



The mission of Susan G. Komen® is to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer

# CAREER CATALYST RESEARCH GRANTS

## 2026-2027 LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) ANNOUNCEMENT AND INSTRUCTIONS

**PLEASE NOTE:** The finalized Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2026–2027 Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Research Grant has not yet been released. The information below reflects current expectations based on Susan G. Komen’s historical guidelines, as well as elements identified in the previous RFA as anticipated changes for the 2027 cycle. All details remain subject to revision once the official RFA is published.



Susan G. Komen®

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Questions: [www.komen.org/researchhelpdesk](http://www.komen.org/researchhelpdesk)

Website: [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)

## KEY DATES

Letter of Intent (LOI) Announcement:	May 20, 2026
Institution Opt-in Deadline:	June 4, 2026
Letter of Intent Due:	July 23, 2026, by 1 p.m., Eastern Time
Letter of Intent Decision:	August 13, 2026
Application Due:	October 1, 2026, by 1 p.m., Eastern Time
Award Notification:	On or around April 14, 2027

**PURPOSE OF AWARD:** For more than a decade, Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Research (CCR) Grants have fostered promising breast cancer researchers who are in the early stages of their faculty careers by providing support for up to three years of “protected time” for research career development under the guidance of a Mentor Committee. We seek to support those who will emerge as the next key leaders in the fight against breast cancer.

**GRANT TERMS:** Applicants/Primary Investigators (PIs) may request funding of up to \$150,000 per year (combined direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (\$450,000).

## CAREER CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT OVERVIEW:

Applicants must be Early Career Investigators who currently hold a faculty appointment or have a formal offer letter from the Institution that confirms position and start date by the Application due date (**October 1, 2026**) and have not been held any faculty appointment, including non-tenure and tenure track appointments combined, for more than a total of **6 years** by the Application due date (**October 1, 2026**). All positions that are considered as “Faculty” positions by the Applicant/PIs institution (or prior institution) count towards the 6-year limit. This may include positions such as Instructor, Research Fellow, or other non-tenure track faculty positions as appropriate. This is a limited submission opportunity: each institution may only nominate a single applicant for this funding opportunity.

Research projects must be **hypothesis-driven, breast cancer-focused studies**. They may be considered basic, translational, clinical and/or population science in nature and should align with Komen’s research priorities and/or mission to save lives from breast cancer. Komen’s research priorities are conquering metastatic and aggressive breast cancers, advancing personalized breast cancer care throughout the continuum of care, and improving health outcomes for everyone impacted by breast cancer. Metastatic breast cancer-focused studies may include, but are not limited to, the development of novel treatment strategies for existing metastatic disease, strategies to prevent or arrest metastasis and late recurrence, and innovative approaches to detect new or recurrent metastatic breast cancer. Precision medicine-focused studies aim to identify the most effective and appropriate strategies to treat, detect, diagnose, and prevent disease based on genomic, biological, environmental, economic, lifestyle and social characteristics. Applications focused on improving health outcomes may expand our understanding of the biological, behavioral, social, and systems contributors to disparities in breast cancer care and outcomes and lead to new ways to treat breast cancer and/or novel approaches to improve access and utilization of timely, high quality breast cancer care. Applications that leverage data science (includes artificial intelligence and other analytical methods applied to data aggregated from multiple sources, such as electronic health records, other clinical data, administrative databases, large data repositories, genomics and other -omics data, etc.) are also encouraged.

Komen believes that diversity in research is essential to expand our knowledge of breast cancer, advance breast cancer care and improve outcomes for everyone. We are committed to supporting a diverse workforce; research environments that encourage a wide range of views, expertise, and experiences; and research studies that include participants who are representative of all people impacted by breast cancer to fuel innovation and scientific discoveries that can benefit all.

**Letters of Intent that are not hypothesis-driven, breast cancer-focused studies as described above, will be administratively withdrawn from consideration for a full Application submission without an opportunity for appeal. Applicants/PIs may only submit ONE Letter of Intent for this funding opportunity.**

## LIMITED SUBMISSION NOMINATION PROCESS

Institutions must respond to [missiongrantsadmin@komen.org](mailto:missiongrantsadmin@komen.org) by **June 4, 2026**, to indicate that they are opting-in to the institutional nomination process.

**This is a limited submission opportunity: each institution may submit one nominee to apply for this funding.** Applicants/PIs cannot self-nominate. The Institution's Office of Sponsored Programs, Grants Office, or equivalent must select the nominee to apply for this funding.

