



National Center
7272 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75231-4596

<https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>

AHA Award Guide

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MISSION STATEMENT

To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

AHA Research Award Guide

PREFACE

The American Heart Association (AHA) congratulates you on your AHA Research Award. It is a great source of pride to the AHA that you have been selected as an Awardee. AHA Research Awardees are an integral part of the organization with a long tradition of excellence both locally and nationally. Many opportunities exist for your continued involvement with the AHA during and after the term of your Award.

This guide has been prepared to assist Awardees (also referred to as Principal Investigators) and other authorized institutional officials with the specific terms and conditions applicable to AHA Awards. In accepting an Award, the Principal Investigator and the Institution assume an obligation to expend Award funds for the research purposes set forth in the Application and in accordance with all regulations and policies governing the programs of the American Heart Association, Inc. Acceptance of the AHA's policies is a requirement of accepting the Award. An Awardee and Institution accept the AHA's Award by signing an Award Agreement. The Terms and Conditions of the Award Agreement are available on our website at <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>.

The AHA uses ProposalCentral as our online grants management system. The system is used to manage the application, peer review, and awards processes. It is accessible 24/7 from any location with internet connection. This secure site requires all users to have a username and password for access.

For system support, questions about registration, or technical issues, please contact ProposalCentral customer support hotline at 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), or +1 703-964-5840 (Direct Dial International) or by email at pcsupport@altum.com

Questions about Awards management, AHA guidelines, or policy information may be directed to awards@heart.org or 214-360-6107 option 2. Awards are assigned to staff to manage by state. Please see page 24 of the guide for staff contact information. Our mailing address is:

American Heart Association
Research and Grants Administration
7272 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75231-4596

AHA Research pages: <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>

AHA's Home Page: www.heart.org

An Award is bound by the terms and limitations under which it was approved unless otherwise indicated by the American Heart Association. Guides are updated annually if needed and placed on the web. Please look for an updated guide for your Award each year in December. Research information may be found at <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>.

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I. AHA PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The AHA funds research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease, stroke or to related clinical, basic science, and public health problems and all basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems. The Association approves Awards to selected Institution to support research efforts in these areas.

Following is a list of the programs offered by the Association for fiscal year 23-24 and 24-25. For detailed description of programs offered over the last seven years, please visit the 'Awardee Policies' section on the AHA Research Programs Information web pages at <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>.

Programs

Institutional Award for Undergraduate Student Training
Predoctoral Fellowship
Postdoctoral Fellowship
Research Supplement
Career Development Award
Implementation Science Award
AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)
Established Investigator Award
Innovative Project Award
Transformational Project Award
AHA's Second Century Early Faculty Independence Award
AHA's Second Century Implementation Science Award
Collaborative Sciences Award
Merit Award

Information about the AHA Strategically Focused Research Networks and the Institute for Precision Medicine is available on our web site as well as a list of the current program offerings at <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>.

II. CONDITIONS FOR AWARD SUPPORT

A. AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The AHA has established Award Terms and Conditions for accepting funding from our organization. The AHA has moved to the practice of not modifying the Award Agreement Terms & Conditions for individual Institutions or Awards. The Terms and Conditions are available on our web site at <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>.

The AHA reserves the right to modify the Terms and Conditions of the Award Agreement with 12 months written notice to the Awardee and the Institution.

B. CITIZENSHIP/VISAREQUIREMENTS

Award recipients must meet AHA citizenship criteria throughout the duration of their Award including any authorized extension period. For detailed information regarding eligibility requirements, please see the Program Descriptions in the 'Research Policies & Awardee Hub' section of the Research Programs pages at <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>.

Awards are subject to termination if citizenship/visa status no longer meets AHA requirements. It is the responsibility of the Awardee Institution (as the employer or sponsoring institution) to ensure legal verification of citizenship or visa status and compliance with AHA policy.

C. ALTERNATIVE/OVERLAPPING FUNDING

Alternative (pending or planned Applications) Funding

An Application must be identified as alternative if submitted to more than one granting agency for the same or a closely related Project and/or a proposal in which there are duplicate budgetary requests.

Overlapping (active or approved Awards) Funding

An Award must be identified as overlapping if it supports the same or closely related Projects and/or in which there are duplicated budgetary requests. The Investigator can accept the Association Award only if he/she relinquishes the overlapping Application.

In accepting an Award from the American Heart Association, the Principal Investigator and the Awardee Institution assume an obligation to expend Award funds for the research purposes set forth in the Application and to affirm that there is no supplementary or duplicate funding for these purposes. The Principal Investigator and Awardee Institution will promptly notify the AHA of the activation of any Award which is alternative or overlapping to AHA support.

After an Application is reviewed by the Association, the alternative designation of the Project or the budget cannot be changed to accommodate any partial alternative funding. The Investigator is not allowed to adjust the scientific aims or budget of an AHA Application to accommodate any overlap resulting from funding of an alternative Application by another funding agency. One hundred percent (100%) duplication between Applications is not a requirement for an Application to be deemed alternative or overlapping. The Investigator can accept only one Award if more than one is approved for funding. If a subsequent funding agency eliminates all overlap (scientific and budgetary), the Awardee may keep the Association Award, pending review and approval by the AHA Research Leadership. If there are exceptions to this policy, they will be noted on the Program Descriptions for the specific program.

D. MULTIPLE AHA AWARDS

An individual may hold more than one AHA award concurrently but may only hold one career development/recognition award (Career Development Award, Established Investigator Award, Merit Award) at a time. Strategically Focused Research Network personnel may hold individual AHA awards.

If there are additional exceptions, they will be noted on the Program Descriptions for the specific program.

E. AHA PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

Award recipients must maintain an active AHA Professional Membership account throughout the duration of the Award. If your membership has expired, please renew today, <https://professional.heart.org/en/partners>.

F. SUBMISSION OF AWARD FORMS AND DOCUMENTATION

The Principal Investigator and Awardee Institution must provide the AHA with the required award forms and documentation by the due date set forth in the Award letter as a condition of accepting the award. The AHA will not make Award payments until all required documentation has been received. (See Section III Life Cycle of an AHA Award, Subsection B for more information.)

G. ETHICAL ASPECTS OF RESEARCH WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS AND ANIMALS

The ethics of experimentation with human subjects and animals has a number of implications. Above all, there is a basic obligation to the experimental subject. In addition, it is important to ensure that any tissues or cells derived from experimental subjects are handled respectfully. Circumspection in ethical areas is also important for the Principal Investigator and for the scientific community as a whole.

The American Heart Association does not fund scientific research that involves the use of human fetal tissue.

With respect to human and animal experimentation, the Awardee, Sponsor and department head at the Institution must affirm:

1. that the investigations involving human subjects proposed and subsequently carried out in the Application have been endorsed by the committee on clinical investigation, or other clearly designated appropriate body, of the Institution; and
2. that any research involving human subjects will conform ethically with the guidelines prescribed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including the provision of suitable explanation to human subjects or their guardians concerning the experimental design and all significant hazards, so that they may be in a position to provide appropriate informed consent prior to the investigation; and
3. that research involving animals will conform with the current "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals", NIH publication, DHHS/USPHS; and with federal laws and regulations; and has been approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee; and
4. that wherever applicable, the research Protocol will be reviewed and approved by the Institution's biohazards committee, as well as conforming to NIH guidelines.

Each applicant had been strongly encouraged to submit their project to the appropriate human subjects Institutional Review Board/Privacy Board and to the appropriate animal care and use committee at the time of application. Awardees will have a maximum time of three months following the original activation date to submit these and any other assurances required to be sent to the AHA. (For example, if the activation date is January 1, IRB approval, approved patient consent form, and any other assurances required to be sent to the AHA must be received prior to March 31.) If these items are not provided to the AHA within three months of the originally posted activation date, no payments will be made, and the award funding may be withdrawn by the AHA for failure to provide required award documentation.

Applicable approval letters for the Project should be active and dated within a year of the Award start date. Endorsements should specifically cite the applicant's name and Project title. If the institutional endorsement does not cite the applicant's name and Project title as submitted to the American Heart Association, an explanation must be included on the deliverable concern explaining why the endorsement is not in the applicant's name and/or why the Project title does not coincide with that listed on the Application.

H. STANDARDS ON FALSIFICATION OF SCIENTIFIC DATA, PLAGIARISM AND SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

Set out below is the binding Standards on Falsification of Scientific Data, Plagiarism and Scientific Misconduct Policy of the AHA approved by the AHA Board of Directors.

I. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE AND PURPOSE:

The American Heart Association requires highly ethical scientific behavior in all of its programs and activities. The American Heart Association endorses the principles of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) report "The Maintenance of High Ethical Standards in the Conduct of Research". This statement serves as a guideline when allegations are made or indications arise of falsification of scientific data, plagiarism, or other scientific misconduct in AHA scientific publishing, scientific sessions and conferences, or research funded by the AHA or Affiliates.

II. SUBMITTED ARTICLES AND ABSTRACTS:

A. Allegation or Indication of Scientific Misconduct

When a credible allegation is made of falsification of scientific data, plagiarism, or other scientific fraud or misconduct, or reasonable indications thereof arise in the review of an article or abstract submitted for publication or presentation, a written statement shall be provided to the submitting author(s)/scientist(s) specifying the particular concern(s) of the AHA and requesting a written response. In the absence of a timely response or in the event of a response that is deemed by the AHA as insufficient in providing a reasonable explanation for the AHA's concern, the AHA shall reject the submitted journal article or abstract. The AHA, as it deems appropriate, may advise or seek assistance from the Institution(s) of the author(s)/scientist(s).

B. Responsible Party

The editor and the chairperson of the Scientific Publishing Committee are the responsible parties in the case of manuscripts submitted for publication in AHA scientific publications. The chairperson of the Scientific Sessions Program Committee and, when such is the case, the chairperson of the conference are the responsible parties in the case of abstracts submitted for publication or presentation at AHA scientific sessions and conferences. The AHA President shall be advised as deemed appropriate by the responsible parties.

III. PUBLISHED REFEREED ARTICLES AND ABSTRACTS:

A. Requests To Retract

1. When a request to retract a refereed article or abstract that has been published by the AHA is from all authors, the AHA shall retract.
2. When a request to retract a refereed article or abstract that has been published by the AHA is from less than all authors and the non-requesting author is suspected of a violation or the request to retract is from non-authors, the AHA shall retract upon a showing of "high probability" of the specifically cited violation having occurred.

Non-requesting authors – whether or not they are the individuals suspected of a violation – will be advised by certified mail of the request to retract and will be asked to consent or comment within a specified time limit. No reply received within the time limit will be construed as consent to retract. Should the reply be a statement of defense or argument against retraction, the decision to retract will be made upon a showing of "high probability" of the specifically cited violation having occurred.

"High probability" is a satisfactory showing to the AHA of a thorough investigation with fair and impartial procedures and investigators, with an adequate opportunity provided for the suspected scientist to explain his or her conduct, and yielding a deliberative reasonable decision based on credible evidence.

B. Format of Retraction

A request for retraction shall be published in the appropriate AHA publication followed by a brief statement of endorsement or acceptance by that publication's editor.

C. Responsible Parties

The editor of the publication is the responsible party in consultation with the chairperson of the Scientific Publishing Committee and the AHA President. In the case of abstracts, the chairperson of the Scientific Sessions Program Committee and, when such is the case, the chairperson of the conference are responsible parties.

IV. AHA FUNDED SCIENTIST SUSPECTED OF VIOLATION:

A. AHA Level

1. When a credible allegation or reasonable indication of scientific misconduct by an AHA funded scientist, or applicant for AHA funding, arises and when a determination is made by the AHA that the Institution has an acceptable procedure to investigate and resolve the allegation, the AHA ordinarily will allow the Institution to investigate and resolve the allegation. However, the AHA reserves the right to conduct or call for an independent investigation resulting in findings or suggestions.
2. When the institutional procedure is found not to be acceptable or there is no institutional procedure, the AHA shall determine an appropriate course of action including, but not limited to, conducting an independent investigation, or requesting an independent investigation by a third party, making findings or recommendations, seeking restitution from the scientist or Institution, notifying other funding or appropriate agencies, or requesting retractions of published articles or studies.

B. Affiliate Level

The AHA shall offer assistance to an Affiliate as appropriate and consistent with these Standards.

C. Responsible Parties

The Officers of the AHA are the responsible party in consultation with the chairperson of the Research Committee.

V. PROCEDURE:

In each of the above situations the responsible parties, in consultation with the AHA's Corporate Legal Counsel, shall determine a specific course of action based upon the particular facts and circumstances of the matter. The author(s) or scientist(s) against whom an allegation or indication of scientific misconduct arises shall be permitted a reasonable opportunity to respond or explain before the AHA takes final action in the matter. Though the intent of this Standard is to protect the reputation of the AHA and the integrity of its scientific publishing, scientific sessions, and funded research programs and activities, due regard also will be given to the protection of the reputation of the involved author(s) or scientist(s).

I. PROPRIETARY RESEARCH

While Inventions and discoveries will be respected, it is not within the spirit of Awards supported by the American Heart Association to pursue proprietary research.

J. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Inventions from research performed during the term of the Award will be subject to the current patent, intellectual property & technology transfer policies of the AHA as well as to the corresponding policies of the Institution where the work is performed. Set out below is the binding Patent, Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer Policy of the AHA, approved by the AHA Board of Directors on October 28, 2021.

The primary purpose of the American Heart Association, Inc. ("AHA") in funding scientifically meritorious research is to advance its mission. The AHA recognizes that inventions having public health, scientific, business or commercial application or value may be made in the course of research supported by the AHA. The AHA desires that such inventions be administered in a manner that they are brought into public use at the earliest possible time. The AHA recognizes that this may be best accomplished through patenting, copyrighting, and/or licensing of such inventions. The AHA has implemented this Intellectual Property Policy for Research Funding ("Policy") to be applicable to all AHA research funding awards except as described herein.

I. DEFINITIONS

These defined terms are used in this Policy:

“Award” is the American Heart Association funding mechanism and accompanying financial support given to a specific institution to support the research of a specific investigator(s).

“Award Agreement” means an agreement outlining the terms and conditions through which the AHA disburses research funding for an Award.

Income

“Gross Income” means all revenue and other considerations (including distributions on equity) received related to commercialization of Intellectual Property resulting, in whole or in part, from an Award.

“Net Income” means all Gross Income received related to commercialization of Intellectual Property resulting, in whole or in part, from an Award, less out-of-pocket expenses related directly to patent costs associated with the Intellectual Property. All other costs, including Unrecovered Indirect Costs and Internal Distributions, are not deductible when calculating Net Income.

“Indirect Costs” means costs incurred by an Institution that are not directly attributed to Intellectual Property, including but not limited to overhead costs and general and administrative costs. Actual Indirect Costs may or may not exceed an Institution’s published or official “Indirect Cost Rate.”

“Internal Distributions” means an Institution’s internal distributions to inventors, investigators, divisions, departments or others within the Institution.

“Unrecovered Indirect Costs” means any Indirect Costs incurred by an Institution that exceed the Indirect Costs allowed under an Award.

“Institution” is the entity (e.g., university, medical center, hospital, research institute) in which the research supported by an Award will be or was conducted as shown on an Award Agreement.

“Inventor(s)” is the investigator, author or other person working under an Award who, according to applicable law, created Intellectual Property.

“Intellectual Property” is any tangible or intangible discovery, composition of matter, method, idea, design, process, trade secret, concept, product, program, software, know-how, original work of authorship, or other intellectual property right, whether or not patented or patentable or copyrighted or copyrightable, that is conceived or reduced to practice in the performance or as a result of an Award and has an application of value such that its use, licensing, lease or sale can generate revenue or other consideration.

II. APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to any Award Agreement through which the AHA disburses funding for research, EXCEPT:

- Subawards of entirely federal research grant funds when such subawards contain conflicting provisions on intellectual property rights such as those imposed by federal law or the primary award terms;
- Contracts for research and development services to AHA on behalf of other entities;
- Agreements to create predefined “works for hire” deliverables under a contract with the AHA;
- Unique research awards with substantial or complex funding arrangements or designed by AHA for significant impact on a particular topic, in each case when other intellectual property rights terms are described in the notice of funding availability or equivalent invitation; and
- Any other Award specifically excluded from this Policy at AHA’s sole discretion.

Acceptance of any Award constitutes express agreement to the terms of this Policy. Except as otherwise noted herein, the terms of this Policy control in the event of a conflict between this Policy and an Institution’s or Inventor’s policy. **The American Heart Association is unable to negotiate the terms of this Policy or any**

Award Agreement with any individual Institution or Inventor.

