



# Funding Opportunity: Partnership Program Grants (PPG)

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## 1 Overview Information

### 1.1 Funder Overview

The mission of the ALS Association is to discover treatments and a cure for ALS, and to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest. Our Research Program contributes to this mission by funding cutting edge research across the translational pipeline from basic science to clinical trials. The Association is the largest private funder of ALS research worldwide, and our efforts have led to some of the most promising and significant advances in ALS research. The Association also values collaboration whenever possible to encourage partnerships to prevent duplication, increase efficiency and leverage funds.

## 1.2 Funding Opportunity in Brief

**Title:** Partnership Program Grants

**Award:** Up to \$500,000 in total funding over two years for co-funding of programs launched by other organizations which align with the mission of the ALS Association to make ALS a livable disease. Applicants should be non-profit organizations who will have mature (“shovel ready”) programs designed and planned to launch in 2023 and will use an independent peer-review process to select awardees for funding.

## 1.3 Key Dates

Request for Application Open: October 7, 2022

Full Application Due Date: November 4, 2022, 5 p.m. US ET

Anticipated Award Decision: December 2022

Contracting to be completed by: January 31, 2023\*

\*note that contracting between the ALS Association and the awardee must be completed by January 31, 2023 but the awardee can launch the RFA at any time in 2023

## 1.4 Grants Policy Statement

For more detail on all policies described in this document, please consult our Grants Policy Statement, available at: <https://www.als.org/Grants-Policy-Statement>

# 2 Full Text of the Announcement

## 2.1 Funding Opportunity Description

### 2.1.1 Overview

The ALS Association’s Partnership Program Grants seeks to fund mature “shovel-ready” research funding programs with a strong scientific rationale and potential for significant impact in ALS. These 2-year awards with a maximum budget of \$500,000 should be used by non-profit organization awardees to leverage their own funding program to help it grow, scale or augment. The awardee must employ cost sharing or matching of the ALS Association provided funding in a “co-funding” type of collaboration opportunity. Successful applications will include:

- Link to ALS Association’s mission: Applicants should make the case for how their funding program matches the priorities listed in the Association’s goal of making ALS a livable disease (<https://www.als.org/whatever-it-takes>). Applications should focus on programs that have the potential to ultimately transform the experience of ALS, by optimizing the care and treatments we have, finding new treatments and cures, and or preventing ALS.
- Program and review description: Applicants should describe the program, grant funding infrastructure, timelines for launch, number of awardees to be funded, how an independent review process will be conducted, and how the ALS Association will be included in the process. Applicants should describe how this partnership would allow the program to be larger or more impactful than if your organization was engaging in

this program alone (grow, scale or augment). Applicants should detail their financial (e.g., funding match or cost sharing), strategic and operational contributions to this partnership.

### 2.1.2 Topics of Interest

For this funding opportunity we will accept applications for a broad scope of topics that have the potential to ultimately transform the experience of ALS. We are especially interested in programs that would provide funding for (but not limited to):

- Disease mechanisms and heterogeneity
  - Studies of drug target identification and validation.
  - Studies linking genetic targets to sporadic disease.
  - Studies determining factors that contribute to the heterogeneity of ALS.
- Biomarkers
  - Studies to discover and validate ALS biomarkers that can facilitate clinical trials, demonstrate biological effect of promising therapeutics, and speed diagnosis.
  - Studies that aim to identify biologically relevant sub-populations within the ALS patient population.
- Prevention research
  - Studies that could ultimately stop ALS progression before impairment, including methods for detection and identification of potential therapeutic options.
  - Studies that could ultimately reduce the risk of developing ALS for people with genetic risk factors, including studies of epigenetics, gene-environment interactions, and associated methodologies.
  - Studies that seek to understand and or mitigate the effect of environmental exposures on the risk of developing ALS.
- Clinical tools and techniques
  - Efforts to increase clinical trial participation, reduce burden and risk for participation, and increase clinical trial speed and effectiveness.
  - Efforts to reduce time to diagnosis.
  - Discovery and validation of novel endpoints and outcome measures.
- Big data approaches
  - Analysis of omics or clinical data for purposes such as identification of disease-relevant patient subtypes, new therapeutic targets, or new biomarkers.
- Assistive technology
  - Development, validation, and commercialization of novel assistive technologies to improve and impact quality of life in people with ALS.
- Studies to document and reduce the harms of ALS on caregivers and families of people with ALS
  - Studies documenting real world evidence from approved therapies on ALS complications, quality of life, function, survival, etc.
  - Approaches to reduce isolation in people with ALS.
- Drug Development
  - Preclinical drug development and clinical trials

