AAAAI FOUNDATION AWARD TO SUSTAIN RESEARCH EXCELLENCE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TIMELINES	**Spring Cycle**
Letter of Intent Due:	May 6, 2025, 11:59 PM CT
Complete Applications Due:	July 8, 2025, 11:59 PM CT
Decision:	Mid-August 2025
Awarded:	September 2025

OVERVIEW

The American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) Foundation is committed to developing and supporting the careers of physician scientists focused on the prevention, pathobiology, diagnosis and treatment of asthma and allergic and immunologic disorders. The goal of this award is to support highly accomplished early-stage investigators at a critical time when they are launching their independent programs. This one-year award provides $100,000 in funding to enable meritorious investigators to develop innovative tools, master emerging technologies, and gather requisite preliminary data needed for competitive National Institutes of Health (NIH) or Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) or similar R01 applications. Successful applicants are those with a track record of productivity who have already received K grants or similar career development funding, committed themselves to an established R01-funded physician-scientist track, and submitted an R01 that was scored outside of the funding range.

Applications will include the planned A1 NIH or AHRQ grant proposal, along with documentation of how the AAAAI Foundation award will increase competitiveness for an R01 award. Importantly, *for all complete applications that are submitted, the AAAAI Grant Review Committee will provide written feedback to trainees, like an NIH/AHRQ summary statement, to help them revise their NIH/AHRQ submission, irrespective of whether they succeed in obtaining the AAAAI award.*

The AAAAI Foundation is committed to increasing ethnic and racial diversity in the Allergy and Immunology field and strongly encourages minority applicants to apply. Further, the AAAAI Foundation is committed to supporting geographic diversity in all genres of research in Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and strongly encourages applications from diverse geographic areas.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Visa status/citizenship:
• Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or Canada.

Professional Positions:
Applicants must:
- Hold one of the following degrees: MD, MD/PhD, DO, DO/PhD.
- Be board certified in Allergy/Immunology by the American Board of Allergy and Immunology or hold the equivalent from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
- Hold a primary faculty appointment in the discipline of Allergy/Immunology at an academic or other not-for-profit research institution.
- Be a member of the AAAAI in good standing for the 3 years prior to the grant submission date.

Academic Experience:
- Applicants must have a demonstrated institutional commitment including salary support and research space, as evidenced by a Department or Division Chair letter.
- The applicant's publication record should reflect significant scientific contributions.

Funding Portfolio:

- The applicant must be a PI on a career development K grant, or a grant with similar level of funding such as an R21, Foundation Award, or DOD award that is either still active or has expired within the 3 years prior to the application deadline for the Letter of Intent.
- Applicants must have submitted an A0 R01 that was scored outside of the funding range and require time and funding to submit a successful revised A1. This AAAAI bridge grant will NOT be awarded to applicants who submit their revised A1 grant to the NIH/AHRQ prior to the start date of the AAAAI award. An Other Support Page will be requested prior to transfer of funds to verify that there is no pending A1 grant.
- Applicants must supply scores of all pending R01s. If an applicant is awarded the AAAAI Foundation Award to Sustain Research Excellence and another pending R01 application is awarded prior to the start date (September 1, 2025) they will no longer be eligible.
- Applicants who have been a PI on large federal research grants (R01, P01, UO1, VA Merit) are not eligible to apply.

PROPOSAL

This proposal should serve as a template for a planned (A0) or revised (A1) 5-year R01 and include all requisite sections. Additionally, the applicant will provide rationale for the current funding, and how the data that results will lead to a successful R01 application.

Importantly, applicants should send the **Summary Statement** from the review of the A0 application. The grant review committee will assess the grant de novo but, after scoring the grant, the committee will review the Summary Statement to integrate their comments with the prior review.

A1 Grant Proposal (per standard NIH RO1 format)
1. Project Summary / Abstract
2. Project Narrative
3. Facilities and Other Resources
4. Equipment
5. Listing of Key Persons and their Biosketches
6. Introduction to the Revised Submission
7. Specific Aims Page
8. Research Strategy* See distinct instructions for grants to be submitted to the NIH/AHRQ before or after 1/25/2026.
9. Letter of Recommendation from Department/Division Head

Additional documents for this award:
10. Summary Statement
11. Explain how you will use the money to increase the competitiveness of the proposal (1 page total).
12. Budget Justification for the 1-year award
13. Department/Division Head Statement, which should include the following:
    - Confirm the applicant has a full-time faculty appointment in an Allergy/Immunology Division
    - State the applicant's future path at the institution.
    - State the department's commitment to the applicant -- including space and funding.
    - Guarantee no budgetary overlap.
    - Guarantee appropriate protected time.

