The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation Awards Program in Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery Research

Initial Stage Application Guidelines — Grant Cycle 2027

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	Terms of the Award
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 2:00 PM, Eastern Time	Application Instructions

	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award	**Early Career Investigator Award**
Award Duration:	2 years	2 years
Maximum Award Amount:	Up to $125,000	Up to $275,000 (inclusive of 10% indirect costs)
Eligible Applicants:	Senior postdoctoral researchers and mentored clinician-scientists (MD, DO, or equivalent).	Full-time tenure-track or clinician-scientist/investigator track research faculty; received or will receive first independent research faculty appointment on or between June 1, 2024 through June 1, 2027.
Award Dates:	June 1, 2027 – May 31, 2029	
Research Focus:	Preclinical and translational drug discovery research that will lead to improved therapies for all individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease, especially populations that experience a high disease burden and/or are historically understudied.	

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HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION

Program Overview and Statement of Purpose

The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation was created in 2002 to advance the health of older adults through the support of direct service projects and medical research on diseases and disorders affecting older adults. In keeping with the Foundation's mission, the goal of the Awards Program is to support innovative preclinical and translational drug discovery research that will lead to improved therapies for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

In 2022, the Thome Memorial Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. granted Health Resources in Action (HRiA) funding to oversee the continuation of its programs in Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Alzheimer's Disease Research. HRiA works with a Scientific Review Committee to select the proposals that best align with the mission of the Foundation and the goals of the program. HRiA is a non-profit organization in Boston that advances public health and medical research.

Research Focus

In 2026, an estimated 7.2 million people aged 65 and older are living with clinical Alzheimer's disease (AD) dementia in the U.S[1]. Given the tremendous societal impact and limited treatments currently available, there is a great need to better understand the biological drivers of disease risk and progression, which can then inform the development of novel therapeutics.

Among the millions of people living with AD, certain populations experience a greater disease burden compared to others. For instance, twice as many women are diagnosed with AD than men. Black Americans and Hispanic Americans are at higher risk for developing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias compared to White Americans (2x and 1.5x greater risk, respectively)[1,2]. Further, individuals carrying the *ApoE4* gene variant have an elevated risk of developing AD that is influenced by their ancestry. What accounts for these disparities is multi-faceted, including genetics, underlying biology, co-morbidities, cultural differences, and socioeconomic conditions, among other reasons. How these factors intersect and the specific ways they influence disease development and progression are incompletely understood.

The Thome Memorial Foundation aims to **advance innovative preclinical and translational drug development research that will benefit all people with AD, especially those populations that experience a particularly high disease burden and/or are historically understudied**. This may include studying representative cohorts of clinical samples, creating and/or using model systems informed by findings from understudied and/or highly impacted groups, or integrating the effects of the exposome (environmental and lifestyle factors such as stress, sleep, pollution, etc.) in the context of drug development research for AD.

Areas of potential focus for proposals may include but are not limited to:

- How menstruation, reproductive history and hormones, gynecological conditions, and/or menopause contribute to AD development and pathogenesis.
- How X inactivation affects AD development, progression, and pathophysiology.
- Improved understanding of the genetic basis of sporadic Alzheimer's disease across ancestries, especially among ancestries with high disease burden and/or those that have been historically understudied.
- Discovery and development of novel therapies that will be especially effective for populations that experience a high disease burden and/or who have been historically understudied.
- Creation, harmonization, and study of representative biospecimen cohorts or cohorts collected from populations experiencing high disease burden and/or who have been historically understudied.
- Integration of the exposome and AD pathogenesis to identify novel drug targets, therapies, and/or understand disparate responses to available treatments.

Successful research proposals should fall along the preclinical and translational research spectrum such that they can be "carried out using cell or animal models of disease; samples of human or animal tissues; or computer-assisted simulations of drug, device or diagnostic interactions within living systems."[3] Clinical "studies to better understand a disease in humans and relate this knowledge to findings in cell or animal models," are also allowed. These projects are intended to move basic science insights towards solutions, techniques, and tools that can be transferred to clinical practice.

For late stage and pre-transition projects, the applicant must provide preliminary data demonstrating how the drug/lead candidate being advanced is likely to benefit people with AD, particularly those populations that experience an especially high disease burden and/or are historically understudied.

