

Endeavor Award



The submission portal for Letters of Intent for our next round of Endeavor Award funding is now open. Submit your letter through the link at the bottom of this page **by September 3, 2025**.

Program Overview

The Mark Foundation Endeavor Awards support collaborative research projects that bring together investigators with diverse areas of expertise to tackle challenges in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. These grants are awarded to teams of three or more investigators to generate and integrate data from diverse lines of research and transform those insights into advances for cancer patients that could not be achieved by individual efforts. A description of the teams granted Endeavor Awards in 2025 can be found [here](#).

Eligibility

Institutional Eligibility:

- **Institutions are limited to one or two submissions as a host institution (see below for details).**
 - The first submission from a given institution may address any cancer type.
 - Institutions will be allowed a second submission as a host institution only for a translational or clinical stage project that primarily focuses on one of the following four cancer types: upper GI, glioblastoma, triple-negative breast cancer, or pancreatic cancer.
 - No more than two applications may be submitted by any one institution.
 - The “host institution” is the institution of the Principal Investigator on the application. There are no institutional restrictions for Co-Investigators – investigators from a given institution may be Co-Investigators on an unlimited number of applications.
 - The term “institution” will be interpreted broadly – for example, a medical school and academic department at the same university will be considered the same institution. Please direct questions about institutional eligibility to grants@themarkfoundation.org.
- Open to non-profit academic/research institutions worldwide.
- There is no requirement to include a US-based institution as part of the team.
- Teams may comprise investigators from a single institution or multiple institutions. The PI’s institution will be considered the host institution.

Investigator Eligibility:

- There are no restrictions on citizenship or geography.
- Applicants must have an independent faculty appointment (tenure-track or equivalent) at a non-profit academic/research institution.
- Investigators may be a co-PI or collaborator on more than one proposal, but may only serve as Principal Investigator on one proposal.

Project Eligibility:

- Basic, translational, and clinical projects are eligible.
- The project must seek to address an overarching, urgent scientific question.
- Sub-projects should be designed to elucidate various aspects of the overarching question, theme, or focus.
- The output of the individual team members (data, samples, hypotheses, compounds, etc.) must be integrated and/or shared in a way that makes the impact of the project as a whole larger than the sum of its parts.
- Proposed projects must not be supported by other sources of funding. Finalists will be asked to discuss any potential overlap with other current or pending awards.
- We welcome projects addressing substantial unmet needs in any type of cancer. We particularly encourage teams with innovative ideas for therapeutic strategies for upper GI, glioblastoma, triple-negative breast cancer, and pancreatic cancer to consider applying in this round.

Team Composition:

- Teams must be composed of one PI and 2-8 co-PIs (see “Team Roles” section for definitions).
- Inter-institutional collaborations are permitted and encouraged.
- Teams are encouraged to consider diversity in terms of discipline, seniority, gender, race, ethnicity, and any other parameters that will enhance the team’s ability to approach challenging problems from fresh perspectives.
- The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other legally protected characteristics.

Team Roles

Principal Investigator (PI) – 1 per team

- Serves as the single point of contact with The Mark Foundation during the application process and the grant period.
- The LOA will be executed solely with the PI’s institution.
- Must meet all criteria of a co-PI listed below.
- Does not need to be the most senior member of the team.

Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) – 2 to 8 per team

- Lab receives at least 10% of the total grant budget.
- Core member of the team’s leadership.
- Designated as key personnel in the LOA.
- Must have an independent faculty research appointment (tenure-track or equivalent).

Collaborator – optional

- Lab receives 0-10% of the budget.
- Can provide resources, perform experiments, analyses, etc.
- Serves as a project consultant or advisor rather than a team leader.

Submission Process

Key Dates

- **June 25, 2025:** Grants portal opens for submission of Letters of Intent (LOI)
- **September 3, 2025:** LOI submission deadline
- **November 2025:** Finalist teams notified
- **January 2026:** Full applications due
- **March 2026:** Interviews for selected finalist teams
- **June 1, 2026:** Anticipated award start date

LOI Guidelines

LOIs are to be submitted through The Mark Foundation's online grants portal. The LOI will require the following information:

- **Principal Investigator** – name, institution, title, contact info
- **Project Title**
- **Project Summary/Abstract** – limit 350 words
- **Project Description** – limit 5 pages, including figures and tables but excluding literature references
 - Specific aims
 - Introduction, background, and description of unmet need
 - Research plan broken into aims, with each aim having:
 - Clear objective
 - Preliminary studies, if applicable
 - High-level description of the experimental approach
 - Milestones and timelines
 - Future directions – if the research plan is successful, what is the 5-10-year vision for expansion of the project?
 - Literature cited (does not count against page limit)
- **Team Description**
 - List all co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs), and collaborators (name, institution, title, contact info)
 - For the PI and co-PIs, provide the following:
 - 1-3 sentences describing their role in the project.
 - Biosketch (NIH or similar format preferred; limit 5 pages per investigator)
 - List any existing collaborations between co-PIs, including existing funding support for collaborative projects.
- **Collaborative Science Statement** – limit 1 page
 - Why is this project a team science project? Describe how the output of the individual investigators (data, samples, hypotheses, compounds, etc.) will be integrated and/or shared in a way that makes the impact of the project as a whole larger than the sum of its parts.
 - How will the team work together? Describe the plan for team structure, communications, and shared resources.
- **Budget overview** – Using the template provided.
- **Endorsement letter**
 - A letter from your institution (such as from your cancer center director) indicating that your team was chosen by your institution to move forward with your Endeavor submission. This should include a brief description of the process or criteria used in the selection.

Award Terms

- Endeavor Awards are \$3,000,000, disbursed over a 3-year term.
- The requested funding should be divided amongst team members in a manner proportional to the actual cost of the work carried out by each investigator for the project.
- The budget limit includes both direct and indirect costs, with indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the direct costs.
- The letter of agreement will include IP terms with a revenue-sharing component.

APPLY NOW