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

PROPOSED NIH APPLICATION

Project Summary / Abstract
State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, referring to the health relatedness of the project (i.e., relevance to the mission of the agency). Describe the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. Be sure that the project summary reflects the key focus of the proposed project so that the application can be appropriately categorized.

Project Narrative
Describe the relevance of this research to public health in, at most, three sentences.

Facilities and Other Resources
Describe how the scientific environment in which the research will be done contributes to the probability of success (e.g., institutional support, physical resources, and intellectual rapport). In describing the scientific environment in which the work will be done, discuss ways in which the proposed studies will benefit from unique features of the scientific environment or from unique subject populations or how studies will employ useful collaborative arrangements.

For early-stage investigators, your description may include resources for classes, travel, or training; collegial support, such as career enrichment programs, assistance and guidance in the supervision of trainees involved with the ESI's project, and availability of organized peer groups; logistical support, such as administrative management and oversight and best practices training; financial support, such as protected time for research with salary support.

Equipment
List major items of equipment already available for this project and, if appropriate, identify the equipment's location and pertinent capabilities.

Listing of Key Persons and their Biosketches (NIH format)
List all personnel who will have a significant role in the research project (i.e., will have impact on project content, data collection, data interpretation).

Introduction to the Revised Submission (if applicable)
Summarize substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application that were made in response to criticism raised in the summary statement.

Specific Aims Page
State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research field(s) involved.

List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field or develop new technology).

Letter of Recommendation
A letter of recommendation from Department/Division Head.

Research Strategy*

For grants to be submitted before 1/25/2026, per NIH guidelines:

Significance
- Explain the importance of the problem and how the project addresses a critical barrier to progress in the field.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

Innovation
- Describe novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Approach
- Describe the rationale for the project and the approach. Discuss plans to address weaknesses in the rigor of the prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project.
- Describe the methodology and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. For each aim, include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted (e.g., number of experiments, types of measurements to be made), and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.

For grants to be submitted after 1/25/2026, as per NIH guidelines:

Importance (Significance and Innovation)
- Describe the importance of the proposed research in the context of current scientific challenges and opportunities. How will the application address an important gap in knowledge in the field, solve a critical problem, or create a valuable conceptual or technical advance.
- Explain the rationale for undertaking the study, the rigor of the scientific background for the work (e.g., prior literature and/or preliminary data) and whether the scientific background justifies the proposed study.
- Explain whether the proposed work applies novel concepts, methods or technologies or uses existing concepts, methods, technologies in novel ways, to enhance the overall impact of the project.

Rigor and Feasibility (Approach)
- Explain how the study design, controls, sample size, analysis plans, and data interpretation will produce unbiased, reproducible, robust data.
- Address relevant biological variables, such as sex or age, in the design, analysis, and reporting.
- Describe whether the results will be generalizable or relevant only to a particular subgroup and whether the sample is appropriate and sufficiently diverse to address the proposed question(s).
- Evaluate whether the proposed approach is sound and achievable within the proposed timelines.

Expertise and Resources (Expertise and Environment)
- Evaluate whether the investigator(s) have demonstrated background, training, and expertise, as appropriate for their career stage, to conduct the proposed work.
- Evaluate whether the institutional resources are appropriate to ensure the successful execution of the proposed work.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE AAAAI FOUNDATION AWARD

Summary Statement from NIH review (if applicable)

Statement of Justification for the AAAAI Award
- Explain how the grant will increase the competitiveness of the proposal (1 page total).

Budget Justification for the 1-year award

Department Head Statement
- Confirm that the applicant has a full-time faculty appointment.
- State the applicant's future path at the institution.
- State the department's commitments to the applicant including space and funding.
- Guarantee that there is no budget overlap.
- Guarantee that there is a commitment for protected time (and quantitate this appropriately).