

**AOTF IR/IRG/ Community-Engaged Research Grant
2025-2026 Award Guidelines**

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| Preface | |
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| AOTF Mission and Vision | <p><i>Mission:</i> To advance the science of occupational therapy to support people’s full participation in meaningful life activities.</p> <p><i>Vision:</i> We envision a vibrant science that builds knowledge to support effective, evidence-based occupational therapy.</p> <p><i>Research Goal:</i> To support initiatives that build research capacity and advance knowledge related to occupation, health, and well-being.</p> |
| Statement of Intent for Funding of IR/IRG/CERG | <p>The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) awards IR/IRG grants as part of its mission to advance the science of occupational therapy to support people’s full participation in meaningful life activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Implementation Research grant program is to lay the necessary groundwork for larger implementation studies and support the profession’s Centennial Vision of occupational therapy as science-driven and evidence-based. • The purpose of the Intervention Research grant program is to lay the necessary groundwork for larger intervention studies and support the profession’s Centennial Vision of occupational therapy as science-driven and evidence-based. • The purpose of the Community-Engaged Research Grant (CERG) funding mechanism is to advance the field of occupational therapy by fostering research collaborations that are deeply embedded within communities. By supporting community-engaged research, AOTF aims to enhance both the rigor and relevance of scholarship, ultimately improving the health and well-being of the diverse populations we serve. |

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| <p>Objectives</p> | <p>The objectives of the AOTF Implementation Research grant are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This research program is designed to develop or study methods to implement evidence-based services into OT practice as well as provide pilot data for subsequent larger implementation research projects. <p>The objectives of the AOTF Intervention Research grant are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay the necessary groundwork for larger studies to evaluate the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions on occupation, participation, and health. • Align with future funding priorities and intended sources of funding. • Develop interventions that are client-centered, occupation-based, theory-driven, and manualized. • Lead to efficacy (research under tightly controlled conditions) or effectiveness (research under real-world conditions) trials. • Cultivate interdisciplinary research teams and partner with communities. • Include underserved and diverse populations in research. • Mentor new investigators and researchers <p>The objectives of the AOTF’s Community-Engaged Research grant are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote collaborative partnerships among researchers, organizations, and community members. • Ensure active and equitable involvement of all partners throughout the entire research process, with each contributing to all aspects of the project. • Empower community partners to share their expertise and engage in decision-making, fostering a truly inclusive and collaborative research environment. |
| <p>AOTF Research Priorities</p> | <p>AOTF Research Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health behaviors to prevent and manage chronic conditions • Mental health and well being • Technology and environmental supports in the home and community • Development and transitions for individuals and families • Equitable access and use of health and community services • Family and caregiver supports, resiliency and well-being • Novel practice areas and approaches to service delivery |

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| <p>Priority Populations</p> | <p>The funding priority populations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental disorders – e.g., autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities • Physical impairments – e.g., stroke, obesity, cancer, spinal cord injuries, hand injuries, work injuries, amputations • Cognitive impairments – e.g., dementia, traumatic brain injury, stroke, concussion • Mental disorders - e.g., depression, posttraumatic stress disorder/complex trauma, persistent mental illness • Chronic health conditions – e.g., arthritis, diabetes • People with preventable secondary conditions – e.g., diabetic neuropathy, decubitus ulcers, social isolation, sedentary lifestyle <p>Underrepresented/Minority populations</p> |
| <p>Approaches for the Implementation Research Grant</p> | <p>IR Pilot Study Option #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes pilot studies examining an occupational therapy-related question in Implementation Research requiring \$100,000 per grant. These studies run up to 2 years. <p>IR Pilot Study Option #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes pilot studies examining an occupational therapy-related question in Implementation Research requiring \$50,000 per grant. These studies run up to 1 year. <p>See definitions of approaches in the AOTF IR RFA.</p> |
| <p>Approaches for the Intervention Research Grant</p> | <p>Approaches that lay the necessary groundwork for larger intervention studies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot studies • Feasibility studies • Intervention research planning grants <p>See definitions of approaches in the AOTF IRG RFA.</p> |
| <p>Approaches for the Community-Engaged Research Grant</p> | <p>Approaches that lay the necessary groundwork for larger Community-Engaged Research studies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot studies • Feasibility studies <p>See definitions of approaches in the AOTF CERG RFA.</p> |