III. GENERAL POLICY

- A. If an Institution receiving or disbursing AHA research funds has an established and applicable patent, intellectual property or technology transfer policy and procedure for administering intellectual property, the AHA will defer to that policy for title to intellectual property.
- B. If an Institution has no established and applicable patent, intellectual property or technology transfer policy or procedure for administering intellectual property, title to any Intellectual Property shall reside in the Institution or Inventor(s) as agreed by them. Title to any copyrightable work shall reside in the author unless and except to the extent the author has transferred ownership rights to the Institution prior to creation of the copyrightable work as allowed by applicable law.
- C. If Intellectual Property is conceived or reduced to practice from the performance of research funded by the joint support of the AHA and an agency or department of the United States Government, the AHA will defer to the patent, intellectual property or technology transfer policy of the United States Government.
- D. An Institution shall license, lease or sell Intellectual Property in accordance with its own patent and intellectual property policies.

IV. NOTICES AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS

- A. All Intellectual Property shall be reported in writing to the AHA within 60 days of the date when the Intellectual Property is disclosed to the Institution where the work was performed, and prior to any public disclosure. The report to AHA should include the Institution's initial invention disclosure form related to the Intellectual Property and any subsequent versions that have substantive changes or additional information.
- B. Institution and Inventor(s) shall promptly determine whether they desire to seek patent or other statutory protection for Intellectual Property and shall notify the AHA in writing within 60 days after the decision to seek (or not seek) such protection. Institution and Inventor(s) shall also notify the AHA in writing (i) within 60 days after a patent application being filed and any patent subsequently being issued, and/or (ii) prior to the execution of a license, lease, sale or revenue generating agreement concerning Intellectual Property. No patent or patent application shall be abandoned without prior notification by the Institution or Inventor(s) to the AHA and offering to assign to AHA all right, title and interest to the Intellectual Property to the extent permitted by law.
- C. When an Institution or other titleholder licenses Intellectual Property to another party for commercialization, it shall (i) include provisions in the license agreement obligating the licensee to commercialize the Intellectual Property in a diligent manner and meet appropriate diligence requirements and concrete development milestones to avoid the license terminating, and (ii) monitor performance of the licensee relative to these requirements and milestones. The Institution or other titleholder, or its designee, or licensee shall take commercially reasonable steps to bring the Intellectual Property to practical or commercial application in a reasonable time period (based on type of Intellectual Property) after issuance of a patent or other clear determination of commercial value. If the Institution or other titleholder, or its designee, or licensee, has not taken commercially reasonable steps and cannot show reasonable cause why it should retain title to and all rights in the administration of the Intellectual Property for a further period of time, then, if no other parties have superior legal rights, the Institution or other titleholder and the AHA shall determine a course of action including but not limited to:
 - the Institution or other titleholder's renegotiation of milestones with the current licensee or termination of the current license and licensing of the Intellectual Property to another licensee;
 - a non-exclusive right to the Institution or other titleholder to practice the Intellectual Property for any non-commercial purpose;
 - a global, exclusive or non-exclusive, non-revertible, royalty-free license to the AHA;

- the provision to the AHA of any additional materials necessary for regulatory filing and the technology's enablement that might be in the possession or control of the Institution or other titleholder, except for intellectual property that was not generated as a result of the AHA's Award; or
 - any other action appropriate in the circumstances.
- D. Institution, Inventor, and AHA shall promptly notify the other of any suspected infringement, misappropriation, misuse, theft or breach of confidence regarding any intellectual property rights related to any Intellectual Property when detected and shall cooperate in good faith to determine the appropriate action needed.

V. ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND APPORTIONMENT

- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Policy, the AHA shall participate in the income derived from Intellectual Property as set forth below.
- B. The Institution's technology transfer officer (or equivalent) shall provide AHA with an annual report for each Award, including Intellectual Property. The annual report is due by January 31 of each calendar year after an Award has been accepted by the Institution. The annual reports shall continue for three (3) years after the expiration and/or termination of the Award. The annual report shall include a listing or description of the following information about Intellectual Property for each Award:
- All issued patents and pending patent applications;
 - All licenses, leases, sales or other revenue generating agreements;
 - All Gross Income and Net Income for each preceding calendar year;
 - The filing, publication and issuance or grant of any application for a patent or other statutory right for Intellectual Property; and
 - The latest stage of development of any product arising from Intellectual Property.
- C. Institution shall pay all costs and expenses incidental to all applications for patents or other statutory rights and all patents and other statutory rights that issue thereon.
- D. Institution shall pay the AHA annually a percentage of the Net Income derived from Intellectual Property conceived or reduced to practice in the performance or as a result of an Award, regardless of the amount of Net Income actually received, equal to AHA's portion of support (expressed as a percentage) for the work or research giving rise to the Intellectual Property. In no event shall the application of the foregoing result in either AHA or Institution receiving less than 10% of Net Income.

Payments under Section V.D. shall be made on an annual basis by January 31 of the year after the calendar year that Net Income was derived. If the Institution is unable to make payment by January 31 for any calendar year in which Net Income was derived, Institution shall inform the AHA at least seven (7) days prior to missing a payment. If such prior notification is made timely, Institution shall have a grace period of 90 days to make the missed payment. Failure to make payment after the 90-day grace period will be deemed a breach of the applicable Award Agreement. The AHA shall have the right to audit, at the AHA's expense, the Institution's books and records related to any Award annually upon reasonable advance notice.

K. OPEN SCIENCE POLICIES

AHA has two open science policies. The Public Access policy addresses requirements for journal articles resulting from AHA funding, and the Open Data policy addresses sharing the factual data that is needed for independent verification of research results. Awardees must adhere to the AHA Open Science Policies, in effect at the time the Award Agreement is signed.

AHA requires preregistration for funded clinical trials and encourages preregistration for any studies that make an inferential claim from a sampled group or population, as well as studies that are reporting and testing hypotheses.

The full open science policies can be found at: [Open Science Policy Statements for AHA Funded Research - Professional Heart Daily | American Heart Association](#).

L. LIABILITY

The American Heart Association is not responsible for any claim, judgment, Award, damages, settlement, negligence or malpractice arising from the research or investigation related to this Award. The Institution acknowledges responsibility for the conduct of research or investigations related to this Award and release the American Heart Association from all claims or liability that may arise from the conduct of research or investigations related to this Award resulting from any act or omission on the part of the Institution, its employees, agents or representatives.

M. INVESTIGATOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE POLICY/OBJECTIVITY IN RESEARCH

Investigators and Institutions are required by the American Heart Association to comply with the PHS regulations, Final Rule, 42 CFR Part 50, Subpart F, [Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research](#). The intent is to ensure that the design, conduct, or reporting of research funded by the Association will not be biased by any conflicting financial interest of those investigators responsible for the research.

Submission of the Application to the Association indicates approval and compliance with the requirement that an institutional administrative process be in effect to identify and resolve conflicting financial interests of the type described in Subpart 50.605(a) with respect to all Research Projects for which funding is sought from the Association.

III. LIFE CYCLE OF AN AHA AWARD

A. NOTICE OF AWARD

After Applications are reviewed and funding decisions have been made, notification will be sent to the Principal Investigator indicating the outcome of their Application review is available in ProposalCentral. The updated Application status will be visible in ProposalCentral. The Applicant will be responsible for notifying the institutional officers (and Sponsor on fellowships) of the status change. Grants Officers and Sponsor's access to the proposal is determined by the settings the investigator selected in the application.

For funded projects, the Award letter will be sent by email 5-10 business days after the initial applicant notification. The email will be saved to the Correspondence tab on the Award Record in the Award Module of ProposalCentral.

The official start date of the Award is the earliest date and the termination date is the latest date that funds may be obligated or expended. Association Awards are typically scheduled to start on January 1 or July 1, unless otherwise specified in the Application instructions or on the Program Description.

B. AWARD FORMS AND CONCERNS

In accepting an Award from the AHA, the Investigator is expected to submit forms and documentation as outlined in the Award Letter. All forms and documents should be submitted in ProposalCentral.

Award Forms

Forms and requested documentation should be submitted within a month of Award notification. The Award Agreement must be signed by all identified parties. The final version can be uploaded to the Award Agreement deliverable task in ProposalCentral.

| Form | Purpose |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Award Agreement | Contract between the AHA, the Investigator and Awardee Institution |
| Animal Subject Use Form | Identifies the subjects and sources used in the AHA research project |
| Award Project Budget | Indicates the investigator proposed spending for the research project |
| Award Bank Information | Confirm institutional bank information for sending award payments For our IRS tax reporting purposes, the AHA is required to collect each Institution's Tax ID and filing status tax code. |
| Other Industry Funding Concern | Identifies any funding the investigator has received that was not included in the application |
| Open Data Plan/Opt-Out request | Confirm investigators data plan or opt-out request complies with AHA policy |

Award Concerns

The Investigator or Awardee Institution may be asked to address Award concerns or contingencies as a condition of receiving the Award. These items must be adequately addressed by the Investigator or Awardee Institution and resolved by the AHA before Award payments will be made on the approved project. The policies and provisions as specified will be binding on you as an awardee of the AHA.