Prior to the Letter of Intent (LOI) submission deadline (**July 23, 2026**), institutions that have opted in must provide Komen with the name and email address of the one applicant (based on eligibility requirements) being nominated to apply for funding. Institutions will receive a link that their nominee may use to submit the required information and documents for LOI submission (details on page 5-6), including:

- Letter of Intent Narrative
- Applicant Biosketch and Other Support
- Letter of Recommendation/Institutional Support (from Dean, Dept. Chair or equivalent)
- Lead Mentor

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/DESIGNATED RECIPIENTS

Applicants/PIs, Mentors, and Institutions must conform to the following eligibility criteria to apply for a CCR Grant. **Eligibility must be confirmed in the Letter of Recommendation/Institutional Support at the time of the Letter of Intent submission (July 23, 2026).**

Grants will be awarded to a single Principal Investigator (PI). Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) are not allowed.

### Applicant/PI

- Must be nominated by the Institution's Office of Sponsored Programs, Grants Office or equivalent. This is a limited submission opportunity, and the applicant/PI cannot self-nominate.
- Must have a doctoral degree, such as M.D., Ph.D., Dr.P.H., D.O., or equivalent.
- Must currently hold a full-time faculty appointment or have a formal offer letter from the Institution that confirms position and start date by the Application due date (**October 1, 2026**), documented by the Applicant/PI Biosketch and Letter of Institutional Support.
- Must not have held any faculty appointment, including non-tenure and tenure track appointments combined, for more than a total of **6 years** by the Application due date (**October 1, 2026**), documented by the Applicant/PI Biosketch and Letter of Institutional Support. All positions that are considered as "Faculty" positions by the Applicant/PI's institution (or prior institution) count towards the **6-year** limit. This may include positions such as Instructor, Research Fellow, or other non-tenure track faculty positions as appropriate. All faculty positions and terms must be verified by the Letter of Institutional Support which must also include information regarding a pathway to independence if the applicant is not already leading their own research lab.
- Must not simultaneously hold any other Grant awarded by Susan G. Komen.
- Must not currently be or have been a Principal Investigator on an existing NIH R01 grant or their equivalent as of the date of Award Notification (**on or around April 14, 2027**).
- Must conduct the proposed research and training at the Lead Mentor's U.S. based institution.
- Must have adequate space and facilities to conduct the proposed research and must be able to **devote at least 75% of full-time effort** to breast cancer research and activities, i.e., protected research time.
- Must ensure that all past and current Komen-funded Grants are up to date and in compliance with all Komen requirements; e.g., progress and financial report submissions, IRB (Institutional Review Boards) approvals, etc. by the Letter of Intent due date (**July 23, 2026**), if applicable.
- Is not required to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- May only submit ONE LOI/Application in response to this Announcement.

## Institution

- Must be a U.S. non-profit institution or organization.
- May not be a governmental agency (i.e., NIH, NCI, etc.)
- Must agree to adhere to Komen's Policies and Procedures for Research and Training Grants, which may be downloaded along with the Letter of Intent Templates in proposalCENTRAL.

**Note:** It is the policy of Susan G. Komen to support organizations, projects and programs that do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other legally protected characteristics. Komen does not knowingly award grants to organizations that discriminate in their hiring, those they accept as volunteers or the clients they serve. We encourage letters of intent/applications from researchers of all backgrounds who meet the eligibility criteria.

## FUNDING INFORMATION AND GRANT TERM

Applicants/PIs may request funding of up to \$150,000 per year (combined direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (\$450,000). **Budgets are not required to be submitted with the Letter of Intent.** However, Applicants/PIs should take note of the following budget guidelines:

