

Funding Blast: Foundation Funding Opportunities

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As the federal funding landscape continues to evolve, private foundations are playing an increasingly important role in supporting faculty research and creative activity. This Funding Blast highlights five open funding opportunities from private foundations that reflect current trends and priorities in philanthropic giving. These opportunities are just a snapshot of what's available and may be especially relevant for faculty seeking diverse and flexible sources of external support.

Please contact the Center for Research and Creative Activity at CRCA@boisestate.edu for additional information and guidance.

Spencer Foundation

Rapid Response Bridge Funding Program

Funding Amount:

Up to \$25,000

Deadline:

There are two deadlines for requests: May 30, 2025 and June 13, 2025 (12:00 p.m. Central). Decisions for the May cycle will be made by June 15. Decisions for the June cycle will be made by June 30.

Description:

With the recent shifts in federal funding for education research, including terminations of National Science Foundation (NSF) research grant awards, the Spencer Foundation has developed a rapid response bridge grant opportunity for impacted scholars, in collaboration with The Kapor Foundation, The William T. Grant Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. This opportunity is intended to mitigate some of the impact on scholars, projects, and project teams. These \$25,000 grants are for activities to address immediate needs following grant cancellations, including completing a wave of data collection, analyzing already collected data or writing, thoughtful project closure with community partners or preparing grant proposals to continue the research.



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Eligibility:

Scholars must: (1) be working on research on STEM and education (including AI and CS, graduate education and MSIs, and scholarship that aims to reduce inequality), and (2) have had a recently terminated or cancelled grant from NSF. Where possible, early-career scholars will be prioritized. PIs may only apply once.

To apply, PIs provide:

- The original funded proposal
- The NSF termination letter
- A 2-3-page (no more than 1200 words) narrative memo describing the plan for activities to be completed over a 6-month period.
- A budget for a maximum of \$25,000 (no indirect costs).

Full details can be found at:

[Rapid Response Bridge Funding Program | The Spencer Foundation](#)

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants

Funding Amount:

\$2,500 – \$50,000

Deadline:

Proposals accepted on a rolling basis through July 2026. A review will be conducted quarterly.

Deadline dates for the upcoming cycles are:

- July 24, 2025
- Oct 23, 2025
- Jan 22, 2026
- April 23, 2026
- July 23, 2026

Description:

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund aims to stimulate new connections between thinkers working in largely disconnected fields, who, together, may change the course of climate change's impact on



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human health. Between Fall 2023 and Summer 2026, the fund will dedicate \$1 million to support small, early-stage grants toward achieving this goal.

The fund is primarily interested in activities that build connections between basic and early biomedical scientific approaches and ecological, environmental, geological, geographic, and planetary-scale thinking, as well as with population-focused fields, including epidemiology and public health, demography, economics, and urban planning. Also of interest is work piloting new approaches aimed at reducing the impact of health-centered activities, such as developing more sustainable systems for healthcare, care delivery, and biomedical research. Another area of interest is preparation for the impacts of extreme weather and other crises that can lead to large-scale disruptions, immediately affecting human health and healthcare. Public outreach, climate communication, and education efforts at the intersection of climate and health are also appropriate for this call. Successful applicants include academic scientists, physicians, and public health experts, community organizations, science outreach centers, non-biomedical academic departments, and more.

Eligibility:

Applicant organizations may submit multiple proposals, but an individual may only serve as a PI on one application during each review period. This program supports biomedical research projects proposed by collaborative teams.

To Apply:

Complete online application process.

Full details can be found at:

[Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants - Burroughs Wellcome Fund](#)

Arnold Ventures

Causal Research on Community Safety and the Criminal Justice System

Funding Amount:

While there is no budget ceiling or fixed period of performance for applications received under this RFP, they expect to support projects that align with a Criminal Justice Initiative research project that has a median budget of \$500,000 spread over 3-4 years.



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Deadline:

There is no deadline for submitting a letter of interest.

Description:

Arnold Ventures (AV) is a nonpartisan philanthropy fund whose core mission is to invest in evidence-based solutions that maximize opportunity and minimize injustice. The goal of this RFP is to build credible evidence on policies, practices, and interventions that can improve crime and justice system outcomes and grow the number of policies and practices rigorously shown to produce improvements in community safety and to make the justice system fairer and more effective. This Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks letters of interest to conduct causal research projects of policies, practices, and interventions related to community safety and the criminal justice system.

Eligibility:

Submissions are welcome across all issues of criminal justice that meet the following criteria:

- Propose a strong causal research design, which can reliably and validly isolate the treatment effect of a policy, practice, or intervention.
- The policy, practice, or intervention being tested is in the United States.
- Outcomes include measures of real-world behaviors (such as crime rates or criminal justice involvement).

AV is seeking applicants from a variety of backgrounds and with a variety of experiences and perspectives. They strongly encourage researchers who are new to causal research, including those who have not previously received funding from AV or who have been impacted by the systems they are seeking to change.

To apply:

Submit a letter of interest for consideration. Applicants whose letters are reviewed favorably, based on the eligibility and prioritization criteria above, will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Full details can be found at:

[Our Approach to Giving | Arnold Ventures](#)



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John Templeton Foundation

Funding Amount:

First time awards are often in the \$250,000 range. The average Templeton award is \$730,000. Grant durations are often up to three years. The Foundation will not fund a project for more than five years.

Deadline:

Online Funding Inquiry required. Deadline is August 15, 2025. Applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Description:

The Templeton Foundation supports interdisciplinary research that enables people to pursue lives of meaning and purpose. The grants are offered in support of research and public engagement in the following funding areas: Character Virtue Development, Individual Freedom & Free Markets, Life Sciences, Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Public Engagement, and Religion, Science, and Society.

Eligibility:

The Foundation generally funds specific projects and favors proposals where the applicant has sought or secured partial funding from other sources. Applicants may submit more than one funding inquiry to the Foundation.

To apply:

Grant consideration begins with an initial Online Funding Inquiry (OFI), and, if invited, a detailed Full Proposal.

Full details can be found at:

<https://www.templeton.org/grants/apply-for-grant>

The Anna Fuller Fund



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Funding Amount:

Average grant size is \$75,000 – \$150,000. Average number of grants per year: 5–8.

Deadline:

July 31, 2025

Description:

The mission of the Anna Fuller Fund is to provide grants for research that alleviate people's suffering from cancer through 1) Research as to its cause, treatment and care, and 2) the Education of the public as to its prevention and treatment.

Eligibility:

Grant funds cannot be used for the actual treatment of persons suffering with cancer except as incidental to cancer research and/or education. The foundation will primarily support grant requests that contribute to an applicant organization's specific cancer research project or initiative, as well as education programs for the prevention and treatment of cancer.

To apply:

Applications must be submitted through the online grant application form.

Full details can be found at: <https://www.wellsfargo.com/private-foundations/anna-fuller-fund/>



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