

# AFSP Research Grants

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Research  
Connection 



American  
Foundation  
for Suicide  
Prevention

# AFSP's Mission

Save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide



# AFSP's Approach is Comprehensive

- Funds scientific research
- Offers educational for professionals
- Educates the public about causes, prevention
- Promote policies and legislation
- Provides support, information, opportunities for involvement for those bereaved by suicide, people with lived experience and their families



# Creating a Movement

- AFSP has a network of 74 chapters, in all 50 US states, DC and PR
- 450+ annual Out of the Darkness Community Walks,
  - **Raising funds, awareness and involvement**
- Public policy
  - **50K+ volunteer advocates across 50 states**
- 220+ International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day events in 20+ countries
- Key role in prioritizing research agenda for suicide prevention

# A Sustainable, Growing Resource

## AFSP's Five Core Strategies



# Research is at the Core

- Founded by researchers, families that lost loved ones
- Goal was to create a sustainable private source of support for suicide research
- AFSP is now the leading private funder of suicide research
- Scientific Advisory includes 250+ suicide researchers, staff expertise

# AFSP's Current Research Investment

- Funding 27 new scientific studies this year
  - **23 Innovation Grants**
  - **4 Focus Grants (RFA'S)- larger amounts, longer studies**
    - **17% of applications**
    - **43%submissions**
- Over \$32 million in current research

# AFSP Research Program

- The only organization that specifically funds research related to suicide
  - **Requiring a suicide related outcome**
- Funds innovative and impactful research
  - **Most AFSP grantees go on to receive larger grants based on their data from their AFSP study**

# All Types of Research Supported by AFSP

- Neurobiological studies
- Genetic studies
- Psychosocial studies
- Clinical treatment studies
- Community intervention studies
- Survivors of suicide loss studies

➤ Priority areas for 2024 cycle: Ethnic and Racial Diversity, Understudied populations with elevated suicide rates, Loss Survivors



# Our Researchers

Suicide researchers at all levels for innovative ideas:

Early career researchers to build a scientific community of suicide prevention researchers to grow the field

Senior investigators to engage seasoned researchers from in and outside the field to pursue research in suicide prevention

Researchers from around the world (despite our name)



# Characteristics of AFSP Funded Grants

Innovative

Includes suicide outcome measure

Ultimately has potential impact on suicide

Conceptual framework

Sound methodology

At least one investigator with relevant suicide expertise

Evidence of feasibility

Investigator(s) with ongoing interest in suicide research

Content expertise represented among investigators

Adheres to Grant Policy Manual

# AFSP Research Grant Categories

- **Focus Grants** – (LOI required) up to \$1.5M (3-year grant)
- **Linked Standard Research Grants** –Research collaboration for two or more sites (LOI required), \$450,000
- **Distinguished Investigator Grants** –Senior experienced researchers, \$150,000
- **Standard Research Grants** –research by proven researchers, \$125,000
- **Early Career Grants** –New investigators who are guided in their research by proven research mentors, \$126,000 plus *\$14,000 of that allocated to mentor*
- **Postdoctoral Research Fellowships** –Research training and guided research for new MDs & PhDs, \$140,000
- **Pilot Grants** –small 1 or 2-year studies in new areas of research; open to all researchers, \$50,000

# Application Review Steps

The process is rigorous and thorough

1. Following Nov and Dec deadlines, each app assigned to two outside expert reviewers in Jan-Feb.
2. Better-scoring applications from first round assigned to one member of the Research Grants Committee in Mar-Apr
3. Top applications discussed, reviewed, and scored at RGC meeting in Apr. Top scoring apps presented to Board in May
4. Critical detailed written feedback letters (3-9 pages) provided to all unfunded applicants in Summer.
5. We allow up to 2 revised resubmissions

# For more information

<https://afsp.org/research-grant-information>

# Thank you



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