- Personnel on the Research Project are limited to a base salary at or below \$250,000 per year.
- Level of effort committed to the proposed Research Project does not determine salary level; salary levels are determined by the Applicant/PI's institutional policies.
- Reasonable compensation of Patient Advocates is allowed when advocates perform services that would otherwise be a contracted expense. Compensation may be in the form of per-hour compensation or honoraria. It may also include reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses directly related to their work on the research project (e.g., travel, parking, printing, registration fees).
- Research Technicians may be included as salaried personnel on the Research Project.
- Reasonable travel costs ARE allowed for purposes specifically related to the proposed Research Project for the PI and Key Personnel conducting the research (e.g., Postdoctoral Fellow or Graduate Student). Travel costs must be in line with the Applicant/PI's Institution travel policies.
- Publication costs and meeting-related poster printing costs ARE allowed for purposes specifically related to the proposed Research Project.
- Reasonable coursework and training expenses (i.e., laboratory management courses, trans-disciplinary training, etc.) related to the career and professional development of the Applicant/PI ARE allowed; tuition towards a degree-granting program IS NOT allowed.
- Equipment costs are limited to no more than 25% of total direct costs.
- Professional membership dues or subscription dues ARE NOT allowed.
- Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellow tuition costs ARE NOT allowed; stipends and salaries to Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows are permitted.
- Visa costs ARE NOT allowed.
- Indirect costs cannot exceed 15% of total direct costs (including any indirect costs paid through subcontracts or consortia). Indirect costs include all expenses not directly related to the conduct of the Research Project, including, but not limited to, allocated costs such as facilities, telephone/communication expenses, technology support, computer usage fees, administrative support, etc.

## LETTER OF INTENT REQUIREMENTS

The Applicant/PI will need to submit the following information and documentation using the proposalCENTRAL link provided by Komen (see page 3 for details on receiving this Letter of Intent submission link). Templates must be used, if provided.

**Required: Letter of Intent Narrative** (not to exceed one-page in total length; must use the **Komen Template** which includes sections A-C described below):

- A. Title:** The title of the research plan should be entered directly into the proposalCENTRAL system and on the LOI Narrative. The title should be lay-friendly and accurately describe the focus of the proposal. It should be no more than 81 characters in length (including spaces) and should not include abbreviations or all capital letters. It must be included in the one-page limit.
- B. Research Plan:** Research projects must be hypothesis-driven, breast cancer-focused studies. They may be considered basic, translational, clinical, data science and/or population science in nature and should align with Komen's research priorities and mission to save lives from breast cancer. The Research Plan must demonstrate consideration to the entire 3-year grant term expected of this grant mechanism, including detailed information on the specific aims and research goals. The Applicant/PI must propose a Research Plan that includes a clear and concise statement of the research question, hypothesis(es), and specific aims of the Research Project. The Research Plan must be included within the one-page limit.
- C. Impact and Innovation:** Briefly summarize how, if successful, the proposal and specific aims will increase our understanding of breast cancer and lead to advances in the field and/or breast cancer care, and the project's significance and potential impact to breast cancer patients, including who will/will not benefit from the findings of the research study. This must be included within the one-page limit.

A Letter of Intent Narrative template is available for download on the proposalCENTRAL website.

**Required: Letter of Institutional Support**

Eligibility (outlined on pages 3 and 4) must be confirmed in writing by the Institution from the Dean, department chair or similar level at the time of LOI submission (**July 23, 2026**). (The Lead Mentor may not provide this letter.) This letter must be signed and provided on institutional letterhead.

**Required: Applicant/PI Biosketch (NIH template)**

The Applicant/PI must submit a Biosketch to confirm all current and past academic experience and positions. Additionally, the biosketch should include scientific contributions and publications that the applicant considers to be of the most significance in their career or field and why the central findings were so influential or how they applied to the field. Biosketches must be no more than 5 pages and in NIH format. A template is available for download on the proposalCENTRAL website.

**Required: Other Support/Sources of Funding**

The Applicant/PI must submit a **signed Other Support** document to confirm their current, past and pending research grants. If the Applicant/PI has no current, past and pending support, they must still submit this signed document. Other Support may be as long as necessary to be thorough. A template is available for download on the proposalCENTRAL website. As a reminder, the PI/Applicant must not currently be or have been a Principal Investigator on an existing NIH R01 grant or their equivalent as of the date of Award Notification (**on or around April 15, 2026**).

**Required: Lead Mentor**

The Lead Mentor must be at the same institution as the Applicant/PI and serve as the onsite representative for the entire Mentor Committee. **A mentor may serve as the Lead Mentor for one Applicant/application. This individual may serve as a committee member on another application but may only be Lead Mentor on one application per Komen grant mechanism.** Additional requirements:

- Must hold a full-time faculty appointment with an accredited U.S.-based institution (at the same institution as the Applicant/PI).
- Must currently conduct breast cancer research, or alternatively, at least one member of the Mentor Committee must have breast cancer research expertise.
- Is not required to be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident.

You must name your Lead Mentor with your Letter of Intent submission. A Letter of Support from the Lead Mentor is not required at LOI submission but must be submitted with the Application. You may name other members of your

Mentoring Committee (Patient Advocate Mentor, etc.) at LOI submission, but it is not required.