Basic research, research that is not directly linked to a clinically relevant biomarker or clinical endpoint, or research studies that align with the NIH definition of a clinical[4] trial are currently outside the scope of this Program.

[1] https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/facts-figures.
[2]Lennon, J. C. *et al. Alzheimers Dement.* **18**, 1461–1471 (2022).
[3]https://ncats.nih.gov/about/about-translational-science/spectrum.
[4]https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/clinical-trials/definition.

Eligibility Criteria

HRiA believes that there is scientific value associated with having scientists from groups historically underrepresented in science and medicine in the field as it strengthens the research enterprise for AD and related dementias, as well as biomedical research as a whole. Clinicians and scientists from these groups are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility is not limited to researchers currently working on AD and related dementias. Researchers from other fields are encouraged to apply.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of this award is to support experienced postdocs or clinician scientists whose research aligns with research focus of the award program and who are seeking to transition to independent faculty positions within the next 1-2 years. Awardees who transition to independent positions before the end of the award period may transfer the award to their new institution or transition their funds to their own lab if they stay at the same institution.

Eligible applicants must:

- Hold a doctoral degree (Ph.D., M.D., D.M.D., M.D./Ph.D., DO, DMD, PharmD, DPT or equivalent) and work in an academic or medical research institution in the U.S. Degrees obtained outside the U.S. must be equivalent.
- Be engaged in a mentored non-independent research position (postdoctoral* or equivalent). For more information on what defines non-independent research see our FAQs document.
- Designate at least one Mentor who is an established investigator at the same institution who will ensure that adequate support and guidance are provided for successful completion of the proposed research project and provide career mentorship. At least one Mentor with expertise in Alzheimer's disease research is strongly advised. Only one applicant can apply per Mentor.
- Have at least 90% protected time for research if they do not have clinical training or have clinical training but do not currently see patients.
- Have at least 70% protected time for research if they have clinical training and currently see patients.
- Anticipate needing 1-2 years of mentored research training and career development to become a competitive candidate for an independent faculty position.
- Not have overlapping clinical fellowship support.
- Not have accepted an offer for an independent faculty position before June 1, 2027.
- Be legal to work in the U.S. Proof of citizenship or visa documentation is not required.
- Not have funding for a similar project.

Applicants who hold an independent faculty level position, regardless of tenure track status, are not eligible to apply.

**Postdoctoral research experience is defined as full-time research experience after receiving one's doctoral degree, or completion of residency or equivalent for those with a MD, MD/PhD, PhD, DO, DPT, etc. Experience includes research in a laboratory or similar professional setting either domestically or abroad. In some cases, postdoctoral research may occur after the first doctoral degree but prior to starting residency/fellowship clinical training.*

EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Eligible applicants must:

- Hold an Assistant Professor faculty appointment at a non-profit academic, medical, or research institution in the U.S.
- Have received or will receive their first independent research faculty appointment on or between June 1, 2024 through June 1, 2027.
- Hold a tenure-track or clinician-scientist/investigator Assistant Professor appointment. We understand that there is a continuum of independence at many institutions beginning with emerging independence at the Instructor level. However, to level the playing field and ensure that all applicants have only one window of eligibility, we consider the tenure-track and clinician-scientist/investigator Assistant Professor appointments to be the first independent faculty appointment.
- Have completed their postdoctoral training by the funding start date of June 1, 2027.
- Have at least 80% protected time for research if they do not have clinical training.
- Have at least 70% protected time for research if they have clinical training.
- Be legal to work in the U.S. Proof of citizenship or visa documentation is not required.
- Not have funding for a similar project.

Eligibility Exceptions (for Early Career Investigators only): If an Applicant has been on medical or family leave, or if research was interrupted for other reasons, this period of absence does not count towards eligibility. Please address any gaps in work history in the Personal Statement in the Biosketch. The Department or Division Chair must also confirm the leave of absence as well as applicant eligibility in the "Applicant Independence/Institutional Commitment Form."

To confirm eligibility including pauses to research experience, please contact program staff at ThomeAwards@hria.org.

Review Criteria

The Scientific Review Committee uses the following criteria to evaluate proposals:

Impact	• The proposed research project addresses a critical therapeutic roadblock in Alzheimer's disease. • If successful, the research has a high potential to improve the lives of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease.
Applicant	• The applicant is capable of carrying out the proposed research and has clear ability to develop a sound research plan. • The institution and Mentor (Postdoctoral Fellowship only) has demonstrated an appropriate level of commitment. • Collaboration is an additional, but not required, positive ancillary factor.

