



Research Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the format of the letter of intent required?

You will find [Letter of Intent Guidelines](#) on the American Neuromuscular Foundation (ANF) website.

Am I eligible for these funds if I am awarded a K23 grant?

Yes, you are eligible to apply for grant funds. You will need to disclose the K23 grant funding in your application budget.

Would this application criteria apply for an MD who participates in translational and clinical research?

Yes. The ANF strongly encourages all research pertaining to the relevant muscle and nerve disorders specified on the website.

What is the difference between a letter of reference and a letter of support?

The reference letters can come from peers, collaborators, or former mentors who know you well and speak to your character, strengths and weaknesses, as well as track record and future potentials. These tend to be more in depth than letters of support that are more related to the proposed work. The letters of support relate more to the project.

What kinds of authorized expenses and unauthorized expenses?

AUTHORIZED EXPENSES: The following expenses can be included in the grant but the applicant must justify the cost as it relates to the research:

1. A portion of the grant may be used as salary to fund the investigator's time designated for research, subject to the current NIH Executive Level II salary cap on principal investigator salary support;
2. Technicians', research assistants', post-doctoral fellows', and graduate student salaries and fringe benefits at levels appropriate to the institution;
3. Equipment and supply expenses necessary to fulfill the project's specific aims such as office supplies and computer hardware. Unless otherwise stipulated at the time of the award, equipment purchased solely with ANF funds belongs to and is considered the property of the Principal Investigator to whom the grant was awarded.
4. Travel expenses necessary for the research. ANF provides \$1500 to present the research at the AANEM annual meeting outside of the funding amount provided by the research grant.
5. Costs associated with publication of the research;
6. Costs associated with making the products of the research (i.e., cell lines, DNA, protein and other biological substances) available to others for research;
7. Indirect costs not to exceed 10% of direct costs or the percentage rate on the approved budget.

UNAUTHORIZED EXPENSES: The following expenses are not permitted.

1. Salary or fringe benefits for collaborating investigators, coinvestigators, consultants, administrative, secretarial, and/or clerical staff;
2. Salaries, travel and/or housing related to sabbatical leaves;
3. Life and Disability insurance fees;
4. Purchase or rental of office equipment; (i.e., furniture, filing cabinets, and copy machines);
5. Expenses normally covered by the indirect cost of the Principal Investigator's institution;
6. Fees for tuition, registration or other fees relating to academic studies;
7. Membership dues (AANEM dues will be waived during the grant period), subscriptions, books or journals – including online subscriptions/access; and/or
8. Expenses for or related to moving from one institution to another.

Are there special requirements for nonUSA institutions/physicians?

At this time, due to funding limitations, grants are only available for physicians/institutions in the United States and Canada. Researchers working in the US and Canada from other countries must provide proof that they will be in the US or Canada for the time necessary to complete the research.

What salary cap applies to ANF research grants?

ANF follows the current NIH salary cap for principal investigator salary support. For the FY 2026 funding cycle, this cap is 228,000 dollars in annual institutional base salary. The salary cap limits the amount of salary that may be charged to the grant, not the investigator's actual institutional salary.