## LETTER OF INTENT SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

### Administrative Requirements

Applicants/PIs must follow the Letter of Intent submission instructions, including page limitations, submission of required LOI materials and format guidelines. All materials must be written in English and must be submitted online in the proposalCENTRAL system.

**Failure to adhere to these instructions will result in the Letter of Intent being administratively withdrawn from consideration, without appeal.**

### Letter of Intent Submission Deadline

Institutions that have opted in will receive a link that their nominee should use to submit the required documents for LOI submission. Institutional nominees must complete and submit their Letters of Intent by 1pm ET (U.S.) on **July 23, 2026**, using the proposalCENTRAL website at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>.

Applicants/PIs are strongly encouraged to complete, review, and submit their Letters of Intent with sufficient time to allow for technical difficulties, varying time zones, human error, loss of power/internet, sickness, travel, etc.

**Extensions to the Letter of Intent submission deadline will not be granted to allow for lateness, corrections, or submissions of missing information, with the rare exception made for severe extenuating circumstances at the sole discretion of Komen.**

### Getting started in proposalCENTRAL

If you are a new user of proposalCENTRAL, follow the “Need an account?” link under the login section and complete the registration process.

If you are already registered with proposalCENTRAL, login at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/default.asp> with your username and password. If you have forgotten your password, click on the “Forgot your password?” link. Provide your email address in the space provided; your username and password will be sent to you by email.

Once you are logged in, please click the “Professional Profile” tab at the top (gray tab fourth from left). Please complete steps 1-9 or update with current information. Your name, degrees, title, and institution for the LOI will be pulled from this page in proposalCENTRAL.

Nominees should follow the link they are emailed to submit the Letter of Intent in proposalCENTRAL. Select the committee labeled “FY26CCR”. (Note: If the Applicant/PI has or is currently submitting other applications, a drop down menu may appear.)

Complete all fields in the LOI and all templates that are provided. Upload all requested documents in portable document format (PDF). Uploaded documents must be converted to PDF prior to submission in the proposalCENTRAL system and should not be password protected or they may not convert properly. See the proposalCENTRAL FAQ section, <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/FAQ/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.asp>, for more information.

If you have difficulties registering, logging in or creating your Letter of Intent, contact proposalCENTRAL Customer Support immediately:

Phone: (800) 875-2562 or (703) 964-5840; email: [pccsupport@altum.com](mailto:pccsupport@altum.com)

## Letter of Intent Sections

The following information is required to submit a complete Letter of Intent. Numbers correspond to the sections found on the left side of the proposalCENTRAL website.

### 1. TITLE PAGE

Enter the title of the Research Project directly into the proposalCENTRAL system. The title is limited to no more than 81 characters in length (including spaces). Do not use abbreviations or all capital letters. A title must be entered and saved before additional sections may be accessed.

### 2. DOWNLOAD TEMPLATES & INSTRUCTIONS

The Komen Career Catalyst Research Letter of Intent Announcement and Instructions document, the Policies and Procedures and all templates can be downloaded from this page.

You must download and complete the Letter of Intent Narrative Template, Biosketch Template and Other Support Template. See the Letter of Intent Requirements starting on page 5 for instructions on how to complete each template.

Click the "Download" link to save each of the templates to your computer.

Use your word processing software (e.g., MS Word, WordPerfect) to complete the Letter of Intent Narrative Template, Biosketch Template, and Other Support Template on your computer and then convert the templates to PDF format. You do not need to be connected to the internet or the proposalCENTRAL system while working on the templates.

Upload the completed template files to your online Letter of Intent. See pages 5-7 for instructions on how to upload the templates.

### 3. ENABLE OTHER USERS TO ACCESS THIS PROPOSAL.

This is optional for the Letter of Intent. If a person is added in this section, they must be a registered user in proposalCENTRAL before you can grant access to your Letter of Intent.

### 4. APPLICANT/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)

This information will pre-populate from the Professional Profile Page. If any changes need to be made to the Applicant/PI information, click the Professional Profile tab.

### 5. PI DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Susan G. Komen supports diversity within the breast cancer research workforce. We ask that the Applicant/PI's demographics page be updated only to quantify those efforts. Please know this information will not be used as part of the review process. It will be used only for aggregate reporting to track our progress toward a diverse scientific workforce.

