



**EISENBERG FAMILY
DEPRESSION CENTER**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

A Guide to Non-Federal Funding for Mental Health Research

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Eisenberg Family Depression Center Research Innovation Core
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The Guide

- What is the Research Innovation Core?
- Why identify non-federal funding?
- Recommendations: Non-federal funders
- Sources to find non-federal funders
- RIC Grant Writing and Publication Services

What is the Research Innovation Core?

The Research Innovation Core at the Eisenberg Family Depression Center ignites groundbreaking research programs and interdisciplinary collaborations through initiatives and services that activate researchers' creative potential

What does the Research Innovation Core Do?

The Research Innovation Core is a dedicated team focused on supporting mental health researchers to innovate new breakthroughs.

We offer:

- Innovation events: Speed Collaborating, Fireside Chats, webinars
- Research funding programs: Impact Grants, scholar awards
- Personalized research services: grant writing/editing and publications support
- Consultations: grants, publications, innovation
- Information: updates on funders & funding landscape

The Research Innovation Core Team



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Faculty Lead, Research Innovation;
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Why Identify Non-Federal Funding?

options =
opportunities



Why Consider Non-Federal Funding?

- May fund bold, new ideas not supported at the federal level
- May offer funding for preliminary data, bridge funding gaps, and/or support new or related lines of research
- Frequently fund implementation science and prioritize community engagement and sustainable impact
- Establishes record of external funding, and track record for delivering results from externally-funded research
- Applications are often shorter with fewer additional documents
- Typically a shorter timeframe from submission to decision
- Eligibility often spans all career stages; Early-Stage Investigators often preferred

Why Consider Non-Federal Funding Pt. 2

- Indicates capacity for various types of research work (population, study size, study locations)
- Excellent experience to prepare new investigators for future large federal applications
- Strategic to diversify research funding among federal, non-federal, and donor-based sources
- Prestigious awards and recognition by research community
- Foundations are typically consistent with research focus areas, less influenced by political or cultural changes
- A wise choice regardless of federal funding climate

A Few Challenges

- Typically offer smaller award amounts compared to federal grants
- Smaller indirect rates (also known as Facilities & Administrative costs, i.e., institutional operating costs)
- Highly competitive in the current funding climate
- Initial pilot data or proof of concept often required in proposal
- Conceptually, a translation and/or sustainability plan is needed to indicate return on investment
- The review process is often vague; detailed feedback is not always provided
- Early-career PIs can have difficulty breaking through; foundations often value established relationships
- Typically have constraints on allowable budget costs much lower indirect rates than federal

Categories of Non-Federal Funding

- Corporate Foundations
- Private & Family Donors
- Foundations
- Private Institutes
- Internal U-M Opportunities

Examples of Non-Federal Funding: CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation

Others – Cigna Group Foundation, Elevance Health Foundation, Humana Foundation, United Health Foundation, McKesson Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation



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BCBSM Foundation



- Overview: Improve quality/value of care; address access & disparities.
- Funding interests: Broad practice areas in medicine and care; evidence-based; community health.
- Typical funding deadlines: January, April, August
- Funding range: \$10K to \$75K
- Other: Be sure to emphasize how the work will reduce health care costs. Have a strong conceptualization or plan of implementation and/or translation to clinical use; particularly for disparate populations.

Examples of Non-Federal Funding: PRIVATE & FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

- Ethel & James Flinn Foundation
- Michigan Health Endowment Fund
- William T. Grant Foundation
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



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Ethel & James Flinn Foundation

- Overview: Focused on advancing effective, well-researched, and best-practice mental health treatments and programs toward improving the quality, scope, and delivery of mental health services in Michigan.
- Funding interests: Children (prevention, access) & adult mental health (translation); capacity building (quality, access, implementation/translation) and advocacy/awareness.
- Typical funding deadline: June
- Funding range: \$50K-\$200K
- Other: A solid evidence-base is expected that demonstrates intervention efficacy or program potential, as well as a viable strategy for translating the product to clinical use and maximizing community impact.



Michigan Health Endowment Fund

MICHIGAN HEALTH
ENDOWMENT FUND

- Overview: Mission to improve the health of Michigan residents, with special emphasis on the health and wellness of children and seniors, while reducing the cost of healthcare.
- Funding interests: Behavioral health (access, delivery models, quality, implementation), maternal & infant health, nutrition, capacity building, and aging.
- Typical funding deadlines: Depends on program; ranges from February to July
- Funding range: \$50K-\$500K
- Other: Need a strong evidence base for interventions, implementation or translation strategies, and clinical or community impact for consideration.

William T. Grant Foundation

- Overview: The foundation supports social research to understand the impact of programs, policies, and practices on societies, and informs and enables new policies and approaches that improve outcomes for underserved populations and the nation's youth.
- Funding interests: Health and access to care disparities, policy, and the use of evidence to inform decisions and strategies.
- Typical funding deadlines: Rolling and variable
- Funding range: \$20K - \$600K
- Other: The foundation is drawn to big questions and high-risk, high-reward approaches to uncover impactful solutions and knowledge. Approaches that lead to beneficial outcomes for youth are appealing.



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention

- Overview: AFSP is a voluntary health organization that gives those affected by suicide a nationwide community empowered by research, education, and advocacy to take action against this leading cause of death.
- Funding interests: Suicide prevention; improving access to services and care; suicide prevention interventions and strategies; survivors of suicide loss; helping communities and populations disproportionately affected by suicide.
- Typical funding deadlines: November-December
- Funding range: \$50K - \$500K
- Other: Relationships and volunteer experience are valuable for informing grant approach.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- Overview: RWJF is dedicated to transforming health from a privilege to a human right by dismantling structural racism and other barriers.
- Funding interests: Healthcare quality/value, coverage and access; public/community health; health disparities and social determinants of health; services and infrastructure; data and analytics.
- Typical funding deadlines: Rolling and variable
- Funding range: \$50K - \$500K
- Other: RWJF values community and stakeholder partnerships.



Tips for Applying to Foundations

- Establish and maintain a long-term relationship
 - Speak to the program officer & develop a working relationship
 - Consult with U-M Foundation and Corporate Relations to get strategic insight or introductions
- Stay up-to-date with RFP alerts and/or funding cycle themes
- Qualitative data, quotes, and stories, in addition to quantitative data, are effective to demonstrate need & impact
- Use the RFP guidance sections as your proposal narrative outline
- Start writing now. Outline and draft your plan and needs in detail and update or tailor the proposal to specific foundations when opportunities arise
- Resonate with the cause by sharing your experience as a provider, caregiver, patient, or volunteer



Working with U-M Foundation Offices

- [Research Foundation Partnerships Office](#) and [Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations](#)
- Some foundations are “managed” – University selects a single or small number of applicant(s) to submit per funding cycle
- U-M offices will share knowledge of funding trends & strategies
- May assist with identifying the ideal funder for the project

Examples of Non-Federal Funding: PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- **Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)** is the gold standard for health-related research.
- Overview: PCORI funds patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research that transcends clinical research, policy, access, and disparities.
- Funding interests: Patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research in focused (topical) and broad areas of health.
- Typical funding deadlines: Early January, May, and September
- Funding range: \$1M to \$12M
- Other: Indirect Rate is 40% - higher than most foundations. Engagement with stakeholders (e.g., patients, providers) and community partners is strongly encouraged.



Tips for Applying to Private Institutes

- Very similar to applying to foundations
- Speak to the program officer & develop a working relationship
- Establish community connections early on and develop a documented history of collaboration before applying
- Stay up-to-date with RFP or funding cycle themes
- Use the RFP guidance sections as your proposal narrative outline
- How it's different: Typically more or exclusive emphasis on quantitative data



Examples of Non-Federal Funding: INTERNAL U-M OPPORTUNITIES



- Center & Institute funding programs
- Departmental, college or school funding programs
- Discipline or subject-area funding programs
- University-wide programs

**Opportunities, deadlines, and focus areas will vary widely
Ask around and read the details!**

Spotlight on Impact Grants

- Overview: Eisenberg Family Depression Center Impact Grants fund research projects at U-M that have the potential to move depression research forward through innovation and collaboration.
- Funding interests: Innovative, bold, original and/or high-impact mental health topics.
- Typical funding deadlines: LOI – Spring (typically April); Invited full applications – Late summer/fall (typically September)
- Funding range: \$10,000 - \$100,000 for 1-2 year projects
- Other: Projects that iterate on previous work are typically NOT supported; emphasis on BOLD & INNOVATIVE ideas.



Spotlight on the Todd Ouida Clinical Scholars Award & Lecture



- Funding interests: Also offered by the Center; supports the advancement of research in childhood anxiety and depression, and an annual lecture.
- Funding deadline: summer (typically early July)
- Funding Amount: \$20,000
- Other: Open to researchers in any department or unit; awardee is announced during Ouida Lecture, scheduled in fall during Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds.

Where can I find non-federal funding?

Websites & Searchable
Databases

Sources to Find Funding Opportunities

- The Center's Funding Opportunities Database:
<https://depressioncenter.org/research-services/funding-opportunities>
- Pivot-RP™: <https://pivot.proquest.com/session/login>
- Research Commons (internal funding):
<https://researchcommons.umich.edu/>
- Corporate and Foundation Relations (UM):
<https://foundations.umich.edu/>
- Talk to Eric Simon at EFDC! essimon@med.umich.edu

Research Innovation Core Grant Writing and Publication Services

Overview of the Center's Grant Proposal & Publication Services:

- Copy editing
- Writing
- Pre-submission proposal management
- Identifying funding & publishing opportunities
- Catalyst for supporting drafts through submission
- Contact Eric Simon: essimon@med.umich.edu





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