Research Project	• Research question and hypothesis are clearly stated and are based on sound precedents and a clear rationale. • Study design is appropriate to answer the question(s) and technically feasible. • The proposal makes sense in the context of the pertinent literature and the work of other investigators.
Program Alignment	• The research project will advance preclinical and translational drug development research that will benefit all people with Alzheimer's disease, particularly those populations that experience an especially high disease burden and/or are historically understudied.

Program Alignment
In addition to assigning a numeric score for overall alignment with the review criteria, reviewers will assign a color rating for this criterion that is used to guide decision making. This metric is based on the following criteria:

- How does the research project advance preclinical and translational drug development research that will benefit all people with Alzheimer's disease, particularly populations that experience an especially high disease burden and/or are historically understudied?
- If the project incorporates clinical research, are the biospecimens being studied representative of the epidemiology of the disease? If not, why?

Professional Development Activities

Because early career researchers benefit from research funding as well as professional development, the Thome Memorial Foundation will provide awardees with career development programming during the course of their award (2x/year for postdoctoral fellows and 1x/year for early career investigators). All workshops will be virtual, and any associated costs will be covered by the Foundation. Example programming includes workshops on grant writing, science communication, transition to independence, and leadership training, although the specific offerings will be finalized in consultation with awardees preferences. Awardees are expected to participate. Program staff will do their best to accommodate awardees' schedules.

Notification Schedule

Final notification to applicants will occur in mid-April for the June 1st funding start date. Applicant ranking and scores will not be provided. Key points from reviewer feedback will be provided.

Proposal Writing Tips

Applicants are strongly encouraged to prioritize good grantsmanship in writing their applications to maximize their chances of being invited to submit a full application. *The writing of the proposal will not be directly assessed*; however, it is recognized that clarity of the writing enhances the ability of the reviewers to reflect upon how the proposal aligns with the review criteria.

The Review Committee is composed of a multi-disciplinary group of professionals such as biotech executives and academic researchers, with expertise in AD and pharmaceutical development, and have the ability to assess a wide range of proposal topics.

Characteristics of a well-written proposal are reflective of the following practices:

- Funding via non-governmental agencies should be tailored. Make sure the proposal is reflective of the program goals and review criteria.
- Tell the story and *sell* the proposed work; make sure the background outlines why the proposed questions are important to answer, and the proposed approach is promising.
- The language should be understandable to a general scientific audience. When jargon must be used, it is clearly explained, and complex technical points are put in context.
- Any other personnel included in the project should be clearly justified.
- Don't fall victim to proposing to complete too much work. Reflect on the timeline of the work to ensure it can be feasibly completed.
- Provide enough time to obtain feedback and allow for proofreading prior to submission.

Applicants are encouraged to seek feedback on their proposals within their institutions and externally. Examples of successful proposals can be found in the grant-writing tip sheets for NIH research grants. Institutions and colleagues may also be willing to provide examples of well-written and successful grant applications.

Suggested resources:
Secrets to Writing a Winning Grant: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03914-5
NIH grant writing tips:
https://www.nlm.nih.gov/ep/Tutorial.html
https://www.nimh.nih.gov/funding/grant-writing-and-application-process/grant-writing-tips.shtml
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm#Important%20Writing%20Tips

Application Instructions

Deadline: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 2:00 PM, U.S. Eastern Time

Online Application Instructions:
Applicants will submit their proposals in the HRiA Award Manager: https://hria.us-1.smartsimple.com/.

Out of fairness to applicants who adhere to the guidelines, applications that do not conform to the stated instructions will be rejected.

The following information will be required for online submission:

- ☐ **Lead Organization/Applicant Information**
  - Organization Tax ID, Name, and Contact Information
  - Applicant Information
    - Contact and Demographic Information
    - Degree(s)
    - Full Academic Title
    - Department
    - ORCiD Number
    - Publications Link – Please provide a link to a publication repository (such as the MyNCBI My Bibliography or Google Scholar)
    - Education
  - Institutional Officials Contact Information
    - Department or Division Chair
    - Authorized Institutional Representative – This individual is responsible for research oversight and is often in the Office of Sponsored Programs. This person signs off on the application to ensure that the Applicant and the Organization have met the eligibility requirements. Applications may not be submitted without Authorized Institutional Representative completing Certification within application.
- ☐ **Key Personnel (Collaborators, if any)**
  - Please list names and institutional affiliations of all Key Personnel including lead applicant (PI) and Collaborators.
- ☐ **Project Information**
  - Award type
  - Project Title
  - Amount Requested
  - Institution where the Proposed Research will be Conducted
  - Keywords
  - Project Summary (300 words max): State the project's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims. Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving these goals. This abstract is meant to serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work when separated from the application and will be posted on our website if the project is funded.

