

Applying for the Mathers Grant Awards Program

Philip Kranzusch with Lab Staff

The Application Process

The Mathers Grant application process involves several key steps, each requiring specific information and documentation to meet the Foundation's requirements. If approved, grants are typically awarded within five to six months of LOI submission. All program-related activities must be managed through the [portal](#).

Institutional nomination is required before submitting a Letter of Intent.

Medical research universities and scientific institutions that are nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. We prefer applicants to hold 501(c)(3) status, but it is not required.

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Registration

Registration and Institutional Nominations are required at least two weeks before the current cycle's due date.

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Fall Cycle — New LOI submissions available beginning June 10 — Institutional Nominations & Registrations due July 17

Applications include a project summary, related work, and a three-year budget describing major expense line items.

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Formal Proposal

All invited formal proposals must include a project summary, detailed scientific aims, and a budget justification for all project costs.

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Eligibility

Medical research universities and scientific institutions that are nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. We prefer applicants to hold 501(c)(3) status, but it is not required.

Eligible for Funding

- ✓ Institutions that directly support their own investigators
- ✓ Principal Investigators with their own fully equipped labs
- ✓ All levels of professorship
- ✓ Collaborative research projects with other U.S.-based organizations

Ineligible for Funding

- ✗ Institutions based outside the United States
- ✗ Institutions that do not employ their own investigators
- ✗ Private Foundations or third-party organizations that provide funding to other organizations
-) Grants to individuals

Research Areas **We Support**

Immunology

Microbiome

Structural Biology

Cellular Physiology

Cancer Biology

Genetics

Genomics

Microbiology & Infectious Diseases

Stem Cell Biology

Neuroscience

Research Areas **We Do Not Support**

Covid-19

Plant Biology (including plant microbiome)

Oceanography

Space Exploration

Global Warming

Agriculture and Herbicide Research

Clinical Trials or Drug Discovery

Vaccine Development

Ecology

Environment

The list is not exhaustive and may be subject to change or interpretation by the Board.



Registration

Registration in the portal is required to access the Mathers Foundation grants application and instructions. All new registrations must be completed by the grant cycle registration [due date](#).

Returning applicants do not need to register again. For the best user experience, we recommend using Google Chrome or Safari browsers.

Portal Login →

LOI Application

The Mathers Foundation Grants Program is a limited competition, where eligible organizations may submit up to three (3) institute-nominated Letter of Inquiry (LOI) applications per grant cycle. The LOI application due dates can be found [here](#). Nominations must be submitted at least two weeks before the application due date. There are a total of seven fields that must be completed, some of which have character limits.

Please note the Foundation does not provide feedback for declined LOIs.

Required Information:

* Title of Project

- Enter the project title.

* Project Summary

- Write the Project Summary so that a highly educated lay audience and a scientific review board can understand the project's nature and scope.
- Collaborators should be mentioned in the summary, along with their contributions to the project.

* Total Requested Budget

- The Foundation's required budget template is available within the portal and must be used for all Letters of Inquiry (LOIs). The downloadable Excel file includes three tabs: Grant Budget, Budget Justification, and READ ME instructions. The Budget Justification tab is optional at the LOI stage.

- **MANDATORY:** Applications cannot be submitted unless the READ ME compliance section has been fully reviewed and acknowledged.
- When uploading budget documents, applicants should select the “LOI Budget” document label.
- Applicants must enter the total requested budget for three (3) years, which may not exceed \$600,000–\$700,000, inclusive of up to 10% indirect costs (calculated by multiplying total direct costs by 0.10 and adding that amount to the direct costs).
- Refer to the Letter of Inquiry FAQs for additional guidance regarding allowable and non-allowable budget expenses.

* Project Aims

- Include Experimental Aims and sub-aims.
- Write for a scientific audience (2,000–character limit, spaces are included).

* Proof of Concept, Previous or Related Work

- Include proof of concept evidence/validation for the project.
- Include whether the evidence for the project is “preliminary”.
- Include whether proof of concept has been published in any scientific journals (2,000–character limit, spaces are included).

* Category of Research

- Provide a summary of your assessment of the project’s primary focus.
- Responses help the Foundation compare similar LOIs (examples of research areas of interest are available [here](#)). There is no drop–down menu for this field.

* Discoveries/Publications

- Briefly describe your most impactful discoveries and/or best publications.
- This information does not have to be directly related to the proposed project (2,500–character limit, including spaces).

* Documents

Documents & Optional Supplementary Materials Policy– Documents and supplementary information uploaded to the portal during the submission process cannot be deleted by applicants. Please contact support@mathersfoundation.org for assistance with removing documents if needed. Do not submit another LOI.

Please note that any requests to upload materials received after the current application deadline will not be approved or processed.

Upload the completed Foundation-required Grant Budget template

Biosketch Submission Guidelines

- Submit the new NIH Biographical Sketch (Common Forms with Supplement) for the PI and all collaborators.
- Postdoctoral fellows and graduate students contributing 30% or more effort to the project must submit an NIH biosketch; if a biosketch is not available, a C.V. may be submitted instead. (*C.V.s may not exceed five (5) pages*)
- The PI and collaborators must provide active and pending support using the Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form. In addition, applicants must submit a separate document listing completed support from the past three (3) years, including the project title, funding source, project period, and the individual's role on the project.
- Consultants must provide a biosketch, along with a description of their effort and role on the project. Other Support is not required.

*** Optional Supplementary Information**

- Should be uploaded as an additional document(s) in the Requested Documents section of the application.
- Examples include budget justifications (optional for LOIs), references, proofs, collaborators, biosketches, letters of support, additional comments and figures.

Collaborators and Sub-Awards: Collaborating institutions and sub-awardees must be nonprofit organizations, and the Foundation has no role in managing those arrangements.



Formal Proposal

Invitation Only

The proposal narrative, written for a scientific audience, must follow the required sections, be no longer than 7 pages, and include updated supplementary materials. A detailed budget and budget justification, with a maximum amount of \$700,000 over three years, are also required.

Image credit: Deblina Sarkar

Cover photo provided by Jimmy Day, courtesy of MIT

View Proposal →

Grant Timeline & Due Dates

Grant schedules and submission deadlines are fixed annually.

exceptions will be made for late submissions.

Cycle	Institutional Nominations and Portal Registration	LOI Application	Invited Formal Proposals
Spring 2026	Jan 30th, 2026 8pm EST	Feb 13th, 2026 8pm EST	Apr 24th, 2026 8pm EST
Fall 2026	July 17th, 2026 8pm EST	July 31st, 2026 8pm EST	Sept 18th, 2026 8pm EST

Please read through our FAQ's for any questions you may have.

Browse FAQ's →

What are the key institutional roles in the grant application process?



The Principal Investigator (PI) is the lead researcher responsible for the project and all scientific reporting. The Administrative Contact (may include individuals from Development, Foundation Relations, Sponsored Programs, Grants Administration) is the liaison to the foundation and coordinates all institutional applications, including the nominations process. The Signing Official is authorized to execute the grant agreement if funding is awarded.

Can individuals in junior faculty positions, such as Instructors, apply?

Additionally, is there a requirement for candidates to have assigned lab space at their institution?





The Mathers Foundation funds bold, basic scientific research with transformative potential to improve human health. We support early-stage discoveries that drive innovation and lay the groundwork for future medical breakthroughs.

What We Do

How To Apply

FAQ's

Success Stories

Formal Proposal

Contact Us

800 Westchester Avenue
Suite S-618
Rye Brook, New York 10573