If the funded project involves animal subjects, a Concern IACUC will be added to the award for the Investigator to submit the IACUC approval letter for work related to the project. If the project involves human subjects, a Concern IRB will be added to the award for the Investigator to submit the IRB approval letter and approved consent form for work related to the project. The approval letter should be submitted within three months of the originally posted award start date. If the approval letter is not provided to the AHA within three months of the award start date, the Investigator may be required to relinquish the award.

C. RESTRICTED RESEARCH SUPPORT

- CI. The American Heart Association frequently receives research-restricted gifts from sources such as private foundations, professional societies, individual donors, or corporations interested in supporting Projects of excellent scientific merit.
- CII. Awardees may be offered the opportunity for their AHA Award to be funded by a research-restricted donation. Awardees whose Projects are selected for such funding will be contacted directly by AHA staff to review the guidelines associated with such Awards. The AHA suggests that all Awardees discuss the possibility of accepting such an Award with their Department Chairperson or other appropriate institutional officer. Acceptance of research-restricted funds is not a requirement for receipt of an AHA Award. The specific guidelines that govern these Awards will be communicated in writing to the Awardee and are summarized below. The following guidelines have been developed by the AHA and are uniformly applied to all Awards selected to be funded with research-restricted dollars.
 - If funded with a corporate/foundation/individual/society donation, the Awardee will be designated as an **AHA-(name of corporation/foundation/individual/society) (name of funding mechanism)** Awardee.
 - Acknowledgment of **AHA-(name of corporation/foundation/individual/society)** support in any publication or presentation resulting from this Award should be as follows: "This work was done during the term of an Award from the American Heart Association and (name of corporate/foundation/individual/society)."
 - Awardees are provided an opportunity to meet with corporate/foundation/individual/society representatives as seems appropriate and beneficial. However, there will be no direction of the scientific investigation by the corporation/foundation/individual/society donor.

- Upon request, the corporation/foundation/individual/society may be provided with an abstract of the Application and summaries of progress, which may be circulated internally upon receipt of appropriate confidentiality assurances.
- The corporation/foundation/individual/society may publish the Awardee's name, Project title and institutional affiliation except in purchased media advertising.

D. LOCATION OF WORK

Association research Awards must be limited to non-profit Institutions. Such Institutions include: medical, osteopathic and dental schools, veterinary schools, schools of public health, pharmacy schools, nursing schools, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and other non-profit Institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal Institution or work to be performed by a federal employee with the exception of the Veterans Administration employees. The AHA will scrutinize the available resources as they relate to local, state or national needs.

Awards for research to be performed outside the United States are limited to Principal Investigators who are United States citizens.

Awardees, who are U.S. citizens, may request AHA approval to temporarily conduct work in foreign countries (e.g., outside US, Canada and Mexico) with AHA Award funds to be administered through the Principal Investigator's sponsoring US Institution.

E. PERCENTAGE EFFORT

Fellowship and training awardees are expected to devote at least 80 percent of full-time work either to research or to activities pursuant to independent research (instead of administrative, clinical, or teaching responsibilities) unless otherwise stated in the Program Description.

All other Award recipients are expected to devote an amount of time to the Project that is appropriate for achieving the aims of the original Proposal unless stated otherwise in the program description. Percentage effort on the Project may be changed during the term of the Award with prior AHA approval.

F. PAYMENT METHOD

The AHA currently pays research Awards quarterly by direct deposit the month following the end of the quarter. For example, the Award payment for the quarter beginning January 1 and ending March 31, will be processed in April. Payments are transferred on or around the third Tuesday of the month in January, April, July and October.

The AHA will request institutional bank information for sending award payments. Our preferred payment method is electronic funds transfer or direct deposit. Sending payments electronically is safer, faster and less expensive than mailing checks. To avoid delays in receiving Award payments, Institutions should review their institutional bank information and make the appropriate changes. New awards will inherit the bank information included in the institution's profile. The bank information can also be edited on individual award records.

AHA reserves the right to revise its payment schedule, as it deems necessary, at any time. Awardees and associated Institutions will be notified in advance of any changes to the payment schedule.

G. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Scientific Progress Reports — A Scientific Report is a report of the research or technical work accomplished on the Project. It is submitted annually by the Principal Investigator in ProposalCentral. ProposalCentral will send an email reminder to the Principal Investigator 30 days prior to the report due date. Reports are generally due in June or December depending on the start date of the Award.

Expenditures Reports — An Expenditures Report is the fiscal accounting of expenses related to the Project. It should be submitted annually in ProposalCentral. Signoff is required from the Fiscal Officer and the Principal Investigator to submit. For project awards, the reports are due within 90 days following the close of each Award year and approved no-cost extension. Reports are generally due on April 1 or October 1 depending on the start date of the Award. For training awards, the reports are due within 30 days following the award end date. ProposalCentral will send an email reminder to the Fiscal Officer 90 days before the report due date.

Intellectual Property Reports — An Intellectual Property Report is due annually on January 31st each year the award is active and up to three years after the award ends. The report deliverable is assigned to the institutional Technology Transfer Officer listed in the Award. Interim reports can be added to the Award and should be submitted to AHA within 60 days of the date the Invention is disclosed and prior to any public disclosure.

Open Science Policies Requirement

Public Access: The AHA requires that all journal articles resulting from AHA funding be made freely available in PubMed Central within 12 months of publication. It will be the responsibility of the author to ensure this occurs.

Open Data: The AHA requires certain applicants to include a data sharing plan with the application. Any factual data that is needed for independent verification of research results must be made freely and publicly available in an AHA-approved [repository](#) as soon as possible, and no later than the time of an associated publication or the end of the award period (and any no-cost extension), whichever comes first. Recipients of the following early-career awards are exempt from this policy: AHA Predoctoral Fellowships, AHA Postdoctoral Fellowships, and Institutional Undergraduate Student Fellowship Program. Please see AHA's Open Science Policies: [Open Science Policy Statements for AHA Funded Research - Professional Heart Daily | American Heart Association](#)

Award payments may be withheld if these reports have not been received by the due dates. In addition, the final payment (or some lesser amount determined by the AHA) of the Award may be withheld until all reports have been received by the AHA. All withheld Award payments revert to the AHA if the AHA has not received all reports six months after the Award Period ends.

| Report/Form | Submitted by | Date Due to AHA |
|---|---|--|
| Scientific Progress Report | Principal Investigator (Award recipient) | Due annually (usually in June or December depending on the Award start date) |
| Expenditures Report | Fiscal Officer (also requires approval of the Principal Investigator) | For project (non-training) awards: Due annually 90 days after Award year end (usually on April 1 or October 1 depending on Award start date) For fellowship training awards: Due 30 days after the award end date |
| Intellectual Property Report | Technology Transfer Officer | Due annually on January 31st |
| Open Science Data Plan or Opt-Out Request | Principal Investigator (Applicant) | Submitted as part of Proposal and maintained by awardees |
| Data Deposit Confirmation | Principal Investigator (Award recipient) | No later than the time of an associated publication or the end of the award period (and any no-cost extension), whichever comes first. |

H. TITLE TO EQUIPMENT

Title to equipment purchased with AHA Award funds shall be vested in the Institution where the Principal Investigator is conducting research with the explicit understanding that such equipment is for use by the Principal Investigator during the term of the Award, which includes any authorized extension.

If the AHA approves the transfer of an Award to another Institution, equipment purchased with AHA funds will be transferred and title vested in the new Institution for the specific use by the designated Principal Investigator. Permanent vesting will be in the Institution upon Award completion or termination.

I. INTERRUPTION OF AWARD

Over the term of the Award, it is occasionally necessary or desirable for the Awardee to interrupt the work on the Award. Several provisions for interruption of the Award exist.

1. **Vacation** — If it is not in conflict with the Institution's policy, a 30-day vacation is allowed during each year of the Award.
2. **Absence from work** — Awardees must promptly notify the AHA of any absence from the Research Project longer than 60 days, planned, unplanned or due to illness. In certain extreme cases when the Awardee is unable to communicate with the AHA due to illness or accident, the department chairperson may submit the request on the Awardee's behalf. The Award is subject to early termination unless the absence has been requested and authorized in advance by the AHA.