- Non-Technical Overview (maximum 350 words)
  Answer the following questions in ONE SENTENCE EACH, in terms understandable to a non-specialist.
  - What big question(s) will your work answer?
  - Why does this question matter?
  - How will your work answer the big question?
- Experimental System(s), Key Tools and Techniques to be Utilized (350 words max)
- Project Relevance to Alzheimer's Disease Drug Development (maximum 100 words): How the proposed research project may lead to significant improvements in current therapeutic strategies or create new approaches to treating Alzheimer's disease? How does the proposal fit into the drug development pipeline?
- Project Relevance to Individuals Living with Alzheimer's Disease (maximum 100 words): How is the proposed research project relevant for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease? How will this proposal address the needs of populations who experience especially high disease incidence and burden?
- Community Engagement (maximum 200 words): The Thome Memorial Foundation encourages engagement with lived experience experts (LEE, people with lived experience of Alzheimer's disease, such as those living with it themselves and/or their caregivers) in research proposal development, refinement, execution, and dissemination. Briefly explain how LEEs have been involved in developing the project if relevant. Explain how you intend to include LEE input going forward including any plans for LEE engagement and dissemination of results. Please note that award funding may be budgeted for this purpose.

Attachments

The online application system will have individual upload fields for the following attachments. Any required application templates for the following sections can be found in separate documents located at our website.

☐ **Initial Stage Research Proposal:**
Specific Aims Page: Provide specific aims and sufficient methodological detail for reviewers to understand the proposed experiments. Include a brief description of preliminary data, if applicable, and describe the project's long-term goals and its anticipated impact over the next 5–10 years. The specific aims should not exceed 1 page. Figures or tables are optional but must fit within the same single-page limit. References, if included, may follow the response and do not count toward limits. Use Arial 11-point black font, single-spaced paragraphs, and double spacing between paragraphs, and 0.75 inch margins on all four sides. Figures, legends, and tables may use a blank font size of 8. Submissions exceeding the word limit may be disqualified.

Project Timeline Graphic: Complete this form according to the instructions. Please include a simple timeline graphic outlining your plans for the two-year duration of the award. The suggested size is less than half a page, with a maximum length of one

page. Use Arial 11-point black font, single spacing within paragraphs, and double spacing between paragraphs, and 0.75 inch or larger margins on all four sides.

- ☐ **Biosketch of PI/Applicant**: Use the new SciENcv format to prepare your Common Form and NIH Biographical Sketch, and upload the versions generated by SciENcv.

- ☐ **(Postdoctoral Research Fellows Only) Applicant Eligibility Form**

- ☐ **(Early Career Investigators Only) Applicant Independence/Commitment Form**: The Department or Division Chair must complete this form and sign at the bottom.

Please note: Supplemental materials are not permitted and will be removed.

HRiA is committed to making our resources accessible to everyone. If you require an accommodation or service to access our resources, please contact program staff.

Direct any questions to program staff: ThomeAwards@hria.org

Revised July 2026

Terms of the Award

Overview: Awards are made to non-profit academic, medical, or research institutions ("the Institution") throughout the United States on behalf of the Award Recipients (the "Recipient"). The Award Program was funded by the Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation and is housed within Heath Resources in Action, Inc. ("Grantor").

The Institution is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the Project, including any subcontracts, and maintaining adequate supporting records and receipts of expenditures.

Award Amount and Funding Period: Awards are made according to the stated schedule. Recipients may postpone the start date for up to three (3) months without an approval, but the revised date must be noted either on the signature page of this Agreement or by an email notification to the Grantor. Longer delays must be approved by the Grantor. A delayed start date will not reduce the total award period; the end date will be adjusted to include the entire period.

