



Huntington's Disease Society of America

Human Biology Project

2025 Request for Proposals

Application Process

Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline: June 13, 2025

Full Proposal Deadline (by invitation): August 15, 2025

Award Notification: October 2025

Start Date: No later than December 1, 2025

Applications must be submitted through ProposalCentral.

Online application portal

If you have previously used [ProposalCentral](#), you may sign in and search for an Open Opportunity by typing "Huntington's Disease Society of America" in the search box field and filtering opportunities by Grant Maker. This should take you to the Human Biology Project LOI. If you have not used ProposalCentral before, you can create an account using the same link.

To continue editing an existing application, login directly to [ProposalCentral](#) and click on either the "Home" tab or the "Proposals" tab to access your submission in progress.

Program Goal

Support innovative, investigator-initiated research aimed at understanding the biology of Huntington's disease (HD) in humans. Projects should prioritize the use of clinical samples or data from HD patients and aim to generate findings that inform therapeutic development or improve patient care.

Statement of Need

The Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) is committed to funding impactful human-focused HD research. While diverse research directions are welcome, this year's RFP emphasizes:

- Use of HD patient-derived samples (e.g., biofluids, postmortem brain tissue) rather than exclusively relying on HD cell lines
- Translational approaches that connect laboratory findings to clinical relevance
- Pilot-scale clinical or experimental medicine studies, even with limited statistical power
- Recruitment of new investigators to the HD field through collaborative, mentored research

We encourage applications that:

- Translate findings from HD models to human samples
- Develop or validate clinically meaningful biomarkers
- Explore novel therapeutic targets in human biological contexts
- Use or establish collaborations with HD clinics or Centers of Excellence
- Apply emerging technologies (e.g., single-cell sequencing, wearables) to HD patient data

Applications should demonstrate a clear path toward improving our biological understanding of HD in people and/or advancing therapies or care.

Eligibility

Who can apply:

- Researchers from academic, clinical, nonprofit, and for-profit institutions worldwide
- Investigators from all disciplines, including but not limited to neuroscience, genetics, data science, rehabilitation, engineering, and psychology
- Early-career investigators and HD newcomers are especially encouraged

Project requirements:

- Projects must involve **human samples or data**. iPSC-based studies must be clearly linked to human clinical relevance.
- Applicants must have, or establish, a **collaboration with an HD clinical site**
- Mentored applications (e.g., from trainees or fellows) must include a letter of support from the mentor, who must have a PhD and/or MD/DO degree and have a primary appointment at academic, public or private research institutions

Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by the HDSA Scientific Advisory Board and scored based on:

- **Impact and Relevance:** Does the research address an important problem in HD biology and offer potential to advance understanding or treatment?
- **Scientific Approach:** Are the design, methods, and analyses well-developed, rigorous, and appropriate to the aims?
- **Feasibility:** Can the project be completed within the timeline and with the available resources?
- **Investigator and Environment:** Is the applicant well-suited to carry out the work, and is the institutional environment appropriate?
- **Clinical collaboration:** Is there a strong relationship between the laboratory and clinic? Will recruitment/sample procurement be supported and feasible?

Awards and Budget

- Up to **\$90,000 per year for 1 or 2 years**
- Up to \$72,000 may be used for salary and fringe benefits
- Up to \$30,000 may be used for research-related costs, including supplies and travel
- Annual travel costs may not exceed \$5,000
- No funds may be used for the purchase of laboratory equipment or personal computing devices
- No indirect or overhead costs are permitted
- Minimum 50% effort from the applicant is required
- For-profit institutions must submit a letter confirming that publication will not be restricted due to proprietary concerns

Reporting and Terms

- Proposals can be submitted as one or two-year projects
- Awards will be paid in installments and are contingent upon submission and approval of progress and financial reports
- A progress report is due 8 months after project start; continued funding is conditional on satisfactory progress
- A final scientific report and financial reconciliation are due within 30 days of the project end date
- A no-cost extension (up to 6 months) may be requested once if justified
- Award transfers to another institution require prior written approval from HDSA

IRB and Animal Use Requirements

- IRB/IACUC (or international equivalent) approvals are not required to submit the application but are mandatory prior to fund disbursement
- Projects involving the recruitment of study participants must complete the HD Trialfinder Listing Request Form (available at hdsa.org/hd-research/hd-trial-finder). Studies will be listed in HDSA's HD Trialfinder to support participant recruitment across North America
- Projects using postmortem tissue must include documentation confirming sample availability
- Applicants must ensure compliance with all applicable ethical standards for research involving human participants or animals

Data Sharing and Publication Policy

- Funded researchers must acknowledge HDSA support in publications and presentations
- Awardees agree to submit manuscripts to PubMed Central within 12 months of publication
- HDSA may share raw data with third parties 24 months after the project ends; prior to that, sharing may occur under confidentiality agreements
- Data may be included in public repositories in accordance with HDSA's open science policies

Contact

For questions, please contact:

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