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| <p>Areas of Study</p> | <p>IR/IRG:</p> <p>AOTF will identify any priority areas for IR/IRG grants on an annual basis. The number of grants to be awarded for these projects will be determined on an annual basis.</p> <p>CERG:</p> <p>Effective community-engaged research is rooted in several key elements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to Collaborative, 'Coequal' Partnerships • Focus on Community-Identified Needs • Capacity-Building for Collaborators • Cultural Humility and Ethical Practices • Dissemination of Findings <p>The number of grants to be awarded for these projects will be determined on an annual basis.</p> |
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| <p align="center">Funding Award Information</p> | |
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| <p>Grant Options & Amount</p> | <p>IR:</p> <p>The maximum grant amount is \$50,000 for IR pilot study option #1 or \$100,000 for IR pilot study option #2.</p> <p>Indirect costs will be funded up to the level of 10%.</p> <p>IRG:</p> <p>The maximum grant amount is \$100,000 (including indirect costs). Indirect costs will be funded up to the level of 10%.</p> <p>Up to 20% of grant funds may be used towards mentor compensation.</p> <p>CERG:</p> <p>The maximum grant amount is \$100,000 (including indirect costs) for two years. Indirect costs will be funded up to the level of 10%. Up to 10% of grant funds may be used towards mentor compensation. Community partners' compensation is not capped at this time.</p> |

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| <p>Use of Funds</p> | <p>IR/IRG:</p> <p>Funds may be used for a variety of expenses associated with the project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel: salaries and fringe benefits (mentors may not be compensated for Implementation Research Grant). • Equipment • Travel • Participant/trainee support costs • Other direct costs: materials/supplies, publication costs, consultant services, technology/computer services, sub awards/consortium/contractual costs, equipment or facility rental/user fees, etc. <p>CERG:</p> <p>Funds may be used for a variety of expenses associated with the project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel: salaries and fringe benefits. (Mentors may be compensated up to 10% of total grant funds) • Community Partner Compensation • Equipment • Travel • Participant/trainee support costs • Other direct costs: materials/supplies, publication costs, consultant services, technology/computer services, sub awards/consortium/contractual costs, equipment or facility rental/user fees, etc. |
| <p>Limitations of Use</p> | <p>IR/IRG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect costs are not to exceed 10% of direct costs. • No funds will be approved to finance cost overruns or deficits on existing projects or to finance projects already in progress. • No funds will be approved to finance tuition. • Funds for the IR program are not to be used for mentor salary or expenses. Mentors for the IRG program may be compensated up to 20% of total grant funds. • Support for purchase of major pieces of permanent equipment is limited to 20% or less of the total award. <p>CERG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect costs are not to exceed 10% of direct costs. • No funds will be approved to finance cost overruns or deficits on existing projects or to finance projects already in progress. • No funds will be approved to finance tuition. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentors may be compensated up to 10% of total grant funds. • Community partners' compensation is not capped. <i>The PI's institutional setting may determine the payment method.</i> • Support for purchase of major pieces of permanent equipment is limited to 10% or less of the total award. |
| Other Support | <p>The Foundation would prefer that the proposed studies have obtained matching funds or in-kind services.</p> <p>All sources of support for the proposed project must be identified in the on-line application.</p> |
| Fringe Rate | <p>The Sponsoring Organization/Institution must indicate at the time of application the fringe benefit rate, if any, that shall be applied to the grant.</p> |
| Grant Period | <p>Funds will be released on a payment schedule identified by AOTF. The annual grant cycle year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30th of the next year for one-year grants. For two-year grants, the cycle ends on June 30th of that second year.</p> <p>For grants requiring an IRB, funds will be released after IRB approval is received</p> |
| Schedule of Payments | <p>Funding will be delivered in two payments of 50%; the first will be sent at the beginning of the grant period (<u>upon receipt of IRB approval/exempt document</u>), the second half of the grant will be sent when AOTF receives the Progress Report halfway through the term of the grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 1-year projects, the first payment will be released on July 1, 2026. The second payment will be released January 1, 2027. • For 2-year projects, the first payment will be released on July 1, 2026. The second payment will be released July 1, 2027. |
| Payment of Funds | <p>Funds will be sent directly to a designated official of the U.S. sponsoring organization/institution for administration through its financial office. Funds are only available for research done at U.S. non-profit institutions.</p> |
| Deviation in Payment Schedule | <p>Any deviation from this schedule must be requested in the application and approved in writing by the Foundation before the grant period of performance begins.</p> |

