



# GRANT PROPOSALS

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## Guidelines & Criteria

Updated  
April 14, 2025

### AOPO FOUNDATION MISSION

*We fund research focused on improving all aspects of  
organ and tissue donation for transplantation.*

## OVERVIEW

The AOPO Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting research focused on improving all aspects of organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The Foundation endeavors to bring new knowledge and innovation to the community of practice specifically focused on advancing the mission of organ and tissue donation and transplant.

The AOPO Foundation was created to extend the mission of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, by building partnerships and breaking down barriers to influence change to positively affect the donation and transplant community and provide equitable and equal access.

The AOPO Foundation anticipates potentially funding up to five (5) projects per year. The total maximum of all grants per year is \$100,000. We look favorably on applicants who can demonstrate an ability to provide equal and equitable access to donation and transplantation.

### **Fund:**

- Donation and transplantation projects focused on areas such as education, family authorization, communication, donor registry, etc.
- Projects that provide equal and equitable access to donation and transplantation
- Medical and social research related to donation and transplantation, to provide an opportunity to conduct pilot studies or early exploration

### **Not fund:**

- For-profit companies or businesses
- Individuals
- Advocacy or lobbying work
- Sponsorships
- Scholarships
- Capital projects
- Other transplant-related causes (i.e., bone marrow, stem cell)

### **Application Dates**

The grant cycle takes place in a calendar year. There are two (2) award dates per year: June and December.

Applications for the June award cycle must be received by **5:00pm ET June 1<sup>st</sup>** and applications for the December award cycle must be received by **5:00pm ET November 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### **Submission**

To apply for the AOPO Foundation Grant, please complete the application through the [Foundation's online grant portal](#). Click here to access. See Project Application section for additional information.

## GRANT CRITERIA

### **The project must align with our mission.**

- Does this work build partnerships, break down barriers, and positively affect the donation and transplant community?
- Does it influence change?

### **The project must be achievable and sustainable.**

- Are you able to complete this work in 12 to 24 months?
- Can you demonstrate a plan for lasting impact beyond 12 to 24 months?
- Can the project be completed within the proposed budget?

### **The project must demonstrate measurable outcomes.**

- Are you able to track and monitor progress and report outcomes?
- You need to provide mid-grant and year-end reports on progress towards goals.

Applications are considered from nonprofit, academic, and governmental organizations only. Individuals are not qualified to apply. Applications are evaluated based on the above criteria. *Specific criteria may be applied depending on the program area and are requested in the grant application.*

## RESEARCH GRANTS

The primary or co-investigator must be employed by an OPO. All research applications must disclose proof of IRB review and approval (if applicable) and have a brief conversation with an AOPO Foundation representative prior to submission.

Additionally, applicants should be prepared to provide a research synopsis and other documentation for review when submitting the application.

### **Current Research Needs and Targets**

It was determined the following areas are in most need of support:

- Non-utilization of organs, including organs recovered for transplant but were not transplanted as well as situations where the list of potential recipients for a donated organ has been exhausted.
- How can our industry increase utilization?
- Donor management strategies that increase the yield of viable organs for transplant.
- Effective strategies around organ donation authorization, including first-person authorization.
- Late primary acceptance organ declines.

Other projects that would be considered include:

- Evaluations of clinical interventions to increase organ procurement and organ utilization, positively impact transplant outcomes and extend graft survival.
- Projects designed to advance the quality and safety of transplantable organs and tissue.
- Projects focused on emerging specialties in the delivery of donation and transplantation services.
- Projects designed to evaluate initiatives to increase quality and promote cost effectiveness in the donation and transplantation field.
- Pilot projects employing innovative messaging or outreach to increase donor designation rates
- Social and behavioral interventions to increase public commitment to organ and tissue donation and enrollment in a state donor registry.

## ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

### Eligibility Requirements

The AOPO Foundation accepts proposals from nonprofit community health-serving organizations, nonprofit hospitals, academic institutions, governmental agencies, foundations, and associations supporting donation and transplantation efforts with priority consideration to organ procurement organizations (OPOs).

Applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt classification from the Internal Revenue Service; be a tax-supported institution such as a hospital, government, or nonprofit organization, or must have a formal fiscal sponsorship arrangement with a tax-exempt organization.

- The primary or co-investigator must be employed by an OPO.
- The core purpose of the application should be consistent with the AOPO Foundation's mission of improving all aspects of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.
- The specific aim of the research project should be capable of completion within two (2) years of the date funding is released

### Application Requirements

Requirements include a minimum of:

- Cover page summarizing research proposal
- Statement of need/specific aims along with project description
- Research strategy and methodology
- Results and Evaluation
- Detailed and justified budget, including the involvement of all personnel and their associate efforts
- Other project information such as IRB information, if applicable, etc.

