Notice of Funding Opportunity

**Application due Thursday, July 23, 2026**

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

# Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: Burn Injury as a Lifelong Condition.

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACL-NIDILRR-DPHF-0224

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# Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up to date.

### SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

### Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

### Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, July 23, 2026.

To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.

# Step 1:
# Review the Opportunity

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# Basic information

**Administration for Community Living**

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

## Summary

Research to generate new knowledge that can be used to improve long term health and function and community living outcomes of people living with burn injury.

## Funding details

**Type:** Grant

**Expected funding:** $700,000

**Expected awards:** 1

**Funding range:** $695,000 to $700,000 per budget period.

We plan to fund one award in three 12-month budget periods for a total three-year period of performance of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2029.

**Length of project period:** 36-month project period with three 12-month budget periods.

**Expected total program funding over the performance period:** $2,100,000

**Have questions?**
See Contacts and Support.

### Key facts

**Opportunity name:** Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: Burn Injury as a Lifelong Condition

**Opportunity number:** HHS-2026-ACL-NIDILRR-DPHF-0224

**Federal assistance listing:** 93.433

**Statutory authority:** Title II of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. 29 U.S.C. § 764(a)

### Key dates

**Application deadline:** July 23, 2026

**Optional notice of intent deadline:** July 14, 2026

**Expected start date:** September 1, 2026

**Expected award date:** September 1, 2026

**Informational conference call:** July 1, 2026

# Eligibility

## Who can apply

### Eligible applicants

Only these types or organizations may apply:

- States.
- Public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies.
- Public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations.
- Institutions of higher education.
- Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for awards under this funding opportunity.

### Disqualifying factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Is submitted after the deadline.
- Is not responsive to each of the requirements in the Program Description section of this notice.
- Is from an individual, including a sole proprietorship, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACL.
- Proposes a budget that exceeds $700,000 in any single budget year.
- Proposes a project period that exceeds 36 months.

### Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last on-time submission.

# Cost sharing

This program has no cost-sharing requirement, meaning you do not need to contribute to the costs of this project.

If you choose to include cost-sharing funds, we won't consider it during review.

## Cost sharing commitments

If awarded, you must provide the amount of cost-sharing funds you promised. We put these commitments in the Notice of Award.

If you don't provide your promised amount, we may decrease the amount of funding we give you or use other enforcement actions.

You'll have to include your cost-sharing funds when you fill out your federal financial reports.

### Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

## Statutory authority

Title II of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. 29 U.S.C. § 764(a).

# Program description

## Background

Burn Injuries (BI) are complex traumatic injuries.[1] Each year, about 600,000 individuals in the United States need emergency care due to BI.[2] Most of the past research on and clinical treatment of BI had been focused on reducing mortality.[3] With the advancement in overall burn care and a 97.6% survival rate,[4] the present focus has shifted to optimizing management of the BI and its long-term consequences for health, community living, and other outcomes.[5] There is increasing evidence that BI is associated with several secondary conditions, many of which arise long after the initial injury has healed. Recent findings suggest BI can be considered a long-term, dynamic health condition with complex and persistent health and psychosocial consequences.[6] [7] [8]

The Burn Model System (BMS) National Database funded by NIDILRR is the largest collection of long-term outcomes data on BI (Burn Model System National Data and Statistical Center).[9] Reports from this database highlight persistent long-term conditions experienced by people with BI. Over one-quarter of database participants reported numbness in the burn scar, numbness in hand and/or feet, joint pain, hot and cold intolerance, balance trouble, and memory difficulty. In addition to the findings reported from the BMS database, other systematic reviews and population studies have linked BI with increased risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurological disorders, diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders, gastrointestinal disease, and infections.[10]

Despite the scientific evidence that supports BI as a life-long condition, it remains treated in current practice as an acute, time-limited condition. It is essential to recognize the trajectory of BI and its lifelong implications, which affect how people with BI live, work, and connect with their communities.[11] Based on this trajectory, there is a need for the development of a model for management of BI as a lifelong condition. Such a model can guide clinical and other services and supports to improve long-term outcomes of people living with BI. Existing models for managing chronic conditions can be used as a foundation for the development of a cohesive model to be used with people with BI. With this priority, NIDILRR will sponsor research toward the development of a model for long-term management of BI as a lifelong condition.