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| Progress Report | The second payment will be contingent upon receipt of a Progress Report(s) <u>halfway</u> in the term of the grant (Ex: For IRG, it will be six months after the start of the grant year. For a 2-year IR and CERG, it will be one year after the start of the grant year). The Progress Report must indicate satisfactory progress has been made in completing work on the proposed timetable. Failure to supply Progress Report(s) may result in termination of the grant. |
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Eligibility of Principal Investigator, Research Mentor, and Applicant Organization

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| Eligibility & Responsibility of Principal Investigator | <p>Research awards are made only to eligible principal investigators (PI). Eligibility of the principal investigator must be maintained during the funding period. These non-negotiable eligibility criteria include:</p> <p>General Personal Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PI has a terminal research degree (PhD, ScD) or has an OTD or EdD with advanced research training (e.g. completion of a post degree research fellowship). • The PI is a credentialed occupational therapist with a full-time faculty position appointment or an equivalent research position at the time of application OR a non-OT investigator with a primary academic appointment in an occupational therapy department. (Please note: Post-Doctorate Fellowship Researchers are not eligible to apply). • The PI is employed by a U.S. domestic, public or private, non-profit organization/institution that is eligible to receive Foundation research grants and will provide assurance of its accountability and support for the project. • The PI is a U.S. citizen or non-citizen national of the U.S. admitted for permanent residence OR applied for permanent residence. (For non-citizens/visa holders, the applicant organization must have policies in place to determine whether residence status or visa status will allow completion of the research.) <p>Research and Proposed Project Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A track record of achievements and career goals related to the proposed project that includes peer-reviewed publications. • Does NOT currently have any substantial extramural research awards (e.g. RO1, PCORI, Research Program Project Grant, Veterans Administration Merit Award, and Field-Initiated Project). Typically, the PI will have a funding history associated with early stage, emerging, or early midcareer investigators that may include small research grants and training-related or mentored career awards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ *Early Career Researcher: A Principal Investigator (PI) in the early stages of their independent research career, typically within 10 years of completing their terminal research degree (e.g., PhD, DSc) or equivalent training (such as post degree research fellowship for non-research degrees e.g. OTD/EdD). A longer time frame may be appropriate for individuals who have spent significant time in non- |
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research roles following their degree. These roles may include clinical practice, teaching-only academic positions, industry work (e.g., regulatory affairs or clinical operations), public health or policy practice, administrative or leadership positions, military or government service, entrepreneurial activities, or caregiving responsibilities. Eligible PIs are generally at the Lecturer, Instructor, Assistant Professor, or early Associate Professor level (or equivalent). Their funding history may include small research grants, mentored career development awards, or training-related mechanisms aligned with early stage or emerging investigators.

- A commitment from an experienced research mentor who has an established record of substantial extramural funding, peer-reviewed publications and supervision and research mentoring experience.
- No conflicts of interest that result in ineligibility, including:
 - AOTF Board member or staff
 - AOTF Scientific Advisory Council member
 - Board or staff member of IR/IRG/CERG sponsor

* The Foundation expects applicant organizations to have policies in place for non-citizens. If a grant is awarded and the principal investigator's visa will not allow a long enough time to complete the project, the Foundation may terminate the grant. The Foundation reserves the right to impose specific citizenship requirement on specific grant programs as communicated in the eligibility criteria. The applicant may be required to provide documentation of proof of eligibility; ordinarily **the authorizing organization signature on the application certifies that the applicant is eligible to apply for and receive an award.**

** The Foundation may consider factors relating to the applicant organization and the principal investigator's ability to responsibly handle and account for Foundation funds and to carry out the project. These factors include the applicant's intended role in the project, the location where the project will be performed, the role of the principal investigator in the project, and the principal investigator's employment status.

The principal investigator's responsibilities include:

- Fiscal accountability for funds awarded.
- Direct oversight of the scientific process with accountability for the quality of the study as conducted.
- Timely submission of all progress and final reports to the Foundation.
- Dissemination of results of the study through peer-reviewed publications and public presentation.

Thus, the principal investigator must have a substantive role in the project and not simply serve as a conduit for another investigator or organization.

