

Adult Translational Cancer Research

2025 Request for Applications

PURPOSE OF AWARD:

This Request for Applications (RFA) is restricted to **adult cancer** research in the preclinical or translational space with a focus on bench-to bedside strategies. Applicants may propose adult cancer research that moves a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or uses specimens from a clinical trial to develop biomarkers or mechanisms. The research **must** apply in a direct way to human beings **within 3 years** from the end of the grant. If biomarker research is undertaken, a validation set or independent clinical trial is essential. A plan for biomarker validation, if applicable, must be included in any proposal. The endpoint of the project should be the planning or initiation of a new clinical trial or conducting an investigator-initiated trial with laboratory correlates that test hypotheses.

This RFA is specifically for **adult cancer** research that falls into preclinical/translational research as described above. **We encourage research on the biological basis of cancer disparities experienced by patients from minority ethnic or racial populations.** We welcome research projects in this area as well as all other adult cancer research areas EXCEPT the following out-of-scope research areas: epidemiology, behavioral science, and health services research. **Our expectation is that each invited institution will prioritize their best nominee across the cancer research continuum.**

AVAILABLE GRANT AWARDS:

Traditional Translational - This award is for applicants that may be applying for the first time, or those applicants who have applied in the past, though may not have been selected for funding.

ALL-STAR Grant: **This grant is specifically for previous V-Foundation grant recipients.** If you have not received funding through the V Foundation, you are not eligible to apply for the All-Star grant, however, you may apply under the Traditional Translational grant.

- If you held a V Foundation grant at another institution, you are still eligible to apply for the All-Star grant.
- **Grant must be completed or in the final year and you must be in good standing** (no overdue reports or financial obligations) to be eligible to apply for the All-Star award.
- The grant does **NOT** have to be linked to the previous grant you received the award for (though it can be).
- The grant proposal can be a new idea in a different space and it does not have to be the same cancer type (example: pediatric cancer to adult cancer, V Scholar to Translational or lung cancer research to breast cancer).

GRANT SPECIFICS:

Traditional Translational - A four-year, \$800,000 grant, paid in annual installments. Indirect costs up to 10% of direct costs allowed.

ALL-STAR - A five-year, \$1 million grant, paid in annual installments

WHO MAY APPLY?

Each invited institution may submit **(two) nominees** to apply, **1 traditional and 1 All-Star**

INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY:

Only research institutions that received this invitation may submit a nominee for consideration. Other affiliates of the institution that did not receive the email are not eligible to nominate an applicant. Please do not distribute outside of your institution.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY: Your nominee must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the Translational research team and must meet all of the following criteria by the nomination due date:

- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501c3, Section 170).
- Hold a tenure-track or tenured faculty position at their cancer research institution. Non-promotable, adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.
- Must be either a US Citizen or have a legal permit (temporary or permanent) to work in the US. This requirement does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.

NEXT STEPS:

Recommendation Letter (LOR): Nominees will be asked to provide a LOR from the cancer center director. If the institution has no cancer center director, then a senior official at a similar level can provide this letter. This LOR will be provided with the Nomination Form and is also uploaded by the applicant in the applicant's online application. **The letter is expected to include the following elements which will be evaluated by the review committee:**

- A description of the process used to identify your nominee.
- Why you chose this nominee.
- The institutional resources that will be available to the nominee (examples might include research and office space, teaching release, mental health support, etc.)
- Communication of complex ideas is an important skill for all researchers to learn. If the nature of the research is basic and/or translational science, how will science communication with diverse audiences be incorporated into their training? If the nature of the research is translational and/or clinical (bench to bedside with patient contact), describe how patient advocacy/communication will be incorporated into their training.
- The name, title, and contact information of the person writing the LOR.

Nomination Form:

- Complete the attached Nomination Form for your sole nominee which must include the signature of the primary researcher and the Cancer Center Director's or similar high ranking research official's signature.
- Email the completed Nomination Form and LOR in **one** email to nominations@v.org.
- The nominee will then be invited to complete the online application. Please allow at least 5 business days from the time of receipt for our team to process your nomination, verify preliminary eligibility and invite the nominee.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Nomination Due Date: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time **mid-March 2025**

Application Due Date: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time **mid-April 2025**

Earliest Start Date: August 1, 2025

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact the Research and Grants Team at Grants@v.org. We are delighted to extend this invitation and look forward to receiving your nomination.

Best Wishes,



Kara Coleman, PhD
Vice President, Research and Grants Administration
the V Foundation for Cancer Research

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