A written request should be submitted to AHA indicating the dates of the leave, the reasons for the request and the Principal Investigator's intention to resume the Research Project. The AHA will review the request and determine the most appropriate course of action. The Principal Investigator and/or department chairperson will be notified of the disposition of the request.

3. **Working leave of absence** — An Awardee may find that research progress is promoted or enhanced by spending a portion of the Award Period in another Institution in this country or abroad. If the opportunity should present itself, the reasons and expectations for such a leave should be documented in the request for a working leave of absence as follows:
 - a letter from the Principal Investigator indicating how the proposed experience will enhance the current Project or research career; place and dates involved; and facilities to be made available.
 - a letter of concurrence from the investigator's department chair, indicating institutional financial support during the working leave, and assurance that the Principal Investigator will return in rank to the Sponsor Institution.
 - a copy of the letter of invitation from the host scientist confirming the length of time, facilities to be made available, and the Research Plan.

Working leaves of absence may not exceed 12 months in duration.

4. **Delayed Start/Escrow** — In very limited circumstances, the Principal Investigator may request that an Award remain approved, yet have the payments and research activities placed on hold for a period of time.

For occasions, such as family and medical leave or authorized military leave, the Principal Investigator of an AHA Award may request that Award funds be temporarily held. A delayed start or hold of an Award already in progress may be requested. Eligible circumstances include:

- serious illness of the Principal Investigator,
- authorized military leave
- situations where an employee (i.e., Principal Investigator) might take a period of family or medical leave from an employer (i.e., Institution), such as maternity or adoption leave, leave of absence to care for an immediate family member who is seriously ill or disabled, or

These periods for holding Award funds in "escrow" are limited to 12 months.

Requests for placing an Award on hold must be submitted to the American Heart Association in writing by the Principal Investigator, and the request must be authorized by both the department head and the

appropriate institutional officer. A copy of the Family and Medical Leave request and approval from the Institution must be submitted to the AHA, if applicable.

The AHA Leadership will review the request and a notice of disposition will be provided to the Principal Investigator. The Principal Investigator will be expected to share the escrow disposition notice with the appropriate institutional officers. If an escrow is approved, it will be available in six-month increments. A maximum of two consecutive six-month increments may be requested during the term of an Award.

All requests are subject to review by AHA. The outcome of the request will be communicated to the Awardee. If the request is approved, all payments for the Award will be suspended until the escrow period ends and the Principal Investigator resumes active research on the Project.

J. CHANGES TO AWARD

Requesting a change to an Award requires the submission of a change request deliverable in ProposalCentral.

1. Change of Principal Investigator or Sponsor on a Fellowship Award

A change of Principal Investigator is not allowed for career development awards or career recognition awards. These Awards were peer reviewed and based in part on the individual qualifications of the Award recipient.

In very limited circumstances the AHA will consider a permanent change of Principal Investigator for research project-based awards, such as the Transformational Project Award or Innovative Project Award or a Sponsor on a fellowship award. The following documents **must** be sent to the AHA Division of Research Administration at least 60 days prior to the proposed change:

- A letter from the Principal Investigator or fellow indicating the reason for the change, the effective date of the change, how the Research Project will be altered, if at all, and a statement of the proposed Principal Investigator's current role and activities in the Research Project.
- The department chairperson should indicate concurrence by signing the original Principal Investigator's letter of request or by submitting a separate letter.
- A letter from the proposed Principal Investigator or Sponsor indicating willingness to accept responsibility for pursuance of the Research Project. A current curriculum vitae and bibliography must accompany this letter.

The request to change the Principal Investigator or Sponsor will be considered by AHA Research Leadership. If approved, the new Principal Investigator is required to submit a new Award Agreement with the AHA. If the change is not approved, the Award will terminate on the date the original Principal Investigator ceases work on the Project.

A change of Principal Investigator is not allowed during an extension year of the Award.

A temporary change of Principal Investigator or Sponsor is not allowed at any time during the Award Period.

2. Change of location of Award (institutional transfer)

Transfer of an Award to another Institution requires prior approval by the AHA. The effective date of the transfer must be the first day of the month.

The Principal Investigator should submit all the following material to the AHA Division of Research Administration at least 60 days prior to the proposed transfer:

- **A letter of request** outlining the reasons for the transfer and indicating how the move will alter the Investigator's Research Plans, if at all. Concurrence should be indicated by the co-signatures of the present department chairperson and Fiscal Officer, or each can send separate letters.

- **Letters of approval** from the proposed department chairperson indicating that adequate facilities and assistance will be provided, as well as willingness of the Institution to administer the Award; a co-signature of the Fiscal Officer of that Institution should be obtained.

- **Institutional assurances are required:**

If the research involves the use of human subjects, the following must be provided:

- documentation of proof of endorsement of the investigations by the committee on clinical investigation, or other clearly designated appropriate body of the Institution; and,
- an assurance that any research involving human subjects will conform ethically with the guidelines prescribed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including the provision of suitable explanation to human subjects or their guardians concerning the experimental design and all significant hazards, so that they may be in a position to provide appropriate informed consent prior to the investigations; and,
- a copy of the consent form to be provided to human subjects if it differs from the one submitted with the original Application.

If the research involves the use of animals, the following must be provided:

- documentation of proof of the Institution's unqualified Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International, (AAALAC) accreditation OR U.S. Public Health Service Animal Welfare Assurance Identification Number; and
- a copy of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval of the Project.

If the research involves the use of biohazards, the following must be provided:

- documentation that the research Protocol has been reviewed and approved by the Institution's biohazards committee, and
- documentation that the research Protocol conforms to NIH guidelines.

If the Principal Investigator is not able to provide the appropriate assurances with respect to the use of human subjects, animals or biohazards, a transfer to that Institution will not be approved.

The AHA will review the request and a notice of disposition will be sent to the Principal Investigator, Fiscal Officer and department chairperson at the current Institution and, if the transfer is approved, the notice of disposition will also be provided to the Fiscal Officer and department chairperson at the new Institution.

A change of location will not be permitted during an extension year.

3. Change of Location of Award (departmental transfer)

Transfer of an Award to another department within the Principal Investigator's Institution requires prior approval by the AHA. The effective date of the transfer must be the first day of the month.

The Principal Investigator should submit all the following material to the AHA Division of Research Administration at least 60 days prior to the proposed transfer:

- **Letter of Request** outlining the reasons for the transfer and indicating how the move will alter the Principal Investigator's Research Plans, if at all. Concurrence should be indicated by the co-signature of the present department chairperson.
- **Letters of Approval** from the proposed department chair indicating that adequate facilities and

assistance will be provided, as well as willingness of the Institution to administer the Award; a co-signature of the Fiscal Officer should be obtained only if the Fiscal Officer will change.

The AHA will review the request and a notice of disposition will be sent to the Principal Investigator, Fiscal Officer and department chairperson.

4. Change of Scientific Direction

Although Awards are made based on the specific research Proposal, strict adherence to the proposed outlines is not demanded. In fact, the AHA encourages modification in design of Projects as new research opportunities develop. One of the primary goals of the AHA's research program is to encourage and protect the academic and scientific freedom of its investigators, however, the AHA approval is required for major changes in the direction or content of the original research Proposal.

5. Change of Department Chairperson or Fiscal Officer

The Awardee must inform the Association if there is a change of department chairperson and/or Fiscal Officer by submitting a deliverable within the award to request a change in personnel. The new chairperson and/or Fiscal Officer should upload a letter to the deliverable indicating willingness to assume administrative and/or fiscal support for the Award. If the new department chair or Fiscal Officer is not able or willing to provide such support, the Awardee should contact the AHA to discuss appropriate options.

K. EARLY TERMINATION OR RESIGNATION OF AWARD

1. By the Awardee — An Award may be terminated at any time by written notification to the AHA. A final Expenditures Report must be submitted with a check for any free and unobligated balance as soon after Award termination as possible. If additional funds are due to the Institution, payment will be made after the final Scientific Report has been submitted by the Principal Investigator and the final Expenditures Report has been approved by AHA staff.
2. By the AHA — An Award may be terminated by the AHA at any time within the Project period because:
 - a. the Awardee has not complied with the terms and conditions of the Award, as stated in the Award Agreement or this guide,
 - b. a Deliverable by the Principal Investigator was not approved (for example, a change of Principal Investigator or a change of location of the Award/institutional transfer),
 - c. of Awardee action that is inconsistent with the stated objectives of the program,
 - d. of inadequate scientific progress by the investigator
 - e. an unapproved leave of absence by AHA

Upon notification by the AHA of termination, a final Scientific Report of the work accomplished to date must be submitted, as well as a final Expenditures Report with a check for any unexpended award funds. Fellowship projects will be prorated for the time the award was active. Grant projects will be paid based on authorized funds to cover allowable expenses incurred within the period the award was active.

L. CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT

An Awardee may hold only one Association Award at a time except as noted in Section II.C. of this guide.

Award recipients must meet the award requirements throughout the duration of the award. For example, Predoctoral Fellowship recipients who earn their doctoral degree must relinquish the fellowship when their degree is conferred.

Postdoctoral Fellows promoted to faculty/staff appointments during the award term must resign. Since the fellowship is considered a training award, a faculty or staff appointment cannot be held. (The exceptions are MDs or MD/PhDs with clinical responsibilities who hold a title of instructor or similar due to their patient care

responsibilities but who devote at least 80% full-time effort to research training.) An Awardee may defer the date of promotion to complete the fellowship.

For programs, such as the Career Development Award, Transformational Project Award, etc., that require the investigator to have a faculty appointment at an institution/organization, the investigator must maintain the appropriate appointment for the duration of the award. The award may not be put on hold while the investigator searches for a faculty appointment.

M. RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Since Awards are made possible through voluntary contributions by the public, research results of all Association Awards should be made available to the public promptly either by presentation before scientific societies or by publication in scientific journals. AHA also encourages use of preprint servers. This allows for rapid communication of new findings and can benefit the research community and the public by accelerating the pace of discovery. When completed, the results of research should be made freely available through their submission for publication in sufficient detail to allow a reader to repeat or to alter the procedure used. Awardees are encouraged to report to the public on both the nature and objectives of their work, as well as on actual results.

- N.** It is the responsibility of the Awardee, the sponsor and the Institution to ensure that AHA support is properly acknowledged in all references to research outputs (including but not limited to oral or poster presentations, news releases, interviews, publications, data, code, preprints, preregistration, blogs, and podcasts) resulting from work carried out during the tenure of their Award. To enable the accurate evaluation of outcomes from AHA research investments, it is critical that acknowledgements mention AHA as the funding organization, as well as the specific grant ID number or grant DOI and the names of each author supported by each AHA Award. The recommended format follows: "THIS WORK WAS SUPPORTED BY AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION GRANT # (or grant DOI)____/ AWARDEE NAME / AWARD YEAR." If more than one AHA Award supported the published research, then each Award should be cited separately with the grant ID or grant DOI and name(s) of supported authors. AHA requires funded Clinical Trials to publish their Trial ID in all publications resulting from the work.

O. RESEARCH PUBLICITY

Public understanding and support of cardiovascular research requires continuous reporting of the nature, objectives, and results of investigative work. Investigators are urged to cooperate in such reporting. It is understood, however, that although such reporting is voluntary, it must conform to policies and procedures approved by the AHA. The following principles and procedures are followed by the AHA in publicizing studies and investigators supported through the AHA research program.

1. Principal Investigator Approval

All publicity must have advance approval of the Awardee and the AHA. Premature release of research results can be misleading.

2. Timing of Release

The results of an Awardee's work shall not be released for publication by the AHA in the mass media before results have been published in a scientific journal or presented by the Awardee at an appropriate scientific meeting.

3. Method of Release

All publicity on AHA sponsored research should be released to the mass media through the AHA. The media may interview the Awardee, who is free to answer such inquiries, but the Awardee is advised to do so subject to the condition stated in the timing section above. In all instances, the Awardee must advise the AHA of his or her communications with the media.

IV. EXPENDING AWARD FUNDS

A. ACCOUNTING

Financial administration of an Award should comply with generally accepted accounting principles. Supporting records of Award expenditures must be in sufficient detail to clearly indicate the nature of expenditures. The Fiscal Officer of the Institution agrees to make accounting records of disbursements available to the AHA upon due notice.

B. AUDIT

The AHA may make periodic fiscal audits to determine the following:

- accounting and fiscal procedures followed by the Awardee Institution provide safeguards for receipt and expenditure of Award funds,
- reported expenditures for Awards comply with the fiscal policies of the Association,
- proper control is maintained over equipment purchased from Award funds and
- Award fund balances are accorded the proper disposition.

C. EXPENDITURES AND OBLIGATIONS

All award expenses must be directly related to the approved AHA project. Award expenses and purchases must be made during the approved Award Period for which funds are allocated by the Association. The Association will not cover expenditures incurred outside the authorized Award Period. Expenditures and obligations are limited to the amount awarded for each fiscal period.

D. AWARD AMOUNT

Annual Award Amounts and totals vary by program and may vary by funding cycle. For a complete list of Program Descriptions with specific award limits for PI salary/fringe and project support, please visit <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs>. Scroll down the page, select the Award start date and the appropriate Program.

E. REDUCTION OF AWARD AMOUNT

Awards may be reduced at the time of peer review of the Application. If the budget is reduced, an Award Concern will be added to the Deliverables list in ProposalCentral notifying the investigator of the reason for the change.

F. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS STIPEND AND PROJECT SUPPORT

The Association permits supplementation of the fellow's stipend. The stipend from the AHA award plus the amount supplemented may not exceed 100% of the salary established by the Institution for the fellow. The Awarded stipend from the AHA must be used for the salary of the AHA approved fellow. Supplementation from another fellowship or training Award is prohibited.

If Project support is approved for the Award, the funds may not be paid to the fellow as stipend. The funds must be used for allowable expenditures as indicated in the Program Description. If an expense type is not specifically mentioned in the Program Description or the following tables, please contact the Awards Team. The Project support for continuing Fellowship Awards may be carried over from year to year without AHA approval.

At the end of the award, an Expenditures Report will be required for all years of the award. The report will be due 30 days after the fellowship ends. If the award terminates early, the payments will be prorated to cover the time the award was active. Indirect costs are not allowed on fellowship programs. No-cost extensions are not allowed for Fellowship Awards. Funds remaining at the end of the approved Award period should be returned to the AHA.

G. GRANT PROGRAMS EXPENDITURES

Re-budgeting Funds

To allow Investigators maximum flexibility on grants, funds may be re-budgeted between allowable categories of the budget without AHA approval. Such changes must be within the specified limits for each category.

Deficit balances are not allowed except under the following special circumstances. A Principal Investigator on a grant may submit a request to carry a deficit balance under special circumstances (e.g., purchase of equipment). The request must be submitted in advance of incurring the deficit balance and must be reviewed by AHA Leadership before a deficit balance is incurred.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs (may also referred to as Facilities and Administrative, F&A costs or overhead) are real costs incurred by the Institution in support of sponsored activities but cannot be directly identified with a specific Award or contract. If allowed by the program, institutional indirect costs for physical plant costs may be charged up to ten percent (10%) of the total expenditures each year on Awards. Indirect costs charges are for the use of the Awardee Institution and may be taken only at the time an amount is properly charged to the Award.

H. ALLOWABLE AND NON-ALLOWABLE AHA EXPENDITURES (TABLE)

If an expense type is not mentioned in the Program Description or the following tables, please contact the AHA Awards Team.

| Expense Types | Allowed |
|---|---|
| Alterations and Renovations | No |
| Books, Subscriptions | No |
| Collaborating Investigator Salary/Fringes | Yes |
| Computers | Yes |
| Consultative Services | May be requested, AHA approval required |
| Data Network chargebacks | No |
| Equipment | Yes |
| Expenses in Obtaining a Visa | No |
| Indirect Costs | Yes, up to 10% of total annual expenses |
| Malpractice Insurance | No |
| Membership Dues | Yes, ONLY for AHA Professional |
| Other Personnel Salary/Fringes | Yes |
| Overhead | Yes, up to 10% of total annual expenses |
| Parking Fees | No |
| Patient Care, Hospitalization, Diagnostic | No |
| Patient Transportation | Yes |
| Payment of Human Subjects | Yes |
| Personnel Recruitment | No |
| PI Salary/Fringes | Yes |
| Postage — Overnight Mail related to | Yes |
| Publication Costs and Reprints | Yes |
| Receptions and Meals | No |
| Service Contracts | Yes |
| Subcontracts | Yes, with prior AHA approval |
| Supplies | Yes |
| Telephone — Long Distance related to | Yes |
| Travel — Domestic or Foreign | Yes |
| Tuition Costs | No |
| Uniforms, Wearing Apparel | No |

I. DESCRIPTION OF ALLOWABLE AND NON-ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES

1. Alterations and Renovations

Use of Award funds may be requested for limited laboratory alterations or renovation of existing facilities, but only when required to execute the approved AHA Research Project. The Principal Investigator must submit a written request/justification in advance for alterations and/or renovation and the approximate cost. The AHA Research Leadership will review the request and a notice of disposition on the request will be sent to the Principal Investigator.

