Smith Family Foundation: Odyssey Award

A Program of the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation

Pre- Application Informational Session

Applications Due:

Tuesday, February 10th at 12 PM ET

SmithOdyssey@hria.org

www.hria.org/tmf/smithodyssey

HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION

Who We Are

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HRiA partners with individuals, organizations, and communities to transform the practices, policies, and systems that improve health and advance equity.

Agenda

- Program Goals

- Eligibility

- Program Overview

- Application Portal

- Review Criteria

- Proposal Writing Tips

- Example of Reviewer Feedback

- Q & A

Smith Odyssey was created to support:

"the pursuit of high impact ideas to generate breakthroughs and drive new directions in biomedical research."

Program Goals

Short Term

Fuel creativity and innovation

Drive new research directions

Long Term

Achieve biomedical breakthroughs

Eligibility

Applicant

• Applicant has less than $750K per year in external funding

• Received first independent faculty (tenure-track assistant professor) appointment on or between November 1, 2017 and December 1, 2022

• Based at a nonprofit academic, medical, or research institution in MA or at Brown or Yale University

Research

• Basic or translational biomedical research

• Clinical trials are beyond the scope of this program

Note: Unsuccessful applicants can re-apply only once, but it need not be with the same project

Program Overview

Award Duration: 2 years

Award Amount:
(including 5% indirect costs) $400,000

Application Deadline		Full Stage Applications Due		Award Start	
February 10, 2026	Early May	June 25, 2026	Mid-October	December 1, 2026	November 30, 2028
	Full Stage Invitation		Award Notification		Award End

Application Portal - HRiA Award Manager

Accessing the system

https://hria.us-1.smartsimple.com/

Login

✉ Email

🔑 Password

Log In

Employee Login   Forgot Password?

Learn more about our   New to the System?

🔒 Privacy & Security policies   Register

Welcome to HRiA

Welcome to the Health Resources in Action (HRiA) Award Manager. If you are a returning user or have already been given a temporary password, please log in using your email and password*. Contact grants@hria.org for support.
Upon access to the portal, you will be able to:

- Submit grant applications for our program portfolio
- Check on the status of your application
- Submit progress reports on your awarded grants
- Review assigned applications

* If you had an account in our previous Blackbaud (BB) system, an account has already been created for you in the HRiA Award Manager system using the email address and organization associated with your BB account. Please click the "Forgot Password?" link, set a new password for your HRiA Award Manager account, and then login.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The password reset email will be sent to the email address associated with your BB account. If you no longer have access to that email, please contact grants@hria.org. Do not create a new account in HRiA Award Manager.

New to the system?

If you are either:

- A researcher (or a research delegate role); or
- A representative of a community-based/nonprofit organization

Please use the "Register" button to look up your organization by 501(c)(3) EIN or Organization name.

HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION

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Luke Skywalker
Jedi

TWIN SUNS FOUNDATION
LWilliams+TESTLukeSkywalker@hria.org

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Funding Opportunities

My Profile

Applications

1	**0**	**2**	**3**
In Progress	Revisions Required	Submitted & Under Review	Completed

Activities

0	**0**	**0**	**0**
Draft	Revisions Required	Under Review	Completed

2025-2145 Test Organization

ℹ Instructions

Smith Odyssey

- Please complete the questions in each of the tabs below.
  - * represents a required field
  - Use the **NEXT** button in the bottom right corner of the screen to advance to the next tab.
  - Use the **Save Draft** button to save your answers. Please note that there is no auto-saving feature in the system.
  - Use the **Invitation** Tab on the left to invite the required individuals (see below)
  - Use the **Submit** button only once you have completed all tabs. **Note:** Only the Applicant will be able to submit the application. If you are a Collaborator/Multi-PI you will be able to make and save edits, but will not see a submit button.
- Some information is copied directly from your organization and user profiles and will appear in a read-only state within this form. If the information displayed is not current, please update your organization and user profiles prior to completing and submitting this form.
- In order to submit the application, you will need to assign an **Authorized Institutional Representative** using the Invitations tab on the left. The Authorized Institutional Representative will need to **accept the invitation and complete the Certification tab**. They will have access to modify the application, but they will not have access to the "Submit" button.
- You can view your responses by clicking on the **PDF of Application** button.