Research Disturbances: Upon award funding recommendation notification, the Recipient or recommended principal investigator ("PI") and the Institution shall confirm that the Recipient's laboratory (and any laboratories/facilities/staff included in the proposed Project) will be operational, and able to start the work described in the Project's research proposal by funding start date or within the standard three (3) month delayed start timeframe. Start dates beyond the three (3) month timeframe will be considered with assurances from the Institution.

Institutional Assurances: The Institution and Recipient must adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the use of human subjects, animals, radioactive or hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA in this Project. It is the responsibility of the Recipient's Institution to ensure that all approvals (IRB, IACUC, other) are in place prior to releasing any award funds unless the Application stipulates that seeking IRB approval is part of the project aims. The confirmation of the representative of the Institution on the application forms confirms this oversight.

Liability: Each party shall be responsible for its negligent acts or omissions and the negligent acts or omissions of its employees, officers, agents, or directors, to the extent allowed by law.

Funding Provider and Not Sponsor: The Recipient and Institution acknowledges that the Grantor is solely a provider of certain funding for the research to be performed under an award and are not a sponsor of the research. The Recipient and Institution agree that they will not make any statement, written or oral, alleging that the Grantor is a sponsor of the research under the award.

Indemnity: To the extent permitted under applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations which govern the Institution, the Institution shall indemnify and hold the Grantor, as well as their respective directors, officers, employees, and assigns (the "Indemnified Parties") harmless from and against any and all costs, losses, or expenses, including

reasonable attorneys' fees, that the Indemnified Parties may incur from any third party claim arising out of or in connection with the Award to the extent caused by the Institution's or its directors', officers', or agents' acts or omissions, or failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement.

Research Misconduct: Institution certifies that it has established administrative policies as required by Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct, 42 CFR § 93, and that Institution and Recipient will comply with the policies and requirements (collectively, the "Policy") set forth therein. In the unlikely event that a Recipient is involved in an investigation of research and/or financial misconduct directly related to the Project, he or she will be subject to the procedures in place at the Institution as applicable. According to the Policy, research misconduct is defined as the "fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. It does not include honest error or difference of opinion."

To the extent legally permissible, the Institution must notify the Grantor of a finding of research and/or financial misconduct related to the Project and may affect the Recipient's continued eligibility for support for the Project.

Anti-Harassment: The Institution shall have in place adequate controls and systems for assuring safe research environments carried out under the supervision of the Principal Investigator so that research is conducted in an environment free of all form of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, threat, and retaliation, expressly including those based on gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, disability or age. The Institution represents and assures the Grantor that (a) the Institution has in place adequate policy(ies) and procedures for reporting, investigating and addressing allegations of unlawful harassment or discrimination brought to its attention, (b) no member of the Recipient's research team has been determined to have violated its policy(ies) against unlawful harassment or discrimination, and (c) it is not aware that Recipient or anyone on the research team has been convicted or adjudicated as violating harassment or discrimination laws.

The Institution will notify the Grantor (d) if the Recipient or a member of the research team is placed on administrative leave or if any administrative action has been imposed on the Recipient or a member of the research team relating to any finding/determination of an alleged discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation, and (e) it will promptly report to the Grantor any determinations that any member of the Recipient's research team has violated its applicable anti-harassment or antidiscrimination policy(ies).

The Grantor will review the finding/determination and/or administrative action, and determine the Institution's, Recipient's, and the research team's continued eligibility for support for the Project. Based on the Grantor's review, the Grantor reserves the right to take disciplinary action up to and including termination of the award.

Other Funding: Neither the Institution nor the Recipient will accept funding from another source which will result in an overlap of funding for this Project or result in greater than 100% effort of the Recipient or Key Personnel. The Institution and the Recipient are responsible for determining whether acceptance of this award will jeopardize support they may receive from other sources and ensuring that the Recipient has the capacity required to perform the

Project within the proposed timeline. The Recipient will immediately report to the Grantor any additional funding available for activities related to this Project.

Use of the Award Funds: The laws of the United States place certain restrictions on the way funds awarded by charitable trusts and foundations may be expended. **Award funds and any interest earned may be used only for the research project and budget as submitted in the Recipient's Project proposal.** Funds may not be expended for any other purpose without the prior written approval of the Grantor.