## **TIMELINE, FUNDING, NOTIFICATION, AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **Timeline**

Applications for the June award cycle must be received by 5:00pm ET June 1<sup>st</sup> and applications for the December award cycle must be received by 5:00pm ET November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Grants are reviewed during these award cycles. All applicants are notified of their application status, regardless of funding, at that time.

### **Funding**

The AOPO Foundation anticipates potentially funding up to five (5) projects per year ranging in size from \$5,000 to \$25,000. The total maximum of all grants per year is \$100,000.

Each grant award is for one calendar year; funds must be expended from January 1 through December 31 (unless otherwise indicated). Because funds are limited, it is anticipated that not all applicants receive funding.

Indirect costs like key and other essential personnel, equipment and supplies, publications and miscellaneous costs, contract services, and travel expenses cannot exceed 15% of total funding. These are defined as administrative costs.

Funds not used within the time frame approved by the AOPO Foundation must be returned unless an extension is requested and approved.

### **Notification**

All applicants are notified of their application status, regardless of funding within 30 days following the closing of the grant cycle.

### **Expectations**

Regular updates on the progress of the project are required at least twice during the grant term (mid-year and final report) and more frequently if requested. The recipient(s) may be invited to present at an AOPO meeting. The final report must include what worked, what did not work, how money was spent, and how it impacted the mission.

Any publication of the results of a project supported by the Grant Program must include attribution satisfactory to the AOPO Foundation.

## **PROJECT APPLICATION**

[Click here to access online application](#)

### **Section A: Cover Page**

This section is a maximum of 300 words and include the following:

- Title of project
- Primary and co-investigators demographic information
- Purpose of proposal

## **Section B: Statement of Need / Specific Aims**

This section is a maximum of 200 words and include the following:

- Describe the change that you are trying to achieve; what the project is designed to accomplish
- Define your key performance indicators; this includes any primary, secondary, tertiary, etc. metrics
- What is included in the scope of your project
- Identified milestone(s) spanning the course of the project

## **Section C: Methodology**

This section is a maximum 300 words and include the following:

- Introduction and rationale: Provide a brief review of the literature and justification for the proposed research
- Materials and Methods: Clearly describe methods, materials, tools, and statistical analysis required to accomplish the objectives

## **Section D: Results & Evaluation**

This section is a maximum of 200 words and include the following:

- Describe any results already achieved or anticipated results
- Explain how the results are going to be evaluated, including method and frequency

## **Section E: Budget**

This section includes all costs and expenditures. List justifications for each. The following expenditures are NOT allowed:

- Secretarial/administrative personnel salary support
- Office equipment or supplies
- Computer and equipment maintenance fees
- Tuition
- Travel and conference fees
- Dues and memberships
- Office and lab space
- Non-medical services to patients

The AOPO Foundation maintains the authority to line-item veto any proposed expenditure, as applicable. Indirect costs of up to 15% are permitted.

## **Section F: Other Project Information**

Are human subjects involved?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, is the project exempt from Federal Regulations?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, provide the exemption number:

If no, is the IRB review pending? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
IRB approval date (if received):

Is proprietary or privileged information included in the application? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does the project involve activities outside the United States or partnerships with international organizations or collaborators? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the project undertaken for credit at an institution of higher education? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please identify the institution:

Faculty Advisor:

Degree sought / course of study:

Credits expected for this project:

## SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

**Applications must be submitted through the [AOPO Foundation's online grant portal](#).** Only applications submitted through the AOPO Foundation's online grant portal are considered.

Applications for the June award cycle must be received by 5:00pm ET June 1<sup>st</sup> and applications for the December award cycle must be received by 5:00pm ET November 1<sup>st</sup>. Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered. It is encouraged to apply early to avoid any unexpected delays.

Grants are reviewed during these award cycles. All applicants are notified of their application status, regardless of funding, at that time.

### After Submitting Your Application

Once you have submitted your grant application online, an email confirmation is sent. You may also receive updates along the way as your application moves through the multi-step review process.

**Submission Limit:** Organizations may only submit one application per cycle.

## QUESTIONS

If at any time throughout the process you have questions about the AOPO Foundation's funding priorities, the online grant application, or other questions, please contact Roxane Cauwels at [AOPFoundation@aopo.org](mailto:AOPFoundation@aopo.org).