## The purpose of this program

This priority is in alignment with:

- The following ACL strategic priorities:
  - Whole-person health
  - Connecting people to services

ACL's Administrator establishes this opportunity for the funding of a DRRP on Burn Injury as a Lifelong Condition. The DRRP grant to be made under this opportunity will contribute to the development of an evidence-based model for management of burn injury (BI) as a lifelong or chronic condition. Such a model can guide clinical and other services and supports to improve long-term health and function and community living outcomes of people living with BI.

Under this priority, the DRRP must contribute to the following outcomes:

a. New knowledge and information about characteristics of evidence-based life-long, or chronic disease management models that can be used for people with BI. To contribute to this outcome, the DRRP must:

    i. In the first year of the grant, conduct systematic research to identify existing evidence-based chronic disease management models that can be used as a foundation for the development of a model for management of BI as a lifelong condition. This research should be based upon a broad review of the literature including:

        a. The knowledge, skills and supports that have been demonstrated to facilitate chronic disease management.

        b. A systematic compilation of the common elements present across effective chronic disease management models.

        c. The essential clinical protocols needed to implement a chronic disease management program.

        d. The measurement tools required to assess the effectiveness of a chronic disease management model.

        e. Factors that optimize the sustainability of components of effective chronic disease management models.

    ii. In the first year of the grant, conduct systematic research to identify modifications required for implementation of the model characteristics identified in (a) (i) – for use among people with BI. This research should include but not be limited to research on the community-based supports needed throughout the lifespan of a person with BI.

b. A new model for lifelong management of BI. This model must be based directly on the findings and information resulting from the work conducted under paragraph (a) (i) and (ii). To contribute to this outcome, the DRRP must conduct initial field tests focusing on one or more components of the new model. Details of the model must include:

    i. Knowledge of the active components of the model.

    ii. Knowledge of the feasibility of applying the model.

    iii. Knowledge of measures needed to demonstrate the outcomes of the model.

c. Use of the new knowledge and products generated by the DRRP, including: (a) knowledge of BI as a lifelong condition, and (b) the new model for lifelong management of BI being developed by this DRRP. To contribute to this outcome, the DRRP must conduct knowledge translation activities (i.e. utilization, dissemination) to facilitate stakeholder use of the knowledge, model, and other products generated by the DRRP.

The DRRP must involve people with burn injury and other relevant stakeholders in all research, dissemination, and utilization activities. This involvement will help maximize the relevance and usability of the knowledge and products to be developed by the DRRP.

The DRRP must ensure that provision of all its materials, websites and information technology tools and products are accessible, and that electronic materials are produced in full compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d). For websites this compliance currently requires meeting Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0/2.1 AA success criteria. Applications must demonstrate an ability to meet these requirements.

# Funding policies and limitations

## Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS adopted 2 CFR 200, with some exceptions included in 2 CFR 300. These regulations replace those in 45 CFR 75.

## Policies

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations, and applicable judicial holdings. Accordingly, discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate: racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; illegal immigration; or any other initiatives that compromise public safety. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
  - Appropriation of funds.
  - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
  - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.

- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
  - Funding more applicants.
  - Extending the period of performance.
  - Awarding supplemental funding.
- You may not use funds from this NOFO for any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI and DEIA) activities. This includes:
  - DEI- or DEIA-related research.
  - Activities that discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected traits.
- Under this NOFO, you can't continue existing projects without expansion or new and innovative approaches.
- Meals are allowed only in limited circumstances linked to program activities, like during travel or when approved in advance by ACL. See Allowable Costs and Activities, Exhibit 4: Selected Items of Cost, Meals in the HHS Grants Policy Statement.
- There are restrictions on certain telecommunications and video surveillance equipment. See 2 CFR 200.216 to make sure this does not apply to any proposed equipment in your application.