The Recipient and Institution must exercise proper stewardship over award funds and ensure that costs charged to the award are allowable, allocable, reasonable, necessary, and consistently applied in line with the Project's accepted proposal and budget. The Institution shall be liable for reimbursement to the Grantor of any award funds associated with any inappropriate or unauthorized expenditures or fraudulent or improper conduct involving the use of award funds. The grant monies which have been awarded, including any interest earned therein, may only be used for the purposes stated in this Agreement.

Expenses eligible for support include the Recipient's salary and fringe benefits; salaries and fringe benefits of personnel essential to the Project for only their work as it directly relates to the Project; publication of scientific data; travel to scientific meetings; laboratory and data processing supplies; and other direct expenses such as equipment essential to the Project. Award funds may only be used for salaries in proportion to the percent effort on the Project. However, percent effort may exceed the percent of total remuneration requested.

Funds may not be used for new construction, the renovation of existing facilities, fundraising projects, or endowments. Funds may not be used for any political activity, accumulated deficits, or for any other purpose prohibited by the Internal Revenue Service Code. Funds awarded for the direct costs of the project may not be used for general operating costs. Research-related expenses not directly related to the Project, general office supplies, individual institutional administrative charges in addition to indirect costs (e.g., telephone, other electronic communication, IT network), professional membership dues, and pre-award charges are **not** allowable expenses.

Indirect costs (institutional overhead): For the Early Career Investigator Award, indirect costs may not exceed 10% of direct costs or $12,500 each year. In instances where there is a subcontract, the combined dollar amount for indirects taken by both the Recipient Institution and the contracting institution may not exceed total allowed indirects of the accepted budget. Indirect costs are not permitted for the Postdoctoral Fellowship Award.

Re-Budgeting: Expenditures are expected to be within reasonable range of the Project budget as accepted by the Grantor. All requests for re-budgeting or reallocation of grant funds over $20,000 must be clearly justified in the annual financial report or conveyed in an update to the report to the Grantor a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to requested effective date of change. The request must include the current allocation of resources along with specific detail and reason for the reallocation. If the Institution makes a request for re-budgeting or reallocation outside of the annual progress reporting process, Institution must contact Program Staff to obtain the required forms.

Financial Responsibilities of Award Recipient Institution: The Institution will keep systematic records of all expenditures relating to the Project. Vouchers consisting of bills, invoices, cancelled checks, receipts, etc. will be retained by the Institution for three (3) years after the close of the award period and will be available for inspection by representatives of Grantor during normal business hours and upon reasonable notice throughout this period. The Grantor may, at their expense, examine, audit, or have audited the records of the Institution insofar as they relate to Project activities supported by this award.

Carryover of Funds: All requests to carry forward unspent funding from one year's budget to the next must be clearly justified in the annual financial report. Amounts greater than $50,000 will be scrutinized and may be disallowed if adequate justification is not provided.

No-Cost Extension: A no-cost extension ("NCE") for up to twelve (12) months may be granted upon receipt and approval of an NCE request. The NCE request form must be submitted between 30 and 90 days prior to the end of the award period. Incomplete forms will not be processed. The NCE request form includes a section for justifying the extension, the unexpended balance, and a timeline for expenditure of the remaining funds. A final scientific report is due at the completion of the extension period. Any portion of the award not expended at the conclusion of the extended period must be returned to the Grantor, within sixty (60) days.

Changes in Award Status: Any changes in the Project's research design including changes to/omission of specific aims described in the Recipient's accepted Project proposal require a formal written request and prior approval before implementation. Changing of Project plans without prior approval may result in the suspension of payments, early termination of the award, and/or reimbursement to the Grantor of any expended or unexpended funds. Any change in percent effort of the Recipient, or other personnel providing a substantial intellectual contribution to the Project (collectively, the "Key Personnel") requires prior written request and approval. Requests should include the reason for the change and a description of how the change will affect the scope of work, implementation, and timeline of the Project. All requests for changes to the Project design, aims, or percent effort of the Recipient or Key Personnel must be received by the Grantor at least thirty (30) days prior to the desired effective date of the change.

Transfer or Termination of Award: Awards are made to the Institution where the named Recipient is conducting research. If the Recipient plans on moving to another non-profit academic, medical, non-governmental or research institution during the award period, Recipient will notify and seek approval from the Grantor to continue the Project at the Recipient's new institution. If approved, the Institution will return unexpended Project funds, subject to allowable costs and non-cancelable obligations, to the Grantor to coordinate the transfer of unexpended funds to the new institution.