2. Books and Subscriptions

The purchase of books and subscriptions to journals cannot be made with Award funds. Subscriptions to electronic journals, books and other publications are not permitted.

3. Collaborating Investigator, Co-Investigator Salary/Fringes

Collaborating Investigators, Co-Investigators and other participants with faculty appointments may receive personal salary from the Award. See program description for specified limits.

4. Computers

The Principal Investigator may purchase computers, notebooks, smart devices and related equipment computer equipment. Software and downloads that are essential to the project are allowed. The AHA considers these items to be equipment and will be vested with the institution of record at award termination.

5. Consultative Services

Specialized consultative services from individuals may be requested. Individuals with or without doctoral degrees may be employed as consultants on a part-time basis when the Project clearly requires these special services. The Principal Investigator must submit a written request/justification for the use of the services and the approximate cost. The AHA Leadership will review the request and a notice of disposition will be sent to the Principal Investigator.

6. Data Network/Internet Services

Expenses related to digital telecommunication or infrastructure are not allowed as direct grant expenses.

7. Equipment

For the purpose of AHA Awards, equipment is defined as any item which has a primary function related to the Research Project and will ordinarily have a usable life expectancy of over one year, costing \$100 or more. Equipment purchases must be made clearly indicating that the Principal Investigator will use such equipment for at least six months during the Award Period, which includes any authorized extension period.

8. Expenses in Obtaining a Visa

Expenses associated with obtaining a temporary or permanent visa for personnel to work on the Award is prohibited.

9. Indirect Costs

Indirect costs (also referred to as Facilities and Administrative or F&A costs) are real costs incurred by the Institution in support of Sponsored activities but cannot be directly identified with a specific Award or contract. If allowed by the program, institutional indirect costs for physical plant costs may be charged up to ten percent (10%) of the total expenditures each year on Awards. Indirect costs charges are for the use of the Awardee Institution and may be taken only at the time an amount is properly charged to the Award.

10. Malpractice Insurance

The premiums for malpractice insurance are not permitted.

11. Membership Dues

AHA Professional Membership dues for the Awardee are allowed. Membership dues to other organizations and other staff are prohibited.

12. Other Personnel Salary/Fringes

Professional and nonprofessional personnel with or without doctorate degrees may be budgeted (including fringe benefits at the institutional rate). Advance approval is required for personnel with doctoral degrees. Salary amounts and percent effort to the Project will be monitored for appropriateness.

If postdoctoral personnel salary/fringes were budgeted but not named in the original Application, a curriculum vitae and bibliography of the individual must be submitted to AHA as soon as the individual is named.

If no postdoctoral salary/fringes were budgeted in the Application budget, prior approval is required for utilizing Award funds for this purpose. The Principal Investigator must submit a request indicating the amount of salary to be paid, amount of time to be spent on the Project, and a curriculum vitae and bibliography of the individual.

Personnel with faculty appointments may receive salary from the Award with prior approval from the AHA. A 5-page biosketch of the individual must be submitted to AHA.

13. Overhead

Overhead, also referred to as indirect costs, may be charged up to ten percent (10%) of the total expenditures each year. Charges for standard postage meter, telephone, rental of office or laboratory space, furniture and other routine expenses are not permitted to be charged separately to the Award.

14. Parking Fees

AHA policy prohibits use of AHA Award funds for parking fees.

15. Patient Care, Hospitalization, Diagnostic Laboratory Tests

AHA policy prohibits use of AHA Award funds for services paid on a fee basis, such as diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment, laboratory studies, hospitalization, drugs or related services when those services are primarily for clinical care and not uniquely in support of the Research Project.

16. Patient Transportation

The cost of transporting patients to laboratories for special investigative tests may be requested. The Principal Investigator must submit a written request/justification for the payment of the patient transportation and the approximate cost. The AHA Research Leadership will review the request and a notice of disposition will be sent to the Principal Investigator.

17. Payment of Human Subjects

Unbudgeted expenditures for payment of human subjects may be requested. The request must give the unit cost per subject and the procedure to be used, and the Principal Investigator should submit a copy of the approved consent form for use in the investigation. The AHA Research Leadership will review the request and a notice of disposition on the request will be sent to the Principal Investigator.

18. Personnel Recruitment

The cost of advertising to recruit personnel for a Research Project is prohibited.

19. Postage — Overnight Mail

Overnight mail charges directly related to the Project are permitted.

20. Principal Investigator Salary/Fringes

Award policies allow some salary and fringe benefits for the Principal Investigator to be budgeted. The Principal Investigator salary/fringes must be consistent with the percent of the Principal Investigator's total effort devoted to the Research Project, within specified AHA limits.

Salary and fringe may be requested for Collaborating Investigator(s) or other participants with faculty appointments. The Collaborating Investigator's 5-page biosketch or the Consultant's Letter must be submitted to AHA. Salary must be consistent with percent effort on the Project and will be monitored for appropriateness.

21. Publication Costs and Reprints

Reasonable expenditures in connection with publication of results of research, including research information services and library services, and for purchase of reprints are acceptable charges during the term of the Award, which includes any authorized extension period.

22. Receptions and Meals

The costs of receptions and/or meals are not permitted.

23. Service Contracts

The cost-of-service contracts for maintenance of equipment is limited to the term of the Award or the approved extension period. Charges under a service contract should be reported for each applicable award period and identify the equipment being serviced.

24. Subcontracts

Subcontracts for work to be done by another individual or organization, on the approved AHA project, may be requested. If the subcontracting organization includes 10% Indirect Costs as a portion of the subcontract, the Awardee Institution cannot take an additional 10% on top of these indirect costs. Indirect costs can only be charged once on the subcontract expenses.

25. Supplies

In general, supplies are items which are consumable, expendable or of low unit cost, and are directly related to the functioning of the Research Project, such as: chemicals, glassware, small pieces of equipment costing less than \$100, etc.

26. Telephone — Long Distance

Long Distance charges directly related to the Project are permitted.

27. Travel — Domestic or Foreign

Travel expenditures may not conflict with existing policies of the Awardee Institution. Use of travel funds is not confined to the Principal Investigator and may be utilized by other personnel involved in the Research Project. Funds may be used to cover expenses related to attending scientific meetings (domestic or foreign), airfare, cost of registration, transportation, meals, and lodging.

28. Tuition Costs

Tuition costs or laboratory fees for work leading to an academic degree cannot be charged against research funds.

29. Uniforms, Wearing Apparel

The cost of uniforms and other wearing apparel is prohibited.

J. EXPENDITURES REPORT

For grant programs, the Expenditures Reports should be submitted no later than 90 days after the close of each annual Award Period and approved no-cost extension period, or no later than 90 days after an authorized transfer of the Award or early Award termination. Final reports submitted at the end or early termination of an award must be accompanied by a check for the balance of any unexpended funds. Unexpended funds of less than \$10 may be retained/written off by the Institution. All Expenditures Report forms should be submitted in the ProposalCentral system.

The Fiscal Officer of the Awardee Institution should include all costs (not to exceed the authorized award amount) charged to the Award during the reporting period on the Expenditures Report.

K. DEFICITS

The Principal Investigator and the Fiscal Officer cannot expend funds in excess of the amount Awarded for each year. Deficit balances are NOT ALLOWED except under the following special circumstances. A Principal Investigator on a grant may submit a request to carryover a deficit balance in special instances (e.g., purchase of equipment). The request must be submitted in advance of incurring the deficit balance and

must be reviewed by the AHA Research Leadership before a deficit balance is incurred.

The AHA will not consider requests for additional funds to cover a deficit on an Award.

L. CARRYFORWARD OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS

For grant programs, the investigator must provide strong written justification, indicating the reason the funds were not spent and the investigator's plan for spending the funds the following year if the carryover is approved. Each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The expectation is the approved carryover plus the next year's budget will be fully expended in the next budget period. If the funds are not expended during the period, the AHA may request a return of the unexpended balance for that budget period. Investigators should not intentionally save funds for the purpose of a no-cost extension. Award funds must be used for expenses directly related to the approved AHA research project.