## Unallowable costs

- Construction or major rehabilitation of buildings.
- For guidance on other types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR 200.420.

## Indirect costs

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

**Method 1 – Approved rate.** You currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency.

**Method 2 – *De minimis* rate.** If you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate (see 2 CFR 200.414(f)). This rate may be up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See the definition of MTDC (2 CFR 200.1). You can use this rate indefinitely.

You may not charge costs included in your indirect cost pool as direct costs.

## Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. This means that you conduct funded activities and provide services necessary and integral to completing the project.

Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in 2 CFR 200.332 is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role is primarily a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

All subrecipients must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements of this NOFO.

## Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II.

For the Executive Level II salary, please see the Office of Personnel Management information on executive and senior level employee pay.

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization.

This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACL grant or cooperative agreement.

## Program income

If you earn any money from your award-supported project activities (known as program income), you must use it for the purposes and under the conditions of the award. Find more about program income at 2 CFR 200.307.

# Step 2:
# Get Ready to Apply

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# Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can search for it at Grants.gov using opportunity number HHS-2026-ACL-NIDILRR-DPHF-0224. Then select the Package tab.

We recommend that you select the **Subscribe button** from the View Grant Opportunity page for this NOFO to get updates.

You can also find materials at Applying for Grants on ACL's website.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials or have other technical difficulties, including issues with application submission, contact Grants.gov for assistance.

# Get registered

## SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to SAM.gov Entity Registration and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the financial assistance general certifications and representations [PDF] specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

## Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with Grants.gov. You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov Quick Start Guide for Applicants.

# Join the informational call

We will provide general information about this funding opportunity at an informational conference call. It will be held on:

- **Date:** July 1, 2026
- **Time:** 1 to 3 p.m. ET

You must register for this call in advance.

Contact Megan.Alvarado@acl.hhs.gov to register for this call.

# Step 3:
# Build Your Application

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# Application contents and format

Applications include five main components. This section includes guidance on each. Make sure you include each of these:

| Component | Submission format |
|---|---|
| Project abstract | Use the Project Abstract Summary form. |
| Project narrative | Use the Project Narrative Attachment form |
| Budget narrative justification | Use the Budget Narrative Attachment form |
| Attachments | Insert each in the Other Attachments form. |
| Other required forms | Upload using each required form. |

## Required format

Required format for application contents.

**Font:** Times New Roman or Arial

**Format:** PDF

**Size:** 12-point font
Footnotes and text in graphics must be 12-point.

**Spacing for project narrative main content:** Double-spaced

**Spacing for budget narrative:** As needed

**Spacing for project summary, tables, footnotes:** Single-spaced.
Please note: Applicants who unnecessarily place project narrative text in tables or figures to avoid the double-spacing requirement run the risk of exceeding the page limit.

**Margins:** 1-inch

Include page numbers.

# Project abstract

**Page Limit: 1**

Provide a detailed yet concise description of your proposed project, activities, and intended outcomes. The abstract can be single- or double-spaced.

# Project narrative

**Page Limit: 60 pages**

The project narrative is the most important part of the application. We use it as the primary basis to decide whether your project addresses the requirements described in the program description section of this NOFO. We also use the content narrative to review the merit of your project. The project narrative should give a clear and concise description of your project.

You should address these merit review criteria as you write your project narrative.

- Responsiveness to the priority.
- Alignment with ACL Strategic Priorities.
- Design of research activities.
- Design of dissemination activities.
- Design of utilization activities.
- Project staff.
- Adequacy and accessibility of resources.

Include all critical information in the project narrative and not in appendices.

Cite all of your sources in the project narrative.

We will instruct reviewers to disregard all content on the pages beyond the 60th page of your project narrative.

## Work plan

You must provide a work plan for your project within your Project Narrative. The work plan connects your goals, anticipated outcomes, and the major tasks you are proposing.

The work plan must cover all years of the project period.

To complete your work plan, see the project work plan sample template on our website.