In the event of early termination of this Agreement, for any reason, Institution will be reimbursed for allowable costs and non-cancellable obligations incurred prior to the date of termination.

If the Recipient is not continuing the Project in another nonprofit research setting, the award will be canceled, and unused funds must be returned within sixty (60) days. Transfer of the award to another PI, if applicable, is not permitted. Disposition of and title to any equipment purchased by the Recipient with award funds will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If the Project is terminated for any reason, any unused funds, subject to allowable costs and non-cancelable commitments incurred in the performance of the Project but not yet paid for, must be returned to the Grantor within sixty (60) days. Performance under this Agreement may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other.

It is the responsibility of the Recipient as well as the Institution to notify the Grantor of any change in employment status of the Recipient in a timely manner and usually not less than thirty (30) days prior to such change.

Unused Funds and Reversion: Should any of the following events occur, the Grantor may demand repayment of all unexpended portions of the award; moreover, all unpaid installments may be cancelled. The Institution is also required to give written notice if there is a change in the Institution's status as noted below.

- A determination, preliminary or otherwise, is made by the United States Internal Revenue Service that the award does not constitute a qualifying distribution.
- The Institution fails to perform any of its duties, in the judgment of the Grantor, or its Scientific Review Committee, required by the Application Guidelines and this Agreement. In such cases, the Grantor shall provide no less than thirty (30) days termination notice in writing to the Institution, upon which the Institution shall have an additional thirty (30) days following receipt of such notice within which to cure any deemed failures.
- The Institution ceases to be exempt from income taxes under the Internal Revenue Service Code or becomes a private foundation.
- There is a material change in the purpose, character, or method of operation of the Institution such as to jeopardize its tax status.

Unexpended Funds: Any funds remaining at the close of an Award Period totaling more than $5000 (extended via NCE or otherwise) must be returned to the Grantor within sixty (60) days.

Equipment:

- Definition: “Equipment” means tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit, purchased in whole or in part with Award funds.

- Approval and Use: Equipment may be purchased only if essential to the Project and included in the approved budget or otherwise approved in writing by the Administrator. During the Project period, Equipment must be used primarily for the purposes of the Project. No sale, transfer, or disposal of Equipment purchased with Award funds may occur during the Project Period without the prior written approval of the Administrator.

- Title and Stewardship: Unless otherwise specified in writing by the Administrator, title to Equipment purchased with Award funds shall vest in the Institution, subject to the terms of this Agreement. The Institution shall be responsible for the proper care, maintenance, and insurance of such Equipment in accordance with its policies.

- Disposition at End of Project Period: Upon successful completion of the Project and expiration of the Award period, Equipment may be retained by the Institution for use in biomedical or scientific research consistent with the charitable mission of the Grantor, unless otherwise directed in writing by the Administrator. There will be no obligation to return Equipment funds or transfer title, provided the Equipment was used for its intended Project-related purpose.

- Early Termination or Material Change: In the event of early termination of the Project, or if the Recipient is no longer able to conduct the Project as approved, the Administrator may, at its discretion:
  1. Permit the Institution to retain the Equipment for approved research purposes;
  2. Require transfer of the Equipment to another eligible institution or investigator designated by the Grantor; or
  3. Require return of the Equipment to the Grantor or reimbursement of its fair market value, taking into account depreciation and reasonable wear and tear.

- Award Transfer: If the Recipient transfers to another eligible nonprofit research institution during the Award period, the Equipment that the Administrator reasonably determines is materially necessary for completion of the funded research shall ordinarily accompany the transferred Award unless the parties agree on an alternative arrangement that adequately supports achievement of the Project objectives. purchased with Award funds shall remain with the Institution unless the Administrator approves transfer of the Equipment to the Recipient's new institution. Any approved transfer shall be subject to written agreement among the Grantor, the original Institution, and the new institution.

Medical and Family Leave: The Recipient may continue to expend any award funds allocated to salary during medical or parental leave consistent with the Institution's policies.

Reporting Requirements and Payment Schedules: Final scientific and financial reports are due sixty (60) days following conclusion of the Award Period. Progress reports are due annually in April, regardless of award start date. The Recipient will receive access to the required online report forms by email approximately three (3) weeks prior to their due dates. It is the responