2027 Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators (Cycle 1)

ISSUE DATE:	November 23, 2026
APPLICATION DUE DATE:	January 4, 2027 by 11:59 pm ET
GRANT SELECTION NOTIFICATION	By May 14, 2027
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:	1 year
AMOUNT OF GRANT:	Up to $100,000 per grant
LINK TO APPLICATION:	https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=aasmf
CONTACT:	AASM Foundation 2510 N. Frontage Road Darien, IL 60561 Phone: 630-737-9724 E-mail: foundation@aasm.org

ELIGIBILITY

The following individuals are eligible to apply:

- Individuals with an MD, DO, DDS, DMD, DNP, DNSc, PharmD, PhD, or equivalent professional degree.
- Individuals who have applied for a multi-year investigator-initiated grant from a federal funding agency in the field of sleep or circadian science that was scored in the peer-review process but fell below (or is likely to fall below) the funding agency's pay line and plan to resubmit a revised investigator-initiated grant application.
- International applicants, who meet all the eligibility criteria and whose sponsoring organization can accept the payment of grant funds in U.S. dollars, are eligible to apply.

INELIGIBILITY

The following individuals are not eligible to apply:

- Individuals with two or more current, large, federally funded grants (e.g., >1 R01 or equivalent) are not eligible to apply. This does not apply to individuals with one current, federally funded grant; however, they must provide clear justification for why the bridge funds are needed to continue the research program.
- Individuals who have a financial conflict of interest or have the potential to incur significant financial benefit from the proposed work and beyond the work itself are not eligible to apply.
- Current AASM and AASM Foundation Board of Directors members are not eligible to apply and cannot be listed as a PI, co-PI, key personnel, mentor (paid or unpaid) or paid consultant for one year after their term ends.
  Note: In rare instances, AASM and AASM Foundation Board members may serve as unpaid consultants on an application, however, this requires Executive Committee approval prior to submitting the application.
- Individuals and organizations located in, or operating from, countries subject to U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions are not eligible to receive AASM Foundation funding.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators provides 'bridge' funding to established mid-level and senior investigators who plan to resubmit an application for a multi-year investigator-initiated federal grant that was previously not funded. Applicants must be at a critical juncture where research funding is needed to stay in the sleep field. The Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators will give scientists the time and funding needed to revise and resubmit their independent federal grant application.

Research Focus

The Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators is open to investigator-initiated projects that address one or more important unanswered scientific questions related to sleep and circadian science, sleep disorders, and/or sleep health.

Investigator-Initiated Grants

Investigator-initiated federal grants include:

- National Institutes of Health R01
- U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Merit Review Award
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Research Grant, Dissemination and Implementation Grant

If the investigator-initiated grant for which the applicant is seeking bridge funding for resubmission is not listed, the applicant must contact the AASM Foundation to ensure that it is appropriate to apply for the Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators.

Unfunded Application

Applicants must include the unfunded, investigator-initiated federal grant application, reviewer critiques and, if received, the priority score and summary statement with their Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators application. Additionally, they must include a response to reviewer critiques.

Resubmission Plan

The applicant must provide a plan to resubmit their revised investigator-initiated grant. The applicant needs to answer questions in the application, specifying the investigator-initiated grant program they are resubmitting and applying to, the resubmission deadline, the eligibility requirements of the grant program, and whether they will still meet the eligibility requirements at the time of resubmission.

Resubmitting a grant to a different grant mechanism within the same federal funding agency (e.g., NIH R01 to U01) supported through the Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators is not permitted, as this is considered a new application.

Number of Applications and Budgetary/Scientific Overlap Policy

Applicants submitting multiple applications and applications with budgetary/scientific overlap: Applicants may apply for multiple AASM Foundation grants; however, proposals with budgetary or scientific overlap cannot be submitted for multiple requests for applications within the same grant cycle. All applicants are required to disclose any potential overlap in the Other Support section of their application.

Applicants with an open AASM Foundation Grant: Individuals who are serving as Principal Investigators on an active AASM Foundation grant at the time of the application deadline may apply for a new AASM Foundation grant only if they can demonstrate that there is no budgetary or scientific overlap between the open grant and the proposed project. If overlap exists, the applicant must provide a plan to close the current grant if the new application is funded, such as relinquishing the current grant or completing it before initiating the new project.

Grant recipients who receive additional funding for projects that have budgetary/scientific overlap: Successful AASM Foundation grant recipients, who receive external funds for projects that have budgetary or scientific overlap with a grant approved by the AASM Foundation, must notify the AASM Foundation immediately and either: 1) relinquish the AASM Foundation grant and return any unspent funds or 2) submit a formal request to retain

AASM Foundation funding, including any proposed revisions to the project plan, aims/objectives, and budget and budget justification. To maintain AASM Foundation funding, the request must detail how there is no budgetary overlap. Scientific overlap is permissible in certain cases. Failure to disclose scientific or budgetary overlap to the AASM Foundation is considered a breach in contract and will result in immediate termination of the grant, requirement to return unspent funds, and ineligibility for future AASM Foundation funding opportunities.

FUNDING INFORMATION

The Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators provides funds for one year and can be for up to $100,000 per grant. There are no restrictions on the distribution of expenses, however, indirect costs are capped at 8%. The grant is a contract between the AASM Foundation and the grantee's institution. A sample contract is available here.

This AASM Foundation research grant is supported by AASM Foundation general funds.

REVIEW CRITERIA AND PROCESS

A review committee, appointed by the AASM Foundation Executive Committee, will evaluate and score all submitted applications. Reviewers will assess each application using a simplified framework that reflects the potential for the proposed research to have a sustained and meaningful impact on the sleep medicine field. Each application will receive an overall impact score, reflecting the reviewer's judgment of its potential to advance scientific knowledge, address a critical gap, or improve clinical practice. In determining the overall impact score, reviewers will consider three major factors:

1. **Importance of the Research (Scored):** Strong scientific premise of planned research in addressing important problems or critical barriers needed to progress the sleep medicine field through the use of novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions that challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.

