



Clinical Innovation Fund Overview

Areas of Interest

The Clinical Innovation Fund (CIF) is dedicated to supporting groundbreaking research that addresses critical clinical issues in the field of organ and tissue transplantation. This fund aims to foster innovative solutions that will have a measurable impact on the field. Research submissions should focus on the following goals: reducing the need for organ and tissue transplantation, increasing the availability of organs and tissues for transplantation, and achieving better health and financial outcomes for transplant recipients.

Special consideration will be given to applications that address increasing organ utilization, particularly in the areas of deceased donor management research and DCD (Donation after Circulatory Death) organ utilization, decreasing kidney discard rates, and increasing the use of marginal or extended criteria organs. Additionally, we strongly encourage applications focused on bioengineering and regenerative medicine initiatives that have the potential to significantly impact the field of organ and tissue transplantation.

Please note that we are no longer accepting applications in the following areas: national, multi-centered studies, living donation, or applications from outside the donation service area (DSA) of Mid-America Transplant.

Types of Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) defines clinical research as research conducted with human subjects or on material of human origin, such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena where an investigator or colleague directly interacts with human subjects. This definition excludes in vitro studies that use human tissues not linked to a living individual.

Patient-oriented research focuses on a specific person or group of people or uses materials from humans. This type of research can encompass:

1. Mechanisms of human disease
2. Therapeutic interventions
3. Clinical trials
4. Development of new technologies

Outcomes and health services studies aim to identify the most effective and efficient interventions, treatments, and services, ultimately improving patient care and health outcomes.

Award Amounts

Grants will be made up to \$150,000 per year for three years. Total awards will not exceed \$450,000 over a three-year period.

Eligibility

Non-profit corporations that are exempt from federal income tax under provisions of section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code are eligible to participate. At this time, non-profit corporations must be located in Mid-America Transplant's DSA, which consists of 84 counties and the City of St. Louis.

Costs Allowed

Permitted costs encompass a range of essential expenses, including salary and fringe benefits for the Principal Investigator, key personnel, and other essential staff. Additionally, funds can be allocated for equipment and supplies, publications, miscellaneous costs, contract services, and travel expenses. Indirect costs, defined as facility and administrative costs, are also permitted at a rate of 15%.

Letter of Inquiry

We look forward to accepting applications in 2026. For more information, contact info@midamericatransplant.org.

Past CIF Recipients

- 2024: Foundation Awards More Than \$450,000 In Research Funding
- 2022: Foundation Awards More Than \$1.5M For Clinical Research, Grief Support and Community Health
- 2020: Foundation Awards More Than \$788,000 to Fund Lifesaving Clinical Research
- 2018: Foundation Identifies Four New Clinical Innovation Fund Recipients
- 2017: Foundation Awards More Than \$550,000 In Research Funding
- 2016: Foundation Awards More than \$780,000 in Research Grants