# Budget justification narrative

**Page Limit: None**

The budget narrative supports the information you provide in Standard Form 424-A. See other required forms.

It includes added detail and justifies the costs you ask for. As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are reasonable and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See funding limitations.

Justify all the costs, including showing how you calculated them. To create your budget narrative, see the sample format [PDF] on our website.

You must submit a budget for each year of grant funding requested.

# Attachments

You will upload attachments in Grants.gov using the Other Attachments Form.

## Table of contents

**Page Limit: None**

The table of contents should show where and how the important sections of your proposal are organized. While you will submit your proposal electronically, the reviewers may use printed copies during the review process. The table of contents will assist reviewers as they evaluate your proposal.

## References

**Page Limit: None**

You must provide references for works cited in the project narrative. You may provide references in any format (i.e., APA, AMA, MLA). The format must be consistent throughout the project narrative.

## Vitae/biosketches of key personnel

**Page Limit: None**

You must provide vitae or biosketches of key personnel for the project. The vitae or biosketches should include information that is relevant to your proposed project. You are encouraged to use the NIH's biographical sketch format. This format gives reviewers a

concise description of your training, expertise, and productivity that is related to the proposed project.

## Data management plan

**Page Limit: None**

You must provide a data management plan for your project. We will review the data management plan for compliance before making an award.

The data management plan is your plan for making your NIDILRR-funded data available to the public at the end of your grant. The Data Management Plan must include the following:

- A description of the types of data you will collect for your project.
- A description of how you will organize, store, and preserve your project data.
- A description of the metadata to be provided for useful analysis of the data by others. Metadata include descriptions and labels for variables and values in your dataset.
- A description of the data repository that you will use to make your data available to the public at the end of your grant. We recommend that you use the ICPSR as your data repository, but you may select a different data repository.
    - If you select a different data repository, you must provide information on how the data repository will provide long-term preservation and free public access to the project data.
- If applicable, describe why your data cannot be submitted to a data repository.
- A description of the informed consent process that will enable data sharing.
- Costs associated with data management can be included in your budget.

If you require technical assistance in preparing your data management plan for this application, contact ICPSR at ICPSR-help@umich.edu or 734-647-2200.

## Commitment letters

**Page Limit: None**

You must include commitment letters from key individuals and organizations that will have a significant role in carrying out your project. A letter should explain their role and commitment to your project.

## Summary of key individuals and organizations

**Page Limit: None**

You must submit a list of key individuals and their organizations that will have a significant role in your project. This includes consultants and contractors.

We will use this information to screen for conflicts of interest with potential peer reviewers for your application.

## Indirect cost rate agreement

**Page Limit: None**

Please attach a copy of your current indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another Federal agency.

# Other required forms

You will need to complete some standard forms. Upload the standard forms listed below at Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO application package or review them and their instructions at Grants.gov forms.

| Forms | Submission Requirement |
|---|---|
| Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) | With application. |
| Supplemental Information for the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance [PDF] | With application. |
| Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B) | With application. |
| Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) | With application. |
| Project Narrative Attachment form | With application. |
| Attachments | With application. |
| Project/Performance Site Location(s) | With application. |
| Grants.gov Lobbying form (Certification Regarding Lobbying) | With application. |
| Project Abstract Summary | With application. |

### Important: Public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with USAspending. This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends their money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

See instructions and examples [PDF].

# Step 4: Learn About Review and Award

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# Application review

## Initial review

We review each application to make sure it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the disqualifying factors section. If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review (scoring) phase.

If your application exceeds the page limit for the project narrative, we will instruct reviewers to not review the pages that exceed the page limit. See the required format section.

## Merit review

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The members use the criteria and subcriteria below. Review criteria come primarily from NIDILRR's program regulations (45 CFR 1330.24)

| Criterion | Total number of points = 100 |
|---|---|
| 1. Responsiveness to the priority | 15 points |
| 2. Alignment with ACL Strategic Priorities | 5 points |
| 3. Design of research activities | 50 points |
| 4. Design of dissemination activities | 5 points |
| 5. Design of utilization activities | 5 points |
| 6. Project staff | 15 points |
| 7. Adequacy and accessibility of resources | 5 points |

### Criteria

#### Responsiveness to the priority (Maximum points: 15)

- The extent to which the applicant addresses all requirements of the absolute or competitive priority.