If an investigator is experiencing an issue(s) that is causing the progress on the project to stall or to be slowed, they should include this information in their carryover justification. It is important that investigators meet project milestones and have a plan to manage the work to be completed on the approved project.

Our grants management system, ProposalCentral, does not have a mechanism for investigators/fiscal officers to indicate how they want to handle an unspent balance. As a result, the investigator/institutional officer may be asked to indicate their plan for the remaining balance (e.g., Do you plan to retain the balance or return it?). The investigator/fiscal officer may add a note to the expenditures report in ProposalCentral indicating their plan.

The Investigators may request up to a twelve-month extension to use a portion or all unexpended funds by submitting a No-cost Extension Deliverable request in ProposalCentral. This can be done at the end of the final award year or at the time the final Expenditures Report is submitted (90 days after the Award year end date). The AHA will review the request and a notice of disposition of the request will be sent to the Principal Investigator.

The AHA will no longer accept no cost extension requests for balances under \$5000. If the award has a remaining balance of \$5000 or less, the balance should be returned to the AHA. If the final payment has not been paid, this amount may be deducted before the AHA releases the payment to cover the reported expenses.

A SECOND EXTENSION YEAR IS NOT ALLOWED. Funds remaining at the end of an authorized extension year must be returned to the AHA. The funds may only be used to support the approved AHA project.

M. NON-REPORTING

Quarterly payments on active Awards and the final payment (or some lesser amount determined by the AHA) for terminating Awards may be withheld if Expenditures Reports have not been received by the due date. **All withheld Award payments revert to the AHA if the AHA has not received all reports six months after the Award ends.**

If you have questions or need clarification of any Award policies, please contact AHA Research Awards Team at awards@heart.org or call 214-360-6107 option 2. Awards are managed by state. Please see the next page to find your awards coordinator.

AWARDS MANAGEMENT BY STATE

[Cierra Vaughn-Smith](#)
214-360-6116

[Katherine Boren](#)
214-360-6105

[Maribel Castillo Vasquez](#)
214-360-6113

[Matilda Mokake](#)
214-706-1709

[Patricia Otieno](#)
214-360-6150

| State | Contact Name | State | Contact Name |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Alabama | Patricia Otieno | Montana | Maribel Castillo |
| Alaska | Maribel Castillo | Nebraska | Maribel Castillo |
| Arizona | Maribel Castillo | Nevada | Maribel Castillo |
| Arkansas | Cierra Vaughn-Smith | New Hampshire | Katherine Boren |
| California | Maribel Castillo | New Jersey | Katherine Boren |
| Colorado | Maribel Castillo | New Mexico | Maribel Castillo |
| Connecticut | Katherine Boren | New York | Katherine Boren |
| Delaware | Katherine Boren | North Carolina | Patricia Otieno |
| District of Columbia | Patricia Otieno | North Dakota | Maribel Castillo |
| Florida | Patricia Otieno | Ohio | Matilda Mokake |
| Georgia | Patricia Otieno | Oklahoma | Maribel Castillo |
| Hawaii | Maribel Castillo | Oregon | Maribel Castillo |
| Idaho | Maribel Castillo | Pennsylvania | Patricia Otieno |
| Illinois | Cierra Vaughn-Smith | Puerto Rico | Patricia Otieno |
| Indiana | Cierra Vaughn-Smith | Rhode Island | Katherine Boren |
| Iowa | Cierra Vaughn-Smith | South Carolina | Patricia Otieno |
| Kansas | Maribel Castillo | South Dakota | Maribel Castillo |
| Kentucky | Matilda Mokake | Tennessee | Matilda Mokake |
| Louisiana | Cierra Vaughn-Smith | Texas | Cierra Vaughn-Smith |
| Maine | Katherine Boren | Utah | Maribel Castillo |
| Maryland | Katherine Boren | Vermont | Katherine Boren |
| Massachusetts | Katherine Boren | Virginia | Patricia Otieno |
| Michigan | Matilda Mokake | Washington | Maribel Castillo |
| Minnesota | Cierra Vaughn-Smith | West Virginia | Patricia Otieno |
| Mississippi | Cierra Vaughn-Smith | Wisconsin | Cierra Vaughn-Smith |
| Missouri | Cierra Vaughn-Smith | Wyoming | Maribel Castillo |

GLOSSARY

Definition of Key Terms

Application: a written request submitted to AHA for funding consideration. May also be referred to as “**Submission**” or “**Proposal**.”

Award: the AHA funding mechanism and accompanying financial support given to a specific Institution to support the work and/or training of a specific Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators.

Award Period: the period of the Award; it includes the start date and the end date of the Award and is stated in the notification letter sent by the AHA to the Awardee or Institution.

Association-wide: The AHA research program is available to eligible investigators throughout the United States. Funding opportunities are no longer restricted by geographical area.

Awardee: the recipient of an Award; often the Principal Investigator.

Career Development Award: a funding mechanism intended to foster the research careers of scientists who have demonstrated unusually high potential to make important contributions in the biomedical, behavioral, and clinical sciences. These programs are peer reviewed based on the scientific merits of the proposed research project with significant consideration given to the qualification of the applicant's and his/her promise for an exceptional research career. Examples of Career Development Awards include Predoctoral Fellowships, Postdoctoral Fellowships, and Scientist Development Grants.

Co-Investigator: an investigator assisting a Principal Investigator with an Award and is also responsible for the conduct of the research supported by an AHA Award.

Collaborating Investigator: an individual who contributes in a substantive way to the scientific development or execution of the Project.

Fellowship: Awards which allow an individual to obtain training in basic or clinical research. Research Fellowship awards should be made to support individuals who intend to pursue a scientific research career. Stipends awarded by the Association should be commensurate with institutional compensation guidelines. Academic assignments and clinical functions should be permitted only on a limited basis. Applicants for Postdoctoral Fellowships must hold an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent domestic or foreign degree at the time the award is activated.

Fiscal Officer: the institutional official responsible for the expenditures reports as well as supervises financial administration of the Award.

Grants Officer: the institutional official expected to review and approve an Application (inclusive of Project budgets) being submitted to AHA for consideration. The Grants Officer submits the Application to AHA (via ProposalCentral) on behalf of the Principal Investigator and the Institution.

ProposalCentral: A web-based system to manage the Application, peer review and Awards processes.

Institution: the entity (university, medical center, hospital, research institute or any other organization) in which the work and/or training supported by AHA funding will be conducted.

Institutional Assurances: the documentation from the institution that the investigator has approval to conduct research involving humans (IRB - Institutional Review Board) and/or animals (IACUC – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee).

Invention: any discovery, composition of matter, method, process, product, program, software or know-how, whether or not patented or patentable or copyrighted or copyrightable, that is conceived or reduced to practice in the performance of an AHA Award and has an Application of value such that its use, licensing, lease or sale can generate revenue.

Inventor(s): the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator(s) and/or Collaborating Investigator(s) (if applicable) who made an Invention.

Principal Investigator (and “**Co-Investigator(s)**” if applicable): the individual(s) receiving the Award and responsible for the conduct of the research supported by an AHA Award. May also be referred to as “**Awardee.**”

Program Description: a description of the research programs offered by AHA. Program Description also includes funding limits and eligibility requirements.

Project: the research effort or activity that is associated with an AHA-funded research Award given to an Institution to support the work or training of an Investigator or Co-Investigator. May also be referred to as “**Research Project.**”

Proposal: a written request submitted to AHA for funding consideration. May also be referred to as “**Application**” or “**Submission.**”

Protocol: see Institutional Assurances

Research Project: the research effort or activity that is associated with an AHA-funded research Award given to an Institution to support the work or training of an Investigator or Co-Investigator. May also be referred to as “**Project.**”

Research Plan: formal design of an experimental investigation that outlines the process from beginning to end. Typically includes sections such as specific aims, background and significance, preliminary studies, research design and methods, ethical aspects of proposed research.

Submission: a written request submitted to AHA for funding consideration. May also be referred to as “**Application**” or “**Proposal.**”

Sponsor (Mentor): a senior Investigator under whose guidance the Research Project of a Predoctoral or Postdoctoral Fellowship will be performed. A Sponsor is the administrative link with the Institution. The Sponsor offers whatever supervisory or collaborative assistance is necessary for the progress of the research program. A Sponsor must be familiar with an applicant’s area of research.

Sponsor (Visa): in this context a Sponsor is a person or entity that assists an investigator in the process of obtaining or maintaining a visa.