or exceeds \$5,000 with a useful life of more than one year, is not included in the direct cost total used to calculate indirect costs.

Personnel may receive salary support up to the National Institutes of Health salary cap, prorated according to their percent effort on the project. Budgets submitted must be realistic estimates of the funds required for the proposed research.

Expenditures: The Society is flexible in response to the changing needs of a research program. The PI may make minor alterations (changes \$15,000 per year) within the approved budget except where such expenditures conflict with the policies of the Society. Major changes in expenditures (>\$15,000 per year) require written approval from your Scientific Director. However, for permanent equipment, the annual threshold requiring written approval is >\$5,000. Contact your Scientific Director for guidance.

No Cost Extensions (NCE) for up to 1-year may be requested by the CHERC and RSG PIs. The PIs must consult with their Scientific Director prior to submitting the NCE request form found on ProposalCentral. Typically, the maximum total dollar amount that can be carried is equal to or less than one year of direct costs, plus 10% allowable indirect costs.

Change of Institution

The PI of a Research Scholar Grant funded as part of a CHERC and the CHERC PI should discuss an institution transfer with the Scientific Director. Due to the nature of the funding mechanism, the transfer of a Research Scholar Grant to a new institution may not be allowed.

Grant Cancellation

If the RSG Sub-Award PI cancels their grant early, the CHERC PI should contact the Scientific Director to discuss reallocation of remaining funds.