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| <p>Eligibility of Research Mentor</p> | <p>The research mentor must have an established record of substantial extramural grant funding, peer-reviewed publications, and supervision mentoring of research students and/or fellows. For CERG, a mentor with experience in community-engaged research will be preferred.</p> |
| <p>Eligibility of Applicant Organization</p> | <p>The applicant organization must be a U.S. domestic, public or private, non-profit organization/institution that is eligible to receive Foundation research grants.</p> <p>The applicant organization assures that they will be accountable for the performance of the approved project and the appropriate expenditure of the funds.</p> <p>The applicant organization will provide the principal investigator with adequate institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources necessary to conduct the research and contribute to probability of success.</p> <p>The applicant organization may not have real or perceived conflicts of commitment or an overlap in mission with the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.</p> |
| <p>Ineligible Requests</p> | <p>The following requests are ineligible for the AOTF grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects to be completed in fulfillment of requirements for an academic degree. • Projects sponsored by an organization or institution outside the United States. • Projects that include expenses or debts incurred before the award date of a grant. |
| <p>Reporting Requirements</p> | |
| <p>Reporting for Grant Awards</p> | <p>Progress and final reports must be submitted to the Foundation following the guidelines described below. Failure to submit a report by the stated deadline will delay continued support or jeopardize future support by the Foundation. (If funds are to be paid on an alternate payment schedule, the reporting schedule will be adjusted accordingly.)</p> |
| <p>Progress Report</p> | <p>The principal investigator must e-mail a Progress Report to the Foundation’s Scientific Program Officer or Grants Administration at research@aotf.org. For a one-year grant, a Progress Report is due 15 days before the second payment is scheduled. A brief Progress Report shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of work completed to date, • discussion of major problems (if any) encountered and the plan to remedy the problems; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an explanation and justification for any deviation from the original plan of action; and • an explanation of any proposed changes to the plan. |
| Final Report | <p>The principal investigator must submit a Final Report to the Foundation within thirty (30) days of completion of the grant period. The Final Report should not exceed five (5) pages. It must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting of Expenditures: a detailed account of expenditures from the sponsoring institution (including both Foundation and other sources). Institution must return any unused fund of \$500 and over. • Description of work completed during the course of the research • Explanation of any changes to the original plan • Findings or results from the project • Plans for future research projects and funding related to the study • Plans for dissemination of information/Research to Practice: The PI must submit one-page description on how ultimately their research can be disseminated and translated into practice. This description should include information on potential facilitators and barriers for implementation and how protocols may need to be adapted for practical use. If the PI feels that their project is not ready for dissemination and/or translation, they are required to provide a one- page justification for that and next steps for this grant project. <i>No budgetary allowances are available for the tasks related to translation.</i> • Abstract: The principal investigator must also submit an abstract with the following information. • Updated Project Summary in Lay Language: An <i>updated</i> description of the project for dissemination to the public that includes broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, design, methods, <i>project results/findings</i> and how the project relates to occupational therapy and the Grant objectives. The summary should be understandable when read separate from the Application and Final Report. (Avoid describing supporting literature and past projects and use of the first person.) • Grants: Summarize any grants related to the project that have been submitted or awarded, including: the funding source and opportunity, title of research proposal, date, total budget, funding status. Include any future plans for grant applications. • Publications/Abstracts, Presentations, Press Releases: Submit summary information of dissemination activities that have been submitted or completed, |

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| | <p>including publications/abstracts, presentations, press releases. See Post-Grant Summary Information for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted Presentations: Provide summary information on any accepted presentations for dissemination to stakeholders in AOTF communications. • Surveys, Measures: Summarize any survey instruments or measures developed for the project. |
| Research Integrity | |
| Research Integrity | <p>The Foundation expects that all grant personnel will adhere to the highest ethical standards and compliance with regard to responsible conduct and integrity in scientific research.</p> <p>Integrity of the individual investigator requires:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intellectual honesty in proposing, performing, and reporting research 2. Accuracy in representing contributions to research proposals and reports 3. Fairness in peer reviews 4. Collegiality in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of resources 5. Transparency in conflicts of interests or potential conflicts of interest 6. Protection of human subjects in the conduct of research 7. Humane care of animals in the conduct of research 8. Adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams <p>The research institution supports integrity by efforts to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide leadership in support of responsible conduct of research 2. Encourage respect for everyone involved in the research enterprise 3. Promote productive interactions between trainees and mentors 4. Advocate adherence to the rules regarding all aspects of the conduct of research, especially research involving human subjects and animals 5. Anticipate, reveal, and manage individual and institutional conflicts of interest 6. Arrange timely and thorough inquiries and investigations of allegations of scientific misconduct and apply appropriate sanctions 7. Offer educational opportunities pertaining to integrity in the conduct of research 8. Monitor and evaluate the institutional environment supporting integrity in the conduct of research and use this knowledge for continuous quality improvement <p>Institute of Medicine (US). Committee on Assessing Integrity in Research Environments, & United States. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. Office of</p> |