#### Alignment with ACL Strategic Priorities (Maximum points: 5)

- The extent to which the proposed project aligns with ACL's strategic priorities of Whole-person health and Connecting people to services.

## Design of research activities (Maximum points 50)

- The extent to which the research activities constitute a coherent, sustained approach to research in the field, including a substantial addition to the state-of-the-art.
- The extent to which the methodology of each proposed research activity is meritorious, including consideration of the extent to which:
  - The proposed design includes a comprehensive and informed review of the current literature, demonstrating knowledge of the state-of-the-art.
  - Each research hypothesis or research question, as appropriate, is theoretically sound and based on current knowledge.
  - Each sample is drawn from an appropriate, specified population and is of sufficient size to address the proposed hypotheses or research questions, as appropriate, and to support the proposed data analysis methods.
  - The source or sources of the data and the data collection methods are appropriate to address the proposed hypotheses or research questions and to support the proposed data analysis methods.
  - The data analysis methods are appropriate.
  - Input of individuals with disabilities and other key stakeholders is used to shape the proposed research activities.
  - Implementation of the proposed research design is feasible, given the current state of the science and the time and resources available.
  - The applicant identifies and justifies the stage of research being proposed and the research methods associated with the stage.

## Design of dissemination activities (Maximum points: 5)

- The extent to which the methods for dissemination are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
- The extent to which the materials and information to be disseminated and the methods for dissemination are appropriate to the target population, including consideration of the familiarity of the target population with the subject matter, format of the information, and subject matter.
- The extent to which the information to be disseminated will be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

### Design of utilization activities (Maximum points: 5)

- The extent to which the utilization strategies are likely to be effective.
- The extent to which the potential new users of the information or technology have a practical use for the information and are likely to adopt the practices or use the information or technology, including new devices.

### Project staff (Maximum points: 15)

- The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from people with disabilities, who may include but are not limited to people with disabilities who have the greatest support needs.
- The extent to which the key personnel and other key staff have appropriate training and experience in disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities.

### Adequacy and accessibility of resources (Maximum points: 5)

- The extent to which the applicant is committed to provide adequate facilities, equipment, other resources, including administrative support, and laboratories, if appropriate.
- The extent to which the facilities, equipment, and other resources are appropriately accessible to individuals with disabilities who may use the facilities, equipment, and other resources of the project.

## Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use SAM.gov Responsibility/Qualification to check this history for all awards likely to be over $250,000. We also check Exclusions.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

You can see more details about risk review at 2 CFR 200.206.

# Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects, including project type and geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant. We may choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Reasonableness of proposed costs to the expected results and the likelihood you will achieve those results.
- Available funding.

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

The ACL Administrator makes all final award decisions.

Before we make final funding decisions, ACL leadership will review all potential awards. They will check for:

- Adherence to applicable laws.
- Alignment to agency priorities (see Administration for Community Living's (ACL) Mission, Vision & Strategic Priorities).
- To the extent allowed by law and court orders, we will give a funding preference to applications that align with agency priorities. Your application may receive this preference if it aligns with the following ACL strategic priorities: Whole-person, and Connecting people to services.

# Award notices

If you are successful, we will email a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you or write you a letter if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you don't have permission to start work.

You can find an example of a NoA on our website. [PDF]

# Step 5: Submit Your Application

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# Application submission and deadlines

See find the application package to make sure you have everything you need.

Make sure you are current with SAM.gov and UEI requirements. See get registered. You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.

## Deadlines

### Optional notice of intent

Due on July 14, 2026.

We ask that you let us know if you plan to apply for this opportunity. We do this to plan for the number of expert reviewers we will need to evaluate applications. You do not have to submit a notice of intent to apply.