### 6. INSTITUTION & CONTACTS

Enter information regarding the lead institution, signing official, and financial officer directly into the proposalCENTRAL system. If institutional information is incorrect, contact the person listed on the page or proposalCENTRAL.

### 7. KEY PERSONNEL - Do not list the Applicant/PI as Key Personnel in this section.

Key personnel include the Lead Mentor, Committee Members, major Collaborators and Patient Advocate Mentor(s) who are integral to the execution of the Research Plan. You must name your Lead Mentor with your LOI submission. You may name other members of your Mentoring Committee (Patient Advocate Mentor, etc.) at LOI submission, but it is not required.

Komen defines a Key Person as an individual who contributes to the scientific development or execution of a Research Project in a substantive, measurable way, whether they receive salaries or compensation under the Grant. Typically, these individuals devote a defined percentage of effort to the Research Project and have doctoral or other professional degrees. Collaborators/Consultants at the postdoctoral or graduate student level may be considered Key Personnel if their involvement meets this definition.

**Each Key Person must have a level of effort listed in proposalCENTRAL (0-100 percent).** Patient Advocate Mentors, the Lead Mentor and members of the Mentor Committee may list 0 percent effort. Other Key Personnel must list greater than 0 percent effort. Salary support is not required for Key Personnel.

Add new contacts by entering the email address of the Key Person you wish to add. Click “Add.” Add Key Personnel information for the person selected. Select the appropriate Role from the dropdown. Enter the percent effort proposed for this Key Person on this Research Project. When entering contact information, do not use personal addresses for the Key Person.

**NON-KEY PERSONNEL – Not required at LOI but will be required at Application**

Non-Key Personnel may include Graduate Students, Postdoctoral Fellows, Research Technicians, and/or Collaborators who can easily be replaced without affecting the functionality of the Research Project or significantly impacting the execution of the proposed Research Project (e.g., a biostatistician or research technician who manages a mouse colony). A Non-Key Person may have 0 percent effort. If a Non-Key Person draws a salary from the grant budget, a level of effort must be listed.

Add new contacts by entering the email address of the Non-Key Person you wish to add. Click “Add.” Add Non-Key Personnel information for the person selected. Select the Non-Key Personnel Role from the dropdown. Enter the percent effort proposed for this Non-Key Person on this Research Project. When entering contact information, do not use personal addresses for the Non-Key Person.

**8. ATTACH NARRATIVE AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Please read this entire section for complete instructions on naming and uploading attachments.

**Letter of Intent Narrative Template**

Download the LOI Narrative template from proposalCENTRAL and fill in all sections by referencing the Letter of Intent Requirements section that begins on page 5 of this Announcement. The Letter of Intent (Sections A-C) is limited to **one page in total**. Please refer to the Letter of Intent Narrative Template for document and image formatting requirements.

Applicants/PIs may not exceed the one-page limit for the Letter of Intent Narrative. Cited Publications, Letter of Institutional Support, Biosketches and Other Support documents are not included in this page number limit.

**Applicant/PI Biosketch**

The Applicant/PI must submit a Biosketch to confirm all current and past academic experience and positions. Additionally, the biosketch should include scientific contributions and publications that the applicant considers to be of the most significance in their career or field and why the central findings were so influential or how they applied to the field. Biosketches must be no more than 5 pages each and in the current NIH format. A template is available for download on the proposalCENTRAL website.

Biosketches should not be included for the Lead Mentor, Patient Advocate Mentor, Members of the Mentor Committee, other Key Personnel, Non-Key Personnel, Collaborators, Research Technicians, etc.

The Applicant/PI Biosketch is not included in the Letter of Intent Narrative one-page limit.

**Other Support**

The Applicant/PI must submit a signed Other Support to confirm all current and past research funding. Other Support must be in the current NIH format and must be signed by the PI. A template is available for download on the proposalCENTRAL website.

Other Support should not be included for the Lead Mentor, Patient Advocate Mentor, Members of the Mentor Committee, other Key Personnel, Non-Key Personnel, Collaborators, Research Technicians, etc.

The Applicant/PI Other Support is not included in the Letter of Intent Narrative one-page limit.

### Uploading the attachments into your Letter of Intent

Once you have converted your documents (Letter of Intent Narrative, Other Support, Applicant/PI Biosketch and Letter of Institutional Support) to PDF files, the next step is to upload the files to your online Letter of Intent.