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| | <p>Research Integrity. (2002). <i>Integrity in scientific research: Creating an environment that promotes responsible conduct</i>. National Academies Press.</p> |
| <p>Submission of Similar Applications</p> | <p>The following submissions will not be accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applications with essentially the same research focus from the same applicant organization • identical or essentially identical grant applications submitted by different applicant organizations • more than one application from the same principal investigator or co-investigator • identical or essentially identical grant applications submitted to another funding agency during the same grant cycle as AOTF <p>Applicant organizations should ascertain and assure that the materials they are submitting on behalf of the principal investigator are the original work of the principal investigator and have not been used elsewhere in the preparation and submission of a similar grant application. The scientific review committee will be able to easily identify multiple grant applications for essentially the same project. In these cases, the application(s) may not be reviewed.</p> |
| <p>Approvals and Assurances</p> | |
| <p>Human Subjects</p> | <p>If data is to be collected on human subjects, or if data used in the project contains identifiable private information that can be linked to human subjects, the plan must include specific procedures for review of the protocol and securing informed consent of subjects in compliance with federal policy on protection of human subjects.</p> <p>IRB Approval. (Note: Not all research projects will require an IRB. If an IRB is required, proof of IRB approval is not required at the time of application. If your project is awarded, the first award payment will not be issued until proof of IRB approval is submitted to the Foundation. It must be on the sponsoring institution’s letterhead and signed by the appropriate institution official. If the proposed project has more than one site, IRB approval or exemption must be obtained for every site in the project.</p> <p>Human Subjects Assurance. The institution sponsoring the project’s research must be covered by an assurance agreement indicating compliance with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations governing the protection of human subjects.</p> <p>Human Subjects Research Training. Not all research projects requires Human Subjects Research Training. If the research project does require the training, the principal investigator and all key personnel involved in the conduct of the study must provide certificates demonstrating completion of a human subjects' protection-training course. The training must be current according to the dates listed on the certificate. The Foundation will <i>not</i> accept a letter in lieu of a certificate indicating that a human subjects protection training course has been taken.</p> |

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| | <p>HIPAA. Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, the “Privacy Rule,” is a federal regulation under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 that governs the protection of individually identifiable health information from covered entities through collaborative or contractual agreements. Decisions about whether and how to implement the Privacy rule reside with the researcher and his/her institution.</p> |
| <p>Vertebrate Experimental Animals</p> | <p>If vertebrate experimental animals are involved in the study, the plan must include specific procedures for review of the protocol in compliance with federal policy on the humane handling of animal subjects.</p> <p>IACUC Approval. The institution’s Animal Care Use Committee (IACUC) must have approved or given a waiver for the project.</p> <p>Animal Welfare Assurance. The institution sponsoring the research must be covered by an assurance agreement indicating compliance with regulations governing the protection of animals.</p> |
| <p>Changes in the Research Project</p> | |
| <p>Changes to the Research Plan</p> | <p>The principal investigator must obtain written approval from the Foundation before making any substantial change in the plan of action, timetable for completion (including no-cost extensions), acquisition of subjects, etc. Requests for changes to the plan must be made in writing. The Foundation shall have thirty (30) days to review such requests and respond in writing to the principal investigator. If the request is made less than thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled payment, the monies may be held until approval of any changes is given.</p> |
| <p>Changes to the Budget</p> | <p>The principal investigator must obtain written approval from the Foundation before making any substantial change in the budget. The Foundation shall have thirty (30) days to review any request for approval of a revised budget. The Foundation may approve or not approve changes at its discretion. If the request is made less than thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled payment, the monies may be held until approval of any changes is given.</p> <p>In order for a revised budget to be approved, the applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email a copy of their revised budget with changes highlighted to research@aotf.org. <p>Less than 20%: The Foundation does not require pre-approval of a departure from budgeted amounts as long as the departure does not exceed twenty per cent (20%) in any line item. However, any departure from the original budget must be explained fully in the progress and yearly reports.</p> |