Please email the notice to Megan.Alvarado@acl.hhs.gov.

In your email, include:

- The funding opportunity number and title.
- The name and contact information for the project principal investigator.
- A brief description of the proposed activities.
- A list of key individuals and their organizations that will have a significant role in your project.
- A list of individuals whose selection as a peer reviewer might constitute a conflict of interest due to their involvement in the application development.

### Application

**Due on Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or Grants.gov service.

If you can't submit your application because of problems with Grants.gov, you will need verification for us to consider accepting your application. Call the federal service desk before the application due time and record your tracking number. Save your tracking number and any error messages you receive.

# Submission methods

## Grants.gov

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. See get registered.

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the quick start guide for applicants. Make sure that your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks or we may not get it. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. The link above will also help you learn how to create PDFs.

If you can't submit your application because of problems with Grants.gov, you will need verification for us to consider accepting your application. Call the Federal Service Desk before the application due time and record your tracking number. Save your tracking number and any error messages you receive.

See contacts and support if you need help.

# Intergovernmental review

This NOFO is not subject to executive order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. No action is needed.

# Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply:

| Component | How to Upload | Included in page limit? |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Project abstract | Use the Project Abstract Summary Form. | No |
| ☐ Project narrative, **including Work Plan** | Use the Project Narrative Attachment form. | Yes |
| ☐ Budget justification narrative | Use the Budget Narrative Attachment form. | No |
| ☐ Attachments | Insert each in a single Other Attachments form. | |
| ☐ Table of contents | | |
| ☐ References | | No |
| ☐ Vitae/biosketches of key personnel | | No |
| ☐ Data management plan | | No |
| ☐ Commitment letters | | No |
| ☐ Summary of key individuals and organizations | | No |
| ☐ Indirect cost agreement | | No |
| ☐ Other required forms | Upload using each required form. | |
| ☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) | | No |
| ☐ Supplemental Information for the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance | | No |
| ☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B) | | No |
| ☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) | | No |
| ☐ Project Narrative Attachment form | | No |
| ☐ Attachments | | No |
| ☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) | | No |
| ☐ Grants.gov Lobbying Form (Certification Regarding Lobbying) | | No |

| Component | How to Upload | Included in page limit? |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Project Abstract Summary | | No |

# Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award

**In this step**

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# Post-award requirements and administration

## Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you need to know if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award. You can find information at managing a grant on our website. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in 2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, effective October 1, 2025. These replace those in 45 CFR 75, with some exceptions in 2 CFR 300.
- The HHS Grants Policy Statement (GPS), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements. This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the HHS Grants Policy Statement, Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements.
- All anti-discrimination laws: By applying for or accepting federal funds from HHS, recipients certify compliance with all federal antidiscrimination laws and these requirements and that complying with those laws is a material condition of receiving federal funding streams. Recipients are responsible for ensuring subrecipients, contractors, and partners also comply.
- The ACL Public Access Policy [PDF].
- All regulations for the protection of the rights, welfare, and wellbeing of human subjects involved in research conducted or supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The HHS Office for Human Research Protections has information and resources related to these important requirements.

# Compliance and oversight

Recipients must demonstrate ongoing compliance with the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) Mission, Vision & Strategic Priorities through program design, implementation, performance reporting, fiscal management, and evaluation.

Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with applicable statutory authorities and agency priorities may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, enforcement actions, or other remedies consistent with 2 CFR Part 200 and the terms and conditions of the award.

Through alignment with these priorities, funded projects will help ensure that older adults and people with disabilities can live with dignity, independence, and full participation in the communities they call home.

# Managing award changes

After award, either you or ACL may request changes. We manage these using the rules at 2 CFR 200 and 300, including 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 300.308.

# Reporting

If your application is successful, you will have to submit financial and performance reports. To learn more about reporting, see Managing a Grant, Funding Requirements on our website.

## Financial and performance reports

The terms and conditions in the Notice of Award will have information on performance and financial reports including:

- How often you will report.
- Any required form or formatting.
- How to submit them.