- Research infrastructure and training
  - Trial infrastructure and capacity building.
  - Training of trial personnel (clinical research fellows, trial coordinators, etc.).

## 2.2 Award Information

### 2.2.1 Funding Instrument

- Grant: A support mechanism providing money to an eligible entity to carry out an approved project or activity.
- If the funded research contributes to revenue generation, the Association expects to share, proportionally, in that revenue (see [Grants Policy Statement](#) for details).

### 2.2.2 Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards

- The number of awards is contingent upon The ALS Association's budget allocation and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.

### 2.2.3 Award Budget

- Budgets for total costs up to \$500,000 may be requested.
- No more than 10 percent of our total contribution can be used for indirect costs including both indirect costs for the organization we are partnering with and/or indirect costs of the final award recipient.

### 2.2.4 Award Period of Performance:

- The maximum period of performance is two (2) years.
- While all ALS Association funds must be expended during the 2-year period, other funds (e.g. matching funds or cost sharing funds) can be used to continue funding grants beyond that period.
- Funds can be used for a new or existing request for applications or proposals (RFA or RFP).

## 2.3 Eligibility

### 2.3.1 Eligible Individuals

- Applicants should be employees from nonprofit organizations.
- Applicants do not need to have a scientific background in ALS research.
- Applicants can submit more than one proposal seeking funds for different research funding programs.

### 2.3.2 Eligible Organizations

- U.S. and non-U.S. nonprofit organizations (contact us if you are not sure about your eligibility).

### 2.3.3 Collaborations

- Applications are open to applicants participating in synergistic collaborations (e.g., there is already an existing partnership with another organization), though one individual organization is required to serve as the principal investigator.
- If a collaboration is proposed, letters confirming/supporting the collaboration are **required** and specific roles and responsibilities for each collaborator need to be clearly articulated

## 2.4 Content and Review of Applications

### 2.4.1 Content of Application

By the date listed in [Key Dates](#) above, prospective applicants are required to submit a full proposal that includes the following information:

- Descriptive title of the Funding Program
- Name, address, and telephone number of the Principal Investigator
- Names of other key personnel
- Participating Institution(s)
- A lay abstract describing the goals of the funding program
- Research Plan Narrative
  - One page: Applicant should describe their organization and the scope of funding program in detail, how the program aligns with our mission to make ALS a livable disease and if this is a new program or existing/annual program.
  - Two pages: Applicant should describe the grant making review process from start to end and plans to involve/include ALS Association in this process. How and when will the RFA be launched, how will independent reviewers get selected, how will conflict of interests be determined and resolved, what is the governance model for approval of grant awardees, how many awardees are planned to be funded, cadence of reporting (progress reports from awardees to the organization and updates from organization to the ALS Association), communications plans, grant closeout plans, and how will impact of the funding program be measured.
  - One page: Applicants should describe the budget of the program (total funds per award, how many awards per funding cycle, etc.). Applicants should describe how our funding will be leveraged and would allow the program to be larger and/or more impactful than if your organization was engaging in this program alone. Applicant should describe the co-funding or matching funding that their organization will be bringing to this partnership.

### 2.4.2 Review Criteria for Full Application

- **Impact/contribution to ALS:** Potential for the proposed funding program to make an important contribution to ALS research.
- **Synergy with Association mission:** fit, impact of leverage, broadening of scope
- **Organization:** Program plan, review plan, collaborative nature

### 2.4.3 Peer Review and Selection Process

- All applications are peer reviewed by an ad hoc Review Committee constituted by The ALS Association. The Review Committee's priority scores are forwarded only to The ALS Association Board of Trustees Research Committee, which has the sole authority for approving the funding of research grants.
- For applications selected for funding, The ALS Association will send the reviewer comments to the PI. To the extent practical and within the scope of the budget, The ALS Association recommends that the PI integrate any recommendations that the reviewers may have suggested to further optimize the project and outcomes.