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| | <p>Greater than 20%: Transfers between line items in excess of twenty per cent (20%) and requests for expenditures in categories not initially included in the approved budget may be interpreted as representing changes in the overall plan of action. Accordingly, prior Foundation approval is required for all changes in line items of greater than 20%.</p> |
| <p>Changes in Co-Investigators, Other Key Personnel, or Research Program</p> | <p>The principal investigator must notify the Foundation upon becoming aware of any changes or pending changes that may prevent accomplishment or substantially alter the goals and objectives of the research program. Such notice must be received by the Foundation within five (5) days of the principal investigator’s becoming aware of any such change or pending change. The Foundation may request additional information from which a decision to continue or to terminate the research grant can be made. The Foundation, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether the change jeopardizes the principal investigator’s ability to complete the research program and whether funding of the project shall continue. In cases of early termination, the principal investigator shall be notified by the Foundation in writing sixty (60) days prior to the termination of the grant. AOTF does not allow Co-PI.</p> <p>The request for a change of Key personnel must be submitted by the PI no later than 30 days prior to the proposed change, The request of change should include:</p> <p>A written request must be submitted to AOTF at research@aotf.org. This request should be countersigned by the authorized institutional official. The request should identify the individual, rationale for the change, and how their contributions will be accounted for with the requested change.</p> <p>The request for a change of PI must be submitted to AOTF at research@aotf.org by an authorized signing official at the recipient organization no later than 30 days prior to the proposed change. The following information should be included in your request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification for the change • Biographical sketch of the individual proposed • Other support information of the individual proposed • Effort contributing to this project of the individual proposed. • Any budget changes resulting from the proposed change. • Certification of Human Subjects Protection Training of the individual proposed, if applicable |
| <p>Changes in Applicant Organization</p> | <p>The new organization should satisfy the eligibility requirements for an AOTF grant i.e., ‘The PI is employed by a U.S. domestic, public or private, non-profit organization/institution that is eligible to receive Foundation research grants and will provide assurance of its accountability and support for the project.’</p> |

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| | <p>The request for an institution transfer must be submitted to AOTF at research@aotf.org by an authorized signing official at the recipient organization at least 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) prior to the transfer and include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOTF Transfer Form (provided upon initial request) • AOTF Verification by Applicant Organization Form (attached to the AOTF Transfer Form & to be completed by the new organization) • Letter of transfer request • IRB approval from the new organization <p>Upon receipt and review of the AOTF transfer forms, we will reissue a formal approval letter (for your records) if all requirements are met.</p> |
| <p>Non-Compliance</p> | <p>Failure on the part of the principal investigator or applicant organization to comply with the policies governing the grant may be grounds for early termination of the grant and/or denial of any future consideration for funding from the Foundation.</p> <p>Should the principal investigator encounter problems during the grant period, the Foundation may request additional information from which a decision to continue or to terminate the grant can be made. In cases of early termination of the grant, the principal investigator and applicant organization will be notified in writing sixty (60) days before the grant is terminated.</p> |
| <p>Extension of Research Project</p> | <p>Award includes the provision for grantees to extend the final budget period, of a previously approved project period, one time for a period of up to 6 months, without additional funds. The request for this action, called a No-Cost Extension (NCE), must be received by the Foundation thirty days (30) prior to the expiration of the original grant period of performance. You must send the following information to research@aotf.org.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed explanation of why the project could not be completed by the originally approved end date. • A brief (not to exceed one page) progress report that communicates scientific progress. • Budget reflecting the proposed plans to use the remaining funds with justification. • Updated certifications and approvals (including IRB), if applicable. |