- Only PDF attachments are permitted for this Letter of Intent submission. Make certain that the converted PDF files are closed on your computer.
- Attach Letter of Intent Narrative and Supporting Documents. Select the “Attach Files” button.
- Enter the information below for each of the required documents:
  - Letter of Intent Narrative
    - Describe Attachment Field - Enter “*your last name*\_LOI,” e.g., Smith\_LOI.
    - Select Appropriate Attachment Type – LOI.
  - Applicant/PI Biosketch
    - Describe Attachment Field – Enter “*your last name*\_Biosketch,” e.g., Smith\_Biosketch.
    - Select Appropriate Attachment Type – Applicant/PI Biosketch.
  - Applicant/PI Other Support
    - Describe Attachment Field – Enter “*your last name*\_OtherSupport,” e.g., Smith\_OtherSupport.
    - Select Appropriate Attachment Type – Applicant/PI Other Support.
  - Letter of Institutional Support
    - Describe Attachment Field – Enter “*your last name*\_Letter of Institutional Support,” e.g., Smith\_Letter of Institutional Support.
    - Select Appropriate Attachment Type – Letter of Institutional Support
- Click on the “click here to browse” button to select the file from your computer.
- The “Choose File” dialog box opens for you to search for the template file on your computer’s hard disk or local area network.
- Select the file and click “Open.”
- The file location and name will display in the window.
- Click on the “Upload and Continue” button. You will get a confirmation message on your screen that the file was uploaded successfully. You will also see that your file is now listed in the “Uploaded Attachment” section of the screen. You can view your file by clicking the download button to the left of the File Name Open and review your uploaded file. Click the “Back” Button to take you to the Section 8 Main Screen. To Delete the file, click the “Delete” button to the far right, then click “yes.”

**9/10. VALIDATE AND PRINT.** Validate the Letter of Intent on proposalCENTRAL. This is an essential step. A Letter of Intent that has not been validated cannot be submitted. “Validate” checks for required data and required attachments. You will not be able to submit if all the required data and attachments have not been provided.

**11. SUBMIT.** After successfully passing the validate check and printing your documents, click the “**Submit**” link. An email will be sent to you confirming your submission.

Once your Letter of Intent is submitted you may view it by accessing the “Submitted” selection in the dropdown menu next to Proposal Status under the Proposals tab. The status column will show “Submitted” and the date

submitted. You may need to refresh your browser screen after submitting the Letter of Intent to see the updated status.

## LETTER OF INTENT REVIEW PROCESS

Susan G. Komen® utilizes a multi-step approach to Grant application and review that first requires submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon invitation only, submission of an Application.

Each Letter of Intent is administratively reviewed for eligibility, compliance with submission guidelines, and responsiveness to this funding announcement. Applicants/PIs whose Letters of Intent are appropriately responsive to the program goals of this announcement will be invited to submit Applications. Each Letter of Intent that does not meet eligibility, submission, or responsiveness requirements and program goals of this Announcement will be administratively withdrawn (i.e., will not be invited to submit an Application) with no opportunity for appeal.

Applicants/PIs will be notified of Letter of Intent review decisions via email. Applicants/PIs invited to submit an Application will then be granted access to the Application site in proposalCENTRAL. Any Applicant/PI who will not meet ALL eligibility criteria, as listed **on pages 3 and 4 of this Announcement**, will be administratively withdrawn at the Letter of Intent stage and WILL NOT be invited to submit an Application.

Komen reserves the right to take no action based on responses to this Letter of Intent (LOI) and is not responsible for any costs incurred by the applicants and the institutions in preparing their proposals and applying for this grant mechanism. Submission of an LOI or invitation to submit an Application does not guarantee funding.

## FULL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants/PIs whose Letters of Intent meet eligibility requirements, submission guidelines and responsiveness to the requirements and program goals of this Announcement will be invited to submit full Applications (due **October 1, 2026**), which will include the following required information briefly described below. A full set of Application Instructions will be shared if the Applicant/PI is invited to submit an Application:

**Required at Application: Research Plan Narrative (not to exceed eight pages in total length must include the A-I sections briefly described below):**