2. **Rigor and Feasibility (Scored):** Strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, methodology, analyses, and benchmarks for success are well-reasoned and appropriate for the specific aims of the planned research.

3. **Expertise and Resources (Evaluated for sufficiency):** Experience, training, and ongoing record of accomplishments of the investigator(s), presence of institutional support, and availability of equipment and other physical resources that contribute to the likelihood of success of the planned research.

Only materials submitted within the application will be used in the evaluation of applications. The AASM Foundation Executive Committee will submit funding recommendations to the AASM Foundation Board of Directors based on the scientific grant review committee scores. The AASM Foundation Board of Directors will make the final funding decisions.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment #1 – Upon execution of contract	90%
Payment #2 – Upon receipt and approval of Final Report	10%

If unique circumstances are explained in the budget justification of the applicant's proposal, the Board of Directors will consider requests for an alternate payment schedule, with a maximum variance of 10%.

Note: Once the grant contract is executed, reallocation of funds of <10% does not require approval.

DELIVERABLES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Outcomes are an essential component of this grant. All proposals must identify the goals and appropriate outcome measures of the research. The outcomes should align with the goals and objectives stated in the applicant's proposal for this grant. As such, the following deliverables are required:

- Resubmission of the revised, investigator-initiated federal grant.
- The applicant must address the specific aims outlined in the submitted application. Any major modification(s) require AASM Foundation Board of Directors or Executive Committee approval.
- The AASM Foundation expects that the research funded by this grant will lead to the publication of original research in peer-reviewed journals, such as the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine,* and submission of an abstract to the Associated Professional Sleep Societies (APSS) for presentation at the annual SLEEP meeting. The plan and costs for these deliverables must be stated in the application.
- The applicant must submit progress and final reports during the project period, describing project activities and results, by the deadlines outlined in the Reporting Schedule below. Failure to submit reports per the established schedule will result in withholding grant payments from the sponsoring organization and the grant recipient becoming ineligible to apply for future AASM Foundation funding until all outstanding reporting is up to date.

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Progress Reports	Every six months
Final Report	Within 90 days of grant completion

The due dates for progress and final reports are established after a grant contract is executed between AASM Foundation and sponsoring organization.

HUMAN/ANIMAL SUBJECT PROTECTION PLAN

If using human or animal subjects, the applicant will be responsible for obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and use Committee (IACUC) approval. The IRB or IACUC letter of approval for the specified project must be on file with the AASM Foundation office prior to the execution of the contract. No funds will be released for the project without receipt of written approval by an IRB or IACUC. Failure to obtain IRB or IACUC approval will result in retraction of the grant.

APPLICATION

Step 1: AASM Foundation Grant Request registration

To apply for this grant, you must register on AASM Foundation Online Portal. Please refer to the AASM Foundation Application User Guide for guidance on creating an account.

Step 2: Complete application

ACCESS THE 2027 BRIDGE TO SUCCESS GRANT FOR MID-CAREER/SENIOR INVESTIGATORS (CYCLE 1) APPLICATION

Full applications must be completed and submitted through AASM Foundation Online Portal. Instructions for required forms are available via the online submission system. The Application Checklist below shows required attachments to be uploaded. For an overview of the information that is requested on the application form, please download the Bridge to Success Grant for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators Application Template.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Form	Page/Word Limit
☐ **Project Information**	
☐ **Organization Information**	
☐ **Authorized Representative**	

☐ **Unfunded Application, Critiques, and Response** A. Summary Statement (if available) and/or Reviewer Critiques B. Response to Reviewer Critiques C. Unfunded Application	B. 3 pages, excluding references
☐ **Research Plan and Goals** A. Abstract B. Research plan and goals	A. 200 words, max B. 6 pages, excluding references
☐ **Project Personnel** A. Contact Principal investigator: Biosketch and other support (required) B. Multi-Principal Investigator(s): Biosketch and other support (if applicable) C. Key personnel: Biosketch and other support (optional)	Biosketch: 5 pages per individual Other support: No page limit
☐ **Letters of Support**	1 page per letter
☐ **Budget and Budget Justification** A. Budget B. Budget Justification	
☐ **Human Subjects/Animal Research Protection Plan**	3 pages

AI USE POLICY

The AASM Foundation will not consider applications that are either substantially developed by generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Claude, Gemini) or contain sections substantially developed by generative AI tools to be original ideas of applicants. All applicants will need to attest in the application that the submitted work reflects their own original work (i.e., not plagiarized, regardless of whether AI or human consultation was used in its development) and that the content and references used throughout the application are factual (e.g., content, references).

Applicants are welcome to use AI-powered writing assistants (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Editor) to improve the writing in their grant application (e.g., check grammar, spelling, punctuation, clarity).

Additionally, applicants should be aware that the AASM Foundation may utilize in-house, licensed AI tools to conduct an administrative review for application completeness, support grantmaking operations, and test the accuracy of these tools to perform reviews. Generative AI tools are not permitted to be used by reviewers or the Board of Directors to review or score applications, create summaries, or making funding recommendations or decisions.

QUESTIONS

Frequently asked questions for our grant programs can be found here.

Individuals who have questions should contact us early in the application process. Eligibility questions may need to be reviewed by a member of the AASM Foundation Executive Committee, so please allow for at least a 1-week response time for eligibility questions. For all other inquiries, please allow a minimum of two business days for a response. Please note that inquiries submitted two business days prior to an application deadline may not be answered in time.