**AOTF IR/IRG/ Community-Engaged Research Grant
2025-2026 Award Guidelines**

| Credit Acknowledgements and Post-Grant Requirements | |
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| Credit Acknowledgements | <p>Future funding requests to AOTF from the Applicant Organization and Principal Investigator will be denied if there is no compliance with requirements for credit acknowledgement and post-grant summary information on research program activities.</p> <p>Support provided by the AOTF research grants must be reflected in all publications, presentations, and press releases related to the funded research. An appropriate credit line is:</p> <p>“This research has been supported in full/part with an AOTF Implementation Research Grant (AOTF2025IR##) funded by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.”</p> <p>“This research has been supported in full/part with an AOTF Intervention Research Grant (AOTF2025IRG##) funded by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation”.</p> |
| Findings Dissemination Strategy | <p>The Principal Investigator is required to present and disseminate research findings among OT students, practitioners and other groups in an effort to cultivate an interest and appreciation of research and facilitate uptake of research to improve OT practice. The grantee may be invited to present their final work to these groups within the grant period and/or in the first three years after the completion of project/submission of final report. Grantee may do so through an online or an in-person presentation platform. The presentation venue/platform may include webinars/ OT Summit/AOTF’s community engagement conference/AOTF’s Future Scientist Institute/ AOTF’s PTE event at the annual AOTA conference/ other AOTF sponsored events.</p> |
| Post-Grant Summary Information on Research Program Activities | <p>For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, the Principal Investigator is required to submit annual summary information to the Foundation on activities related to the funded research project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and grants • Publications • Presentations • Press releases <p>The Foundation may reach out to request the PI’s consent to use information from grant reports and/or post-grant summaries for media announcements and other communications to promote public awareness and demonstrate accountability for funding awards.</p> |

**AOTF IR/IRG/ Community-Engaged Research Grant
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| <p>Future Funding and Grants</p> | <p>Future funding and grants do not require Foundation approval.</p> <p>The Applicant Organization/Institution or Principal Investigator shall regularly notify the Foundation of any future grant activities related to the research program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Source and Opportunity • Title of Research Proposal • Date • Total Budget • Funding status <p>For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, upon request, the Principal Investigator is required to submit information to the Foundation electronically regarding all grant submissions and funding awards related to the funded research project.</p> |
| <p>Publications</p> | <p>Publications and abstracts do not require Foundation approval.</p> <p>The Sponsoring Organization/Institution or Principal Investigator shall notify the Foundation of the intention to release for publication the results of the Foundation-funded research.</p> <p>One (1) copy of all published papers and/or abstracts relating to the funded study should be sent to the Foundation electronically immediately upon publication.</p> <p>For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, upon request, the Principal Investigator is required to submit information to the Foundation electronically regarding all submitted, in press or published papers; and submitted or accepted abstracts related to the funded research project.</p> |
| <p>Presentations</p> | <p>Presentations do not require Foundation approval.</p> <p>The Sponsoring Organization/Institution or Principal Investigator will provide the Foundation advanced notification of accepted presentations for the research project. Timely submission of summary information on accepted presentations may be disseminated as an advanced notice in AOTF communications to stakeholders.</p> <p>The Principal Investigator is expected to submit results from the completed project to AOTA's Annual Conference for presentation within two years after completion of the project.</p> |

**AOTF IR/IRG/ Community-Engaged Research Grant
2025-2026 Award Guidelines**

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| | For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, upon request, the Principal Investigator is required to submit information to the Foundation electronically regarding all presentations related to the funded research project. |
| Press Releases | <p>Press releases prepared by the principal investigator or applicant organization do not require Foundation approval.</p> <p>For a period of five (5) years following completion of the study and submission of the final report, the Principal Investigator shall provide the Foundation with an electronic copy of all media announcements related to the funded research project.</p> |
| Surveys and Measures | <p>Surveys and measures developed do not require Foundation approval.</p> <p>For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, upon request, the Principal Investigator is required to submit information to the Foundation electronically regarding development of surveys or measures related to the funded research project.</p> |

| Royalties, Patents, Equipment | |
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| Royalties/Patent Policy | <p>By accepting a grant, the PI and sponsoring organization agree that they will inform AOTF (in writing within thirty days of filing) of any royalties, patent or invention resulting from the research grant, and forward a copy of institutional policies governing third party royalty agreements. The AOTF and the Sponsoring Institution or Principal Investigator may enter into a written agreement (the Revenue Sharing Agreement) that defines the AOTF's participation in sharing net royalty income derived from research grant inventions.</p> <p>Title: Title to any (Implementation Research Grant/ Intervention Research Grant) invention shall belong to the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or Principal Investigator and not to the Foundation.</p> <p>Government Agencies: For any (Implementation Research Grant/ Intervention Research Grant) invention that is made with joint support of the AOTF and any agency or department of the United States Government, the AOTF may defer to the patent policy of that agency or department.</p> |



**AOTF IR/IRG/ Community-Engaged Research Grant
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| Ownership of Equipment | Title to all apparatus, equipment, material, instruments, and products purchased, built, prepared or fabricated by an organization with the Foundation research grant funds will normally vest in the grantee, with the understanding that such equipment will remain in use for the specific project for which it was obtained. |
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