



Request for Application (RFA) 2026

Funding Opportunity Purpose

This notice announces a new funding opportunity from Respiratory Health Association (RHA) to support research projects improving our understanding of lung health and leading to improvements in treating and curing Lung Cancer.

Available Awards

1. RHA2026-01-LC: up to \$75,000 1-year Lung Cancer grant

Key Dates

Application Due	April 1, 2026
Award Announcement	On or about June 1, 2026
Award Project Period	July 1, 2026-June 30, 2026

Background

This Request for Applications (RFA) encourages grant applications from investigators interested in conducting innovative research studies in lung cancer. Early-Stage Investigators ([as defined by NIH](#)) are encouraged to apply, but all investigators are eligible.

Respiratory Health Association will award a one-time sum as part of this research initiative. Research across the full translational research spectrum is eligible, from basic science to research that is translational into community settings. The over-arching goal of this award is to catalyze pilot and feasibility studies with the goal of generating preliminary data that may be used to successfully compete for federally funded research grants, ultimately leading to a reduction in the public health burden of lung cancer.

Applicant Eligibility

To be considered for a grant, applicants must meet the following criteria at the time of application:

- The applicant is a full-time Post-Doctoral Fellow or faculty member at a Public or Private Institution of Higher Education; AND,
- The applicant must be a United States citizen or United States permanent resident.

Additional Information on Eligibility

- Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) is

invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for RHA support.

- Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.
- RHA does not support or provide research funding to institutions that accept any form of tobacco industry support. Applicants with current or past relationships with tobacco industry organizations must disclose this upon submission of application.
- This grant is open to applicants nation-wide.

Submission Guidelines

Page limitations and formatting requirements: The research plan and strategy should not exceed six pages (11-point font size or larger; no more than 15 characters per linear inch including spaces; and no more than 6 lines per vertical inch.) The letter of introduction, bio sketch, and budget justification may be attached as additional pages in your submission. Use paper (page) size no larger than standard letter paper size (8 ½" x 11"). Provide at least one-half inch margins—top, bottom, left, and right—for all pages.

The application should include the sections described in the following table:

Section	Details	Page Limit
1. Cover Page	Complete and include the RHA cover page in your application. The cover page template can be found on the last page of the RFA. Indicate whether this is a new application or revised re-submission of an application submitted to the Respiratory Health Association within the past 5 years	1 page
2. Letter of Introduction	The letter must include, at a minimum, statements about the applicant, applicant's institution, and proposed project: • Applicant contact information (name, email, phone number), individual authorized to act for the applicant organization (name, email, phone number)	2 pages

	• Applicant position: Full-time Post-Doctoral Fellow or faculty member at a Public or Private Institution of Higher Education. • United States citizen or United States permanent resident. • Statement affirming that the applicant's institution does not accept any form of tobacco industry support. Applicants with current or past relationships with tobacco industry organizations must disclose this upon submission of application. • Grant history / funding compliance disclosure: Have you ever had a research grant or contract returned, terminated, suspended, or otherwise subject to corrective action due to sponsor concerns? If yes, please briefly describe the funding organization, year(s), and resolution • Lay summary of the proposed project easily understood by a non-scientific/non-academic public health audience	
3. Response to previous reviews	Only required if the application is a re-submission of an application submitted to the Respiratory Health Association within the past 5 years. Provide a summary of changes made to the research plan based on previous reviews. If this is a new application, include a page entitled "Response to previous reviews" and indicate "Not applicable".	1 page
4. Research Plan		6 pages total
	a. Specific Aims	1 page
	- State research goals and expected outcomes, including the impact of the results on the research field involved. - List specific research objectives (e.g., to test a hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical	

	practice, address a critical barrier, or develop new technology).	
	b. Research Strategy	5 pages
	i. Significance: - Explain the importance of the problem or barrier being addressed. - Explain how the project will improve knowledge, technical capability, or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. - Describe how this field will change if the proposed aims are achieved.	
	ii. Innovation: - Explain how the project challenges and shifts current research or paradigms. - Describe novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be used and their advantages. - Explain any improvements or new applications of concepts.	
	iii. Approach: - Explain strategy, methodology, and analyses of the project. - Explain how the strategies ensure a robust and unbiased approach. - Describe potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success. - If in the early stages, explain the strategy to establish feasibility of the project and manage risky aspects. - Describe the plan for addressing relevant biological variables (e.g., sex in studies involving animal/human subjects). - Describe the plan for inclusion of minorities, both sexes/genders and children in patient-oriented research projects. Ensure that this plan is justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed.	
	iv. Environment:	

	- Explain how the scientific environment in which the work will be done contributes to the probability of success. - Explain whether institutional support, equipment, and other available resources are adequate. - Describe how the project will benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements.	
5. Protection of Human Subjects	If patient-oriented research is proposed, describe the plan for the protection of human subjects from research risks, including status of review by the applicant's Institutional Review Board. Award funds will only be distributed after the Respiratory Health Association has received a letter from the applicant's Institutional Review Board indicating that project is approved or is exempt from review.	No page limit
6. Bio sketch of all Senior/Key Personnel Profile	Submit bio sketches for all key personnel in current NIH Format.	5 pages per bio sketch
7. Budget	Submit a budget spreadsheet and narrative of budget justification, including percent effort for key personnel and detailing all other expenses. Please note per RHA policy the award does not support indirect costs. You may use the template on the RHA Funding Opportunities page .	No page limit.
8. Letters of Collaboration and Support		
9. Institutional Endorsement	Institutional endorsement required and must align with the respective institution's policies.	2 pages

Applications must be submitted electronically by **5:00PM (CST) on April 1, 2026**, through the submission link on RHA's website. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Application Review Information

Overall Impact: Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project (or subsequent studies based on the results of the proposed project) to

exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

Scored Review Criteria: Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Significance: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Investigator(s): Are the PD(s)/PI(s), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early-Stage Investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)?

Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects? If the project involves patient-oriented research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

Environment: Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?



Submission

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Contact Information

For questions, please contact:

Rachael Morkunas, MPH
Program Director
Respiratory Health Association
Email: rmorkunas@resphealth.org
Telephone: (312) 628-0233



RHA Research Award Application Cover Page

Name of Investigator: _____

Project Title: _____

Investigator Email and Phone: _____

Institutional Affiliation (if applicable): _____

New Application or Resubmission: _____