

# Private Foundations that Fund Academic Research: A Quick Guide

Funding Agency and Funding Links	What They Currently Fund	Comments
<a href="#">Alfred P. Sloan Foundation</a>	Funds <a href="#">STEM research</a> , <a href="#">Science of STEM learning</a> , <a href="#">Data and computational research</a> , <a href="#">Economics</a> , <a href="#">Energy &amp; Environment</a> , and other <a href="#">select issues</a> .	Also funds <a href="#">Public Understanding of Science, Technology &amp; Economics</a> , (including books, TV, films, etc.), as well as <a href="#">research fellowships</a> for early-career scientists and scholars. <a href="#">Tips for writing a successful grant proposal</a> to Sloan here.
<a href="#">Andrew W. Mellon Foundation</a>	Funds scholarship in the <a href="#">humanities</a> , <a href="#">arts and cultural heritage</a> , and <a href="#">scholarship in other countries</a>	Also funds <a href="#">Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships</a> , <a href="#">dissertation, postdoc and early career faculty grants</a> focusing on the humanities to support diversity, HBCUs and tribal colleges, and higher education in the US and other countries, and projects to digitize <a href="#">scholarly communications</a> (research libraries, archives, etc.).
<a href="#">Beckman Foundation</a>	Funds basic research in chemistry, biochemistry and medicine. Includes <a href="#">Beckman Young Investigators</a> , <a href="#">Beckman Scholars</a> , <a href="#">Beckman-Argyros Award in Vision Research</a> , <a href="#">Beckman Postdoctoral Fellows</a> .	Invitations to apply to Beckman Scholars sent to a relatively large number of major universities and scholars. Must be at an invited institution to be eligible.
<a href="#">Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</a>	Projects to improve: global health and development (especially preventing disease in children and empowering women and girls), and education of underprivileged US students. Also fund special projects in Washington state.	Grand Challenges opportunities announced <a href="#">here</a> . <a href="#">Awarded grants database here</a> . <a href="#">FAQs here</a> . While much of the funding is focused on interventions, they do fund basic research (especially related to disease prevention).
<a href="#">Burroughs Wellcome Fund</a>	Supports basic research to advance medical sciences. Fund <a href="#">career awards</a> for medical scientists and travel grants, <a href="#">career award at the scientific interface</a> , <a href="#">postdoctoral enrichment grants</a> , <a href="#">investigators in pathogenesis of infectious disease</a> , <a href="#">research in regulatory science</a> , and <a href="#">preterm birth initiative</a> .	Also fund and other scientific and educational activities. Special emphasis on North Carolina.
<a href="#">Dana Foundation</a>	Supports programs in science, health and education, including <a href="#">clinical neuroscience research</a> and <a href="#">neuroimaging</a> .	<a href="#">Grant Guidelines are here</a> . <a href="#">Funded grants search here</a> .
<a href="#">David &amp; Lucile Packard Foundation</a>	Projects to improve the lives of children, families and communities, and restore and protect the environment. Current	Fund “use-inspired” research as well as communication of science to decision-makers. Also fund <a href="#">Packard Fellowships</a>