## FFATA and FSRS reporting

The Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires:

- Data entry at the FFATA Subaward Reporting System for all sub-awards and sub-contracts you issue for $30,000 or more.

# Contacts and support

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# Agency contacts

## Program and eligibility

**Radha Holavanahalli**
Radha.Holavanahalli@acl.hhs.gov
Telephone: 202-795-7321

## Financial and budget

**Nicole Dunning**
Nicole.Dunning1@acl.hhs.gov

## Review process and application status

**Radha Holavanahalli**
Radha.Holavanahalli@acl.hhs.gov
Telephone: 202-795-7321

# Help with systems

## Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. Hold on to your ticket number.

- Phone 1-800-518-4726
- Email support@Grants.gov.

## SAM.gov

If you need help, you can

- Call 866-606-8220.
- Live chat with the federal service desk.

# Reference websites

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- HHS Office For Human Research Protections
- Home Page | ACL Administration for Community Living
- Applying for Grants | ACL Administration for Community Living
- Application Tips | ACL Administration for Community Living
- How to Apply for a Competitive Grant | ACL Administration for Community Living
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- United States Code (U.S.C.)

# Endnotes


1. Barrett, L. W., Fear, V. S., Waithman, J. C., Wood, F. M., & Fear, M. W. (2019). Understanding acute burn injury as a chronic disease. *Burns & trauma* , *7* , 23. ↑
2. Ivanko, A., Garbuzov, A. E., Schoen, J. E., Kearns, R., Phillips, B., Murata, E., Danos, D., Phelan, H. A., & Carter, J. E. (2024). The Burden of Burns: An Analysis of Public Health Measures. *Journal of burn care & research : official publication of the American Burn Association* , *45* (5), 1095–1097. ↑
3. Barrett, L. W., Fear, V. S., Waithman, J. C., Wood, F. M., & Fear, M. W. (2019). Understanding acute burn injury as a chronic disease. *Burns & trauma* , *7* , 23. ↑
4. American Burn Association. (2025). *Burn incidence and treatment in the U.S. fact sheet.* ↑
5. Ivanko, A., Garbuzov, A. E., Schoen, J. E., Kearns, R., Phillips, B., Murata, E., Danos, D., Phelan, H. A., & Carter, J. E. (2024). The Burden of Burns: An Analysis of Public Health Measures. *Journal of burn care & research : official publication of the American Burn Association* , *45* (5), 1095–1097. ↑
6. Barrett, L. W., Fear, V. S., Waithman, J. C., Wood, F. M., & Fear, M. W. (2019). Understanding acute burn injury as a chronic disease. *Burns & trauma* , *7* , 23. ↑
7. Kelter, B. M., Holavanahalli, R., Suman, O. E., Ryan, C. M., & Schneider, J. C. (2020). Recognizing the long-term sequelae of burns as a chronic medical condition. *Burns : journal of the International Society for Burn Injuries* , *46* (2), 493–496. ↑
8. Abouzeid, C. A., Wolfe, A. E., Ni, P., Carrougher, G. J., Gibran, N. S., Hammond, F. M., Holavanahalli, R., McMullen, K. A., Roaten, K., Suman, O., Stewart, B. T., Wolf, S., Zafonte, R., Kazis, L. E., Ryan, C. M., & Schneider, J. C. (2022). Are burns a chronic condition? Examining patient reported outcomes up to 20 years after burn injury-A Burn Model System National Database investigation. *The journal of trauma and acute care surgery* , *92* (6), 1066–1074. ↑
9. Burn Model System National Data and Statistical Center. Burn model system ↑
10. Barrett, L. W., Fear, V. S., Waithman, J. C., Wood, F. M., & Fear, M. W. (2019). Understanding acute burn injury as a chronic disease. *Burns & trauma* , *7* , 23. ↑
11. Travis, T. E., Holmes IV, J. H., & Carter, J. E. (2025). Burn injury as a chronic disease: Recognizing the unseen burden . *Journal of Burn Care & Research.* ↑