- A. **Title (81-character limit):** This title should be auto-populated from the Letter of Intent submission, but changes can be made to the title if they are needed.
- B. **Research Questions, Hypothesis(es) and Specific Aims:** Outline the overarching research questions to be addressed, the hypothesis(es) that will be tested to address these research questions, and the specific aims that will be necessary to address the stated hypothesis. Describe how the proposed specific aims fully answer the study hypothesis(es).
- C. **Background:** This includes a detailed description and citation of any related preliminary data and existing research findings, how existing research findings support the hypothesis(es) and specific aims proposed in the application, and data validating any existing models that are proposed to be used in the studies may be included.
- D. **Approach:** This includes details about the experimental design and methodology and the merits and feasibility of the approach, including pitfalls and steps to overcome potential problems. It should describe the participant population(s), resources, and/or methodologies that will be used to ensure the research findings benefit as many people affected by breast cancer as possible.
- E. **Impact and Innovation:** This section summarizes how, if successful, the proposal will increase our understanding of breast cancer and lead to advances in the field and/or breast cancer care. It should describe why the research question(s) is important to the breast cancer patient and survivor community, the project's significance/potential impact, and who will/will not benefit from the findings of the study.
- F. **Patient Advocate Involvement Plan:** This section describes how the Applicant/PI will involve a Patient

- Advocate Mentor in the proposed project and career development plan.
- G. **Applicant Potential and Career Development Plan:** The Applicant/PI must describe their career goals and how they intend to develop the skills and experience (research, scientific, clinical, management, and leadership) necessary to achieve career advancement during the Grant term. Explain how the Mentor Committee will guide and how the Institution will support the Applicant/PI toward research excellence and independence. Applicant/PI may also address long-term goals.
  - H. **Research Timeline:** This section includes a projected timeline for progress over each year of the proposed research and career development milestones, i.e., anticipated timeline for publications, grant applications, career advancement, etc.
  - I. **Statistical Plan:** This section describes appropriate statistical considerations for the study, along with the rationale for the selected statistical methods. Applicants/Pis are encouraged to include the guidance or consultation of an expert in the design of the study once the endpoints have been characterized.

#### Required at Application: Key Personnel

Komen defines Key Personnel as an individual who contributes to the scientific development or execution of a project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not they receive salaries or compensation under the Grant. Typically, these individuals devote a defined percentage of effort to the project. The Mentor Committee, which includes a Patient Advocate Mentor, are considered Key Personnel. Collaborators/Consultants may be considered Key Personnel if their involvement meets the above definition.

- **Mentor Committee:** If invited to submit an Application, the Applicant/PI must propose a Mentor Committee, typically consisting of 3-5 mentors, including the Lead Mentor and a Patient Advocate Mentor (see below for more details on the patient advocate mentor). The primary purpose of the Mentor Committee is to provide the research, scientific, clinical, management and leadership guidance necessary to assist in the successful development of the proposed Research Project and foster the Applicant/PI's career advancement to enable transition to an independent position. All members of the Mentor Committee are not required to currently conduct breast cancer research but should provide expertise, leadership or support to the Applicant/PI and proposed Research Project. It is strongly encouraged that the Lead Mentor be considered an expert in breast cancer research; but in the absence of this expertise, at least one member of the Mentor Committee must fulfill this requirement. Members of the Mentor Committee are not required to include percent effort.
- **Patient Advocate Mentor:** Patient Advocate Mentors provide the patient perspective in the design and implementation of both Research Projects and Career Development Plans. If an Applicant/PI is invited to submit an Application, one or more Patient Advocate Mentor(s) must be named as Key Personnel and a member of the Mentor Committee for submission of the Application. To help assist Applicants/Pis in the inclusion of a Patient Advocate Mentor on their research project, please read more [here](#) and/or please [view \*How Advocates and Researchers can Work Together on Komen Funded Research\*](#), a webinar hosted by [Komen's Advocates in Science](#). For assistance in identifying trained advocates for your LOI or Application, or to discuss including a Patient Advocate Mentor in the proposed Research Project, contact [advocatesinscience@komen.org](mailto:advocatesinscience@komen.org).

#### Required at Application: Data Sharing Plan

To accelerate scientific discovery, research results and data should be made as widely and freely available as possible, ensuring equitable access while safeguarding the privacy of participants and protecting confidential and proprietary data. Komen's Data Sharing Policy aligns with the NIH's data sharing requirements updated in January 2023 ([https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data\\_sharing/data\\_sharing\\_guidance.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_guidance.htm)), including policies for sharing large-scale genomics data (<https://sharing.nih.gov/genomic-data-sharing-policy>) and clinical trial information (<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials/reporting/index.htm>). The Komen Data Sharing Policy applies to all Komen-funded research grants, regardless of the award amount.

#### Required at Application: Letters of Support

The Applicant/PI must submit Letter(s) of Support from the Institution, Lead Mentor, Patient Advocate Mentor(s), and other Mentor Committee Members, Resource Availability, Collaborators and/or Consultants, if applicable.

