

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### AFTD Pathways for Hope Pilot Grant Funding Basic and Translational FTD Research

**Deadline for Applications: December 6, 2024**

AFTD Pathways for Hope Pilot Grants provide seed funding for early-career investigators carrying out innovative science across the full spectrum of FTLD disorders (behavioral variant FTD, primary progressive aphasia, progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal syndrome, and FTD-ALS). These awards support recipients in developing an independent research program and generating data that will be the basis for follow-on funding applications to other funders.

Suitable research topics may focus on sporadic or familial FTD. Examples include *but are not limited to*:

- Cellular and molecular mechanisms disrupted in FTD
- Development and characterization of novel animal (vertebrate or invertebrate) or cellular models that recapitulate FTD symptoms and pathology
- Network approaches to understanding neural circuits relevant to FTD-related deficits in social cognition, emotional regulation, language, or movement
- Cognitive or behavioral neuroscience of FTD symptoms
- Mechanistic modeling or other computational/systems biology approaches to understanding FTD-relevant cellular pathways using existing -omics data resources
- Biomarker discovery or development
- Therapeutic target identification and validation
- Development of novel diagnostics or clinical outcome measures, including digital tools for passive or active data collection.

Projects to develop and test quality-of-life interventions for persons with FTD, families or caregivers, as well as research to improve access to equitable, high-quality diagnosis, care, support services, or research participation are more appropriate for the Well-Being in FTD Pilot Grant. You can view the 2024 RFP for this Pilot Grant category on the [AFTD website](#). If you are unsure which Pilot Grant category is best suited to your project, please contact the AFTD Director of Research and Grants.

#### Grant Specifics

- The deadline for applications is **Friday, December 6, 2024, 8:00 pm ET**.
- One Pathways for Hope Pilot Grant will be awarded in 2024, with notifications in February 2025 and an award start date in spring 2025.
- Award amount \$110,000 (USD). Up to \$10,000 of this amount may be applied to indirect costs.
- The combined allocation for PI salary and benefits should not exceed 10% of the total budget (i.e., \$11,000 maximum).
- 1-year grant duration.

## **Eligibility**

- The Principal Investigator (PI) submitting the proposal must have a faculty appointment or an equivalent position at a nonprofit/academic research institution.
- The PI should be a new or early-stage researcher. AFTD follows the NIH definitions of new and early-stage investigators, which can be found here: [https://grants.nih.gov/policy/new\\_investigators/index.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/new_investigators/index.htm) Senior researchers can serve as co-PIs on an application submitted in collaboration with a PI who is a new/early-stage investigator; please contact AFTD's Director of Research and Grants to discuss.
- Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible to apply unless they can provide a letter of employment verifying they will begin a faculty position at an assistant professor level or equivalent by the beginning of the funding period. Fellows are instead encouraged to review AFTD's annual [Holloway Scholars programs](#), including the Holloway Postdoctoral Fellowships and the Clinical Research Training Scholarship in FTD.
- US and international researchers are eligible to apply.

*AFTD is committed to increasing the diversity of the scientific workforce and encourages applications by researchers from underrepresented or historically excluded populations.*

## **Application Procedure**

- Detailed instructions for completing the Pilot Grant application can be found on the [AFTD website](#). These instructions include AFTD's policies on resource sharing, data sharing, and the publication of funded research.
- AFTD utilizes an online submission portal, also accessed on the AFTD website. If you are using the portal for the first time, follow the instructions on the portal homepage to create an account and begin the application process. **All Pilot Grant applications must be submitted through the portal by the indicated deadline to be considered for funding.**
- Applications will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD and an external Scientific Review Panel which includes experts across the breadth of eligible research fields. The Research Committee of the AFTD Board of Directors will make final award determinations upon recommendation from the Scientific Review Panel.

### **For questions on the application process and logistics, contact:**

*Samantha Garner*  
*Research Coordinator*  
**Email:** [sgarner@theaftd.org](mailto:sgarner@theaftd.org)

### **For questions on scientific scope or the review process, contact:**

*Nicole Bjorklund, PhD*  
*Director of Research and Grants*  
**Email:** [nbjorklund@theaftd.org](mailto:nbjorklund@theaftd.org)