

AAI RESTORE Grants Program

Application Deadline: February 5

Institutional commitment letter required. See below for details.

Objective:

To provide up to one year of funding for AAI member-led research projects funded by grants that were unexpectedly frozen or terminated by NIH or other federal government agencies for reasons other than scientific merit. Applicant eligibility criteria are provided below.

Awards will be made directly to recipient institutions. If based in the U.S., the recipient institution must either be recognized as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with public charity status or be a public institution. If based outside the U.S., the recipient institution must demonstrate it would qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or that it is otherwise a public institution. Recipient eligibility criteria are provided below.

AAI leadership has dedicated up to \$8M to this program.

I. Rationale

Many researchers and research institutions, including 501(c)(3) organizations, have faced unexpected grant terminations in 2025. When grants are frozen or withdrawn, meritorious projects face significant disruption.

The AAI RESTORE Grants Program is geared toward replacing some of these terminated or frozen funds for immunology-focused grants from NIH or other federal agencies. Supported NIH mechanisms will be R-, K-, or F-series grants (including K99/R00 and F99/K00 grants); DP2 and DP5 grants; and start-up funding for new PIs through the NIH FIRST Program. Terminated grants from other federal agencies under mechanisms similar to those listed for NIH will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

AAI encourages early-career researchers affected by funding cuts such as the NIH MOSAIC and FIRST programs to apply.

By offering this funding, AAI aims to:

- Provide temporary resources to immunologists in the face of abrupt unforeseen funding cancellation.
- Retain top scientific talent in the field.
- Help institutions and AAI members remain competitive for successful future applications for funding opportunities.
- Support vital immunology research.



II. Eligibility Criteria

An **applicant** must:

1. Be the Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI of an immunology-focused NIH R-, K-, or F-series grant (including K99/R00 and F99/K00 grants), or DP2 or DP5 grant, or a grant from NSF or another U.S. federal agency, that was awarded to an eligible institution (see below) AND was terminated in 2025 or 2026 due to non-scientific reasons. International PIs with terminated U.S. federal grants by these mechanisms will be considered, provided that their institution qualifies. New PIs whose start-up funding through the NIH FIRST Program was awarded to an eligible institution and was terminated in 2025 or 2026 are also eligible.*
2. Be an AAI member in good standing for at least two of the last three years (2024-2026) and at the time of application. (Member dues must have been paid in full for 2026 in order to apply.) The membership requirement can be satisfied by two or more years of regular membership OR a combination of trainee and regular membership years.**
3. Only one terminated or frozen grant per applicant will be considered for funding for each application cycle.
4. Previous RESTORE Grant recipients may apply for funding for another terminated/frozen federal grant but will be given lower priority vs. new applicants.

Members of the RESTORE Grants Review Group are not eligible to apply.

A **recipient organization** must:

- If based in the U.S., be recognized as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with public charity status or be a public institution.
- If based outside the U.S., demonstrate it would qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or that it is otherwise a public institution.

**Please reach out to awards@aai.org to inquire about grant mechanisms not listed here or under the FAQ tab on the [RESTORE Grants Program webpage](#).*

***For student applicants with terminated NIH F-series grants, the two-year membership requirement may be fulfilled by two years of membership by the student applicant or their mentor.*

III. Grant Funding and Conditions

- **Program Budget:** Up to \$8 million in total for all RESTORE cycles
- **Award Amount:** Up to \$100,000 per award
- **Number of Awards:** Dependent on amount per award



- **Award Duration:** Up to 12 months
- **Award Payment Schedule:** Paid in one installment at the start of the grant term
- **Award Conditions:**
 - AAI membership in good standing, with membership being maintained for the duration of the award term.
 - If based in the U.S., the recipient institution must either be recognized as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with public charity status or be a public institution. If based outside the U.S., the recipient institution must demonstrate it would qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or that it is otherwise a public institution.
 - Any publication, poster, or presentation describing research conducted under this program during the period of the award must cite support from AAI.
 - Institution must verify at time of award that the federal grant funds have not been reinstated and agree to notify AAI immediately if reinstatement occurs after the award is given. If funding for the frozen or terminated grant is restored prior to the award being conferred, the AAI grant will not be awarded/activated.
 - If the funding for the frozen or terminated grant is restored during the AAI grant term, or if the recipient institution ceases to conduct the funded research for any reason, including departure of the PI from the institution, then the institution must alert AAI and return any unused AAI grant funds that remain at the time of federal grant restoration.
 - A final expenditure report describing actual expenses must be submitted within 60 days of the end of the grant term. Any unused funds must be returned to AAI.
 - The grant is non-transferable between individuals or institutions.
- **Allowable Costs (must be addressed in institutional commitment letter):**
 - Reasonable compensation for key personnel other than PIs (e.g., postdocs, technicians)
 - Research supplies and resources, including core or animal facilities
 - Equipment repair/maintenance
- **Unallowable Costs:**
 - PI compensation
 - Indirect costs or overhead
 - Travel



IV. Application Components

- Online grant application form with applicant information, including how they intend to use the RESTORE funds for the given project
- Applicant's NIH biosketch
- Institutional commitment letter to:
 - confirm eligibility of the recipient organization
 - affirm allowable costs
 - commit to efficient processing of the grant agreement (for funding to begin March 15)
 - summarize status of the frozen/terminated federal grant (e.g., "This grant was terminated by NIH on *n* date for *x* reason."), and
 - commit to alert AAI promptly to any changes in federal funding status for the frozen/terminated grant
- Specific Aims page from terminated federal grant
- Total grant amount awarded and budget from terminated federal grant
- Copy of the federal grant termination notice
- Funding confirmation form reporting current funding for (1) the research project supported by the terminated federal grant, and (2) the laboratory. See Funding Confirmation Form Instructions and download Funding Confirmation Form template on the [RESTORE Grants Program webpage](#).

V. Award Cycle

- Applications for a second RESTORE cycle will be accepted starting January 8, 2026, with an application deadline of February 5, 2026. If available funds remain, there will be a third application cycle shortly following the second cycle.
- Decisions on applications will be finalized by February 26.
- Grant agreements for applicants selected for funding will be sent to recipients for signature by March 13, 2026.
- Grant term will be March 15, 2026, to March 14, 2027.



- Funds will be provided on or as soon after March 15 as possible, depending on institutional verification that the federal grant remains frozen or terminated, and receipt by AAI of fully executed copies of grant agreements.

VI. Review Process

AAI will not conduct a thorough scientific review but the RESTORE Grants Review Group will review the contents of the grant to ensure that it is immunology focused. All immunology-focused grants will be assessed based on the stated criteria.