## 2.5 Application and Submission Information

### 2.5.1 Format of Application Submission

- All applications are to be submitted through our online grants management platform, Proposal Central: <https://proposalcentral.com/>
- To find this funding opportunity on Proposal Central, navigate to the Grant Opportunities tab (<https://proposalcentral.com/GrantOpportunities.asp>) and search for Grant Maker: The ALS Association
- Instructions on how to register as a new user of Proposal Central: <https://docs.proposalcentral.com/RegUser.pdf>
- Applications must be prepared according to Proposal Central's instructions: <https://docs.proposalcentral.com/CreateApp.pdf>
- Upon receipt, applications will be evaluated for completeness and compliance with application instructions. Applications that are incomplete, non-compliant and/or nonresponsive will not be reviewed.

### 2.5.2 Funding Restrictions

- The ALS Association awards are subject to the terms and conditions described in The ALS Association Grants Policy Statement and the award Agreement.
- Awards will be limited \$500,000 total costs for the 2-year period of performance
- No more than 10 percent of our total contribution can be used as indirect cost including for the organization we are partnering with or the final award recipient.
- While all ALS Association funds must be expended during the 2-year period, other funds (e.g. matching funds or cost sharing funds) can be used to continue funding grants beyond that period.
- All unexpended funds remaining at the end of the project must be returned to The ALS Association.

### 2.5.3 Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All ALS Association grants include The ALS Association Grants Policy Statement (see: Grants Policy Statement) as part of the Research Grant Agreement. The Grants Policy Statement includes the requirements applicable to animal welfare, human subject protections, data sharing, research resource sharing, publications, etc. All necessary ethical and regulatory

approvals must be in place before experiments are initiated. The awardee (in this case the nonprofit entity) will assure and ensure that such requirements are in place.

## 2.6 Award Administration

### 2.6.1 Award Agreement and Payment Schedule

- A formal notification in the form of an ALS Association Research Grant Agreement (Agreement) is the authorizing document and will be provided to the applicant organization for successful applicants.
- The Agreement, signed by the applicant's authorized organizational representative (AOR), principal investigator and The ALS Association, will include the negotiated terms and conditions of the award between The ALS Association and the Grantee.
- Milestone driven award payments will be made to the Grantee on an annual or semi-annual basis as outlined within the Agreement.

### 2.6.2 Administrative Requirements

- The Grantee is expected to utilize The ALS Association funds in direct support of the research project and expend funds in accordance with the established organizational policies and procedures
- Funds charged to The ALS Association award must be for allowable project costs that are determined to be reasonable, allocable, consistently applied and conform to the program guidelines and/or limitations outlined in The ALS Association Funding Opportunity Announcement and the Agreement
- The Grantee is expected to seek The ALS Association's prior approval before making certain types of post-award changes (see [Grants Policy Statement](#))

### 2.6.3 Reporting Requirements

- Generally, ALS Association grantees are required to submit semi-annual Research Progress Reports and annual Grant Expenditure Reports during the period of an award, plus final closeout reports (i.e., final research progress and expenditure reports) within 90 days following the termination date of the Agreement. For this RFA, the organization we are partnering with does not have to require that the grantee performing the funded work is reporting on this exact schedule, but reporting must be sufficient to allow reasonable grant oversight including determination of suitability of milestone based payments (as applicable).
- Milestone based grant payments (as applicable) are contingent upon the grantee's submission of and The ALS Association's acceptance of progress report(s). The ALS Association's issuance of the next award payment, when applicable, serves as confirmation that the information provided has been reviewed and approved by The ALS Association.

## 2.7 ALS Association Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants. Submit all correspondence to [researchgrants@alsa-national.org](mailto:researchgrants@alsa-national.org).