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	<p>program areas are: <a href="#">Conservation and Science</a>; <a href="#">Population and Reproductive Health</a>; <a href="#">Children, Families and Communities</a>; and <a href="#">local grants</a> for projects in northern California and Pueblo, Colorado.</p>	<p><a href="#">Science and Engineering</a> for early-career researchers (nominated by presidents of 50 invited institutions). <a href="#">Grants database here</a>. <a href="#">FAQs here</a>. Not all programs accept unsolicited proposals. Check each program page for info.</p>
<p><a href="#">Ewing Marion Kauffman</a></p>	<p>Supports research on <a href="#">entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education</a> and the intersection of technology, public policy, and the economics of education.</p>	<p>Most external funding for intervention and support projects in education, entrepreneurship and rather than research. Supports <a href="#">entrepreneurship.org</a>. Special focus on Kansas City.</p>
<p><a href="#">Ford Foundation</a></p>	<p>Funds projects that challenge inequality, including <a href="#">civil engagement and government</a>, <a href="#">free expression and creativity</a>, <a href="#">equitable development</a>, <a href="#">inclusive economies</a> and <a href="#">gender, racial and ethnic justice</a>, <a href="#">internet freedom</a> and <a href="#">youth opportunity and learning</a>. Funds <a href="#">large fellowship programs</a> for underrepresented grad students who aspire to careers in academia. Also funds <a href="#">films and new media projects</a></p>	<p><a href="#">BUILD grants</a> focus on building institutions and networks.</p>
<p><a href="#">Henry Luce Foundation</a></p>	<p>Projects in <a href="#">American Art</a>, <a href="#">East Asia</a>, <a href="#">Luce Scholars</a> to advance understanding of Asia (among those who are not Asia scholars), <a href="#">Theology</a>, <a href="#">Religion in International Affairs</a>, <a href="#">Public Policy and the Environment</a>,</p>	<p>Also funds capacity building in <a href="#">Higher Education</a> and scholarships, graduate fellowship and professorships for women in science, mathematics and engineering (through <a href="#">Clare Boothe Luce program</a>).</p>
<p><a href="#">Howard Hughes Medical Institute</a></p>	<p>Projects to advance <a href="#">biomedical research</a> and <a href="#">science education</a>. Includes <a href="#">HHMI Investigator Program</a> and <a href="#">Faculty Scholars Program</a></p>	<p>Check eligible institutions list before applying.</p>
<p><a href="#">John Templeton Foundation</a></p>	<p>Funds programs on <a href="#">Science and the Big Questions</a>, <a href="#">Character Virtue Development</a>, <a href="#">Genetics</a>, and <a href="#">Individual Freedom &amp; Free Markets</a>, and <a href="#">Exceptional Cognitive Talent and Genius</a>.</p>	<p>Includes research on philosophy and theology. Especially interested in bold ideas that cross disciplinary boundaries to engage the Big Questions. <a href="#">Funded grants here</a>.</p>
<p><a href="#">McKnight Foundation</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Neuroscience research</a>, <a href="#">early literacy research</a>, <a href="#">clean and resilient power and energy action for the midwest</a>, and <a href="#">international research in southeast Asia and on collaborative crop systems</a>. Special emphasis on Minneapolis area.</p>	<p><a href="#">Grants database here</a>. <a href="#">Funding FAQ here</a>.</p>
<p><a href="#">Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</a></p>	<p>Projects to improve health and health care of Americans.</p>	<p><a href="#">Awarded grants here</a>. <a href="#">FAQs here</a>. Emphasis on public health, life style factors, communication, etc. rather than pharmaceutical therapies.</p>

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<a href="#">Spencer Foundation</a>	Research on education and improvement of its practice. Includes <a href="#">Small Research Grants</a> , <a href="#">Lyle Spencer Research Award</a> , <a href="#">Strategic Initiatives</a> , <a href="#">Research-Practice Partnership Grants</a> , and <a href="#">Midcareer grants</a> .	Also fund <a href="#">dissertation and postdoc fellowships</a> ,
<a href="#">W.K. Kellogg Foundation</a>	Projects to promote <a href="#">educated kids</a> , <a href="#">healthy kids</a> , and <a href="#">secure families</a> . Focus on early childhood (prenatal to age 8), within the context of their families and community. Committed to <a href="#">racial equity</a> and <a href="#">community &amp; civic engagement</a> . Special interest in Michigan.	Applications accepted throughout the year; no set deadlines. Most grants that include research combine interventions with research. <a href="#">Awarded grants database here</a> . <a href="#">Submission tips</a> . <a href="#">Required application information</a> . Sign up for <a href="#">email updates here</a> .
<a href="#">W. M. Keck Foundation</a>	Supports research in science, engineering and medical research. Funds a <a href="#">Research Program</a> , <a href="#">Undergraduate Education Program</a> , and <a href="#">Southern California Program</a> .	Encourages high-risk, potentially transformative projects from early career and senior investigators. <a href="#">FAQ here</a> . Funded grant abstracts for the Research Program are <a href="#">here</a> .
<a href="#">William and Flora Hewlett Foundation</a>	Projects to help people build measurably better lives, including <a href="#">improving education</a> , protecting the <a href="#">environment</a> , addressing <a href="#">global development and population</a> , and supporting <a href="#">performing arts in California</a> . Special emphasis on California and the Bay Area.	<a href="#">Interactive tool to explore awarded grants</a> . Most of their funding goes to non-research focused grants and support. Letters of inquiry accepted only for certain programs (see <a href="#">program pages</a> ).