Application Type: Smith Odyssey		*** Organization:** Test Organization	
* Applicant: Test Applicant		**Created Date:** 12/02/2025 3:52 PM	
Created By: Caroline Linden		**LOI Due Date:** 02/10/2026 12:00 PM	
Submission Number: 2145			

📋 PDF of Application

Application Tabs

PRIMARY CONTACT   ORGANIZATION INFORMATION   KEY PERSONNEL   INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION   PROJECT INFORMATION   ATTACHMENTS   CERTIFICATION

💾 Save Draft   **✓ Submit**   **☒ Withdraw**

Application Portal - HRiA Award Manager

Using the Invitations feature

System Role Name	Permissions/Requirements
Authorized Institutional Representative (pre-award)	Required to Certify application but cannot submit application
Collaborator (grant writing staff)	Has edit access but cannot submit application

Caution: Check-out error
This record has been checked out (DATE/TIME)

Solution: Communicate with those invited and ask them to log out!

Review Criteria

APPLICANT

Fully capable of carrying out the proposed research

Institutional commitment

IMPACT

Important problem

Will advance biology

Potential for medical breakthrough

PROJECT

Clear question and rationale

Appropriate and feasible design

Makes sense in context of the field

INNOVATION

Novel research line

Distinct off-shoot of current research

Proposal Writing Tips

Clear, concise, logical

Understandable language

Novelty

Distinct from ongoing work

Goals and metrics of success

Long-term goals

Example Reviewer Feedback – Critiques

- "There is **no explanation of how the proposed work is fundamentally different from the current focus**. It is asserted that the work is different, but there is no real explanation, and it seems reasonably in line with the current focus of the lab."

- "The proposal is not that innovative in that it basically proposes to simply to do this on a **larger scale** and with more automation."

- "This is potentially **not as large of a departure** from current research as some other proposals."

- "The PI has had **similar funding** to study this question."

- "The research is **already a major component** of the PI's research program and the proposed studies do not seem to define a new area of research."

- "The objectives of this proposal are also very **similar to those of many other research programs** in this field."

Example Reviewer Feedback - Critiques

- "The **methods** that will be used to study xxxxx are not clearly described."

- "Proposal includes a **large quantity of unexplained acronyms and hyper-technical jargon** making it difficult to understand what exactly is being proposed in some areas."

- "The core finding is so cool that the **vagueness of the Aims** are disappointing."

- "**Relationship of the proposed work to the applicant's current research** is not described clearly."

- "The proposed studies are not clear enough to fully assess. Project is too vague and it is difficult to evaluate the **experiments** proposed."

- "Even with limited space, the description is too vague to understand many of the **approaches** to be taken. As such, it is hard to know how impactful the work might be."

Example Reviewer Feedback - Critiques

- "Although the format used fits in the space guidelines provided, I think it is a stretch in the sense that **the 'simple timeline' was used as a specific aims page**."

- "The description of the Aims relies too heavily on a reference list containing 22 citations. This format dampens enthusiasm because **a framework for what will be done is not provided**."

- "**Please make sure that any figures incorporated into a proposal are very clear for a reader**, including a generalist. A well-crafted figure can convey 1000 words, but one that isn't well crafted can be confusing or just take up precious space."

Example Reviewer Feedback - Critiques

- **Research Focus**: "A weakness is proposing **two different screens in one proposal**. It would be stronger to propose one screen and demonstrate more ability to be able to characterize targets."

- **Power:** "The investigator should, I think, be **more ambitious to obtain useful data**. At the **scale** proposed here, it is not clear that much of value will be achieved."

- **Impact**: "While admittedly there is much still to learn in this area, it is not clear what **new insights** will be gained from these studies."

- **Overstatement:** "I find the proposal OK, but not great, and in many cases a bit **overhyped**: "*My research will bring ----- to the forefront of the ----- field*" - The ----- field has already been focused on ----- for years."

Example of Reviewer Feedback - Strengths

- The **depth of the analysis and creativity is clear**, this one really stands out in regards to it **helping build the PI's career.**

- The **approach is unique**, the proposal is strong and multifaceted.

- The research proposal is clearly defined and comprises a straightforward plan. **The PI has assembled a team which is well qualified to help with the effort**.

Questions?

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