### Required at Application: Statement of Commitment from Applicant/PI

A signed Statement of Commitment must be submitted by the Applicant/PI, on Institution Letterhead, describing how the Applicant/PI demonstrates the potential, expertise, and commitment to capitalize on the Komen Career Transition Grant and how it will further the Applicant/PI's career development. In this statement, describe how the Applicant/PI's prior training and research experience support their commitment to pursue a career focused on breast cancer.

### Required at Application: Key Personnel Biosketches

The Applicant/PI, Lead Mentor and other Key Personnel must each submit a Biosketch to confirm all current and past academic experience and positions. Additionally, the Biosketch should include scientific contributions and publications that the applicant considers to be of the most significance in their career or field and why the central findings were so influential or how they applied to the field. Biosketches must be no more than 5 pages each and in NIH format. A template is available for download on the proposalCENTRAL website. Patient Advocate Mentor(s) are encouraged but not required to submit a Biosketch and can use this [guide](#) as a reference.

### Required at Application: Other Sources of Funding/ Other Support

The Applicant/PI must submit the **signed Other Support** document to confirm their current, past and pending research grants. Other Support may be as long as necessary to be thorough. A template is available for download on the proposalCENTRAL website. As a reminder Applicant/PI may not currently hold another career transition award, training award (K-type award) or R-type award at time of notification of intent to fund (on or around April 15, 2026). If Applicant previously held an R-type award at any point, they are not eligible to apply for this award.

### Other Information or Documents Required at Application:

- Cited Publications
- Budget and Budget Justification
- Institution Payment Verification form
- Institution W-9
- Clinical Trial Protocol (if applicable)
- Contract/Consortium Budget (if applicable)

### Required at Application: ORCID Identifier

The Applicant/PI will be required to include an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifier upon Application submission (**October 1, 2026**). ORCID is a non-proprietary alphanumeric code to uniquely identify scientific and other academic authors. You can register for an ORCID at any time: <http://orcid.org/>.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Only Applicants/Pis with a Letter of Intent deemed appropriately aligned with the requirement of this LOI Announcement will be invited to submit an Application. Instructions on how to submit an Application will be provided on the Letter of Intent decision date listed above under "KEY DATES." **Applications will be due on October 1, 2026.**

Note: Application Instructions will be shared if the Applicant/PI is invited to submit an Application and will include all Application review/evaluation criteria.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact information for all inquiries regarding LOI submission is provided below. Please read these LOI instructions thoroughly before submitting questions. Questions will be answered in the order they are received and could take up to 2 business days to address.

Type of Inquiry	Contact
All <u>programmatic inquiries</u> (including questions related to eligibility, program requirements, Komen policies and procedures, etc.)	<b>Komen Research Programs Help Desk</b>  Questions?: <a href="http://www.komen.org/researchhelpdesk">www.komen.org/researchhelpdesk</a>
All <u>technical inquiries</u> related to the online application system, proposalCENTRAL (including questions related to system access, navigation, document uploads, etc.)	<b>Altum/proposalCENTRAL</b>  Email: <a href="mailto:pcsupport@altum.com">pcsupport@altum.com</a>  Phone: 1-800-875-2562 (Toll-free within the United States and Canada), or 1-703-964-5840 (International)

**About Susan G. Komen®**

Susan G. Komen® is the world’s leading nonprofit breast cancer organization, working to save lives and end breast cancer forever. Komen has an unmatched, comprehensive 360-degree approach to fighting this disease across all fronts and supporting millions of people in the U.S. and in countries worldwide. We advocate for patients, drive research breakthroughs, improve access to high-quality care, offer direct patient support and empower people with trustworthy information.

Since its founding in 1982, Komen has invested nearly \$1.1 billion in breast cancer research, supporting more than 2,800 research studies and more than 550 clinical trials.

We are determined to change the unacceptable reality that more than 42,000 people in the U.S. will die from breast cancer this year. We know we cannot do it alone and that it will only be accomplished through innovative research to find new ways to treat, detect and prevent metastatic and aggressive breast cancers, advance precision medicine focused on the tumor and the patient, and address the reasons why certain people and communities experience disparities in care and outcomes.

To learn more, visit [Komen Research](http://www.komen.org). Connect with us on social at [www.komen.org/contact-us/follow-us/](http://www.komen.org/contact-us/follow-us/).