

Catalyst Grant Program

Funding Opportunity for Innovative Ideas from All Employees

Do you have an idea that could help patients or improve the way we do things?
Do you need time or funding to make it happen?
We have an opportunity for you!

The Catalyst Grant Program at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab accelerates our vision “to be the global source of science-driven breakthroughs in human ability.” This program is designed to enhance translational research, support innovation and fund ideas that vary in complexity and cost.

There are **five** categories of Catalyst Grants—**Project Grant, Quality Grant, Mentorship Grant, Foundational Grant 1, and Foundational Grant 2**. Please be sure to read the following information carefully in order to select the most appropriate category for your idea.

Award Amounts: \$1,000-\$50,000
Application Deadline: March 1, 2023

Eligibility and Application Information

- 1) **Every application must include a researcher and non-researcher (clinician or non-clinician).** Individuals who participate do not need to have previous research experience, but must have a research partner. If you need assistance identifying a research partner, please contact Melissa Briody (mbriody@sralab.org).
- 2) Submitted projects must be relevant to the vision of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of senior SRAlab faculty. The Review Committee is authorized to examine and modify budgets for any/all grant types, as is determined appropriate.
- 3) Below is a summary table with expanded descriptions of grants available. Applicants should complete the application appropriate to their grant submission (p. 4- 7).
- 4) Application Resources are available at www.sralab.org/CatalystGrant2023
- 5) Applications for all grant types should be submitted at <https://competitions.fsm.northwestern.edu/grants/CatalystGrant23> in a single PDF file.
- 6) This cycle includes the unique opportunity for funding one Project Grant that is specific to the care and rehabilitation of individuals with Multiple Sclerosis. Thus, individuals with ideas related to this population are especially encouraged to apply.

Questions?

Contact Melissa Briody, Research Program Manager (mbriody@sralab.org)

Catalyst Grant Categories Summary Table

Grant	Description	Funding	Timeline	Deliverables
PROJECT Grant	Easy to implement and produces rapid results.	\$1,000- \$10,000	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New product, device, process, or intervention ▪ Presentation (internal/external)
QUALITY Grant	Leads to clinical or research quality improvement.	\$10,000- \$25,000	12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change in processes or outcomes ▪ Presentation (internal/external)
MENTORSHIP Grant	Involves mentorship from experienced researcher to support an applicant's professional research development.	\$10,000- \$25,000	12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence of research skill development ▪ Presentation (external) ▪ Publication (highly recommended) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abstract - Manuscript
Level 1 FOUNDATIONAL Grant	Develops a translational research idea that results in a publication and national presentation.	\$10,000- \$25,000	12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation (external) ▪ Publication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abstract - Manuscript
Level 2 FOUNDATIONAL Grant	Develops a translational research idea that results in publication, national presentation, and application for extramural grant funding.	\$25,000- \$50,000	18-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal grant application ▪ Presentation (external) ▪ Publication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstract • Manuscript

Catalyst Grant Categories Expanded Descriptions

PROJECT (\$1,000-10,000):

The Project Grant is intended for “quick win” projects. They are low cost, easy to implement and produce specific results that immediately impact our patients and/or organization. Project Grant topics are unlimited, but may include projects that modify patient care, develop equipment or devices (e.g., developing a new trach tube connector, creating a prototype orthotic) or refine a system or process (e.g., ordering food, creating training videos for patient/family education, etc.).

QUALITY (\$10,000-25,000):

The Quality Grant is intended for quality improvement projects that lead to a change in process or outcomes resulting in improved operational efficiency or patient care. Quality Grants should utilize the Plan-Do-Study Act (PDSA) Cycle (a quality improvement framework) as well as research methodology to document efficacy. As an example, a past Quality Grant project involved redesigning the process of ordering durable medical equipment to reduce inefficiencies. This project identified a problem and completed a root cause analysis that identified the breakdown in the ordering process. Then, they implemented a new process, created an educational module to train employees on the updated process, and measured the outcomes.

MENTORSHIP (\$10,000-25,000):

The Mentorship Grant is intended for individuals who have limited research experience but would like to become more competent in translational research and have a potential project that will impact patient care. Their work will be mentored by an experienced researcher, and one primary goal of this grant is to develop the research skills of the mentee. Consequently, the mentee will be expected to demonstrate evidence of newly developed research skills at the conclusion of the project. In addition, these projects must address a clinical problem or develop a research tool that is clearly translational.

Level 1 FOUNDATIONAL (\$10,000-25,000):

The Level 1 Foundational Grant is intended to fund a scientist and clinician collaborative project that impacts patient care and/or outcomes but will not likely lead to extramural funding. The goal of this grant is to perform high quality research that warrants dissemination to the rehabilitation community at the national/international level.

Level 2 FOUNDATIONAL (\$25,000-50,000):

The Level 2 Foundational Grant is intended to fund a scientist and clinician collaborative project that will potentially impact patient care and/or outcomes and lead to external funding and additional research. In addition to serving as the foundation for future work, these larger grants, compared to the Level 1 Foundational Grants, are intended *specifically* to create the pilot data necessary to apply for national level external grant support (e.g., NIH, VA, DOD).

Project Grant Application

1. Please list all team members, their disciplines, and departments:
2. Briefly, what is your project idea?
3. What problem does your idea solve?
4. How are you going to solve the problem (list the steps)?
5. What is the desired outcome for this project? How will you determine if you were successful?
6. What help do you need?
7. Amount funding requested: (\$1,000-\$10,000)
Total: \$ _____
Person hours: _____ hours
Equipment/Supplies: \$ _____
8. Please attach the following items
-A sketch or picture of the idea

**Project Grant applicants are strongly encouraged to identify a research partner as appropriate.
Melissa Briody (mbriody@sralab.org) can facilitate a research partner for Project Grants as needed.

Quality Grant Application

1. Cover sheet including:
 - a. Name, department and title of each applicant
 - i. Each applicant must be identified by their formal role in the organization
 - ii. Therapists must include their manager's contact information
 - b. Type of grant requested (Quality Grant)
 - c. Total funding requested

2. Research plan (2-pages maximum) including:
 - a. Introduction including background information, significance and implications of the project
 - b. At least 1 specific aim
 - c. Methods: Please use the [Plan-Do-Study-Act \(PDSA\) Framework](#)
 - i. **Plan:** What is the problem you're trying to solve? What do you hope this project produces? What are the steps to execute?

 - ***Awardees will complete the remaining steps of the PDSA Framework (ii. through iv. below) during the course of their project. Do not complete for this initial application.

 - ii. **Do:** What change did you implement? How did you observe and measure what was implemented?
 - iii. **Study:** What did you achieve? What did you learn from the results?
 - iv. **Act:** Did it work? If not, what would you do differently? Will you continue with the new process?

 - d. Project timeline
 - e. Plan for final deliverables

3. Literature References

4. Budget and justification (1-page maximum)
 - a. All personnel costs must include fringe benefits calculated at 27.8%
 - b. Indirect costs calculated at 10%.
 - c. Funds may NOT be used for entertainment of visitors, capital equipment, teaching activities, or internal presentations.

5. Biographical sketch formatted to NIH requirements. Template and examples are located at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>. If a team member does not have a biosketch, please include a resume or CV.

Mentorship Grant Application

1. Cover sheet including:
 - a. Name, department and title of each investigator
 - i. Each applicant must be identified by their formal role in the organization
 - ii. Therapists must include their manager's contact information
 - b. Type of grant requested (Mentorship Grant)
 - c. Total funding requested
2. Research plan (2-pages maximum) including:
 - a. Introduction including background information, significance and implications of the project
 - b. At least 1 specific aim
 - c. Methods
 - d. Outcome(s) measured
 - e. Project timeline
 - f. Final deliverables produced
3. Mentorship goals
 - a. Identify primary and secondary mentor(s) if applicable, and areas of expertise to facilitate the project
 - b. Identify 1-3 training goals that require mentorship and how they will facilitate applicant's long-term career goals
 - c. Estimated schedule to meet with mentor(s)
4. Literature References
5. Budget and justification (1-page maximum)
 - a. All personnel costs must include fringe benefits calculated at 27.8%
 - b. Indirect costs calculated at 10%.
 - c. Funds may NOT be used for entertainment of visitors, capital equipment, teaching activities, or internal presentations.
6. Biographical sketch formatted to NIH requirements. Template and examples are located at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>. If a team member does not have a biosketch, please include a resume or CV.

Level 1 or Level 2 Foundational Grant Application

1. Cover sheet including:
 - a. Name, department and title of each investigator
 - i. Each applicant must be identified by their formal role in the organization
 - ii. Therapists must include their manager's contact information
 - b. Type of grant requested (Level 1 Foundational or Level 2 Foundational)
 - c. Total funding requested

2. Research plan (2-pages maximum) including:
 - a. Introduction including background information, significance and implications of the project
 - b. At least 1 specific aim
 - c. Methods
 - d. Outcome(s) measured
 - e. Project timeline
 - f. Final deliverables produced
 - g. Plan for future grant submissions (optional for Level 1; required for Level 2)

3. Literature References

4. Budget and justification (1-page maximum)
 - a. All personnel costs must include fringe benefits calculated at 27.8%
 - b. Indirect costs calculated at 10%.
 - c. Funds may NOT be used for entertainment of visitors, capital equipment, teaching activities, or internal presentations.

5. Biographical sketch formatted to NIH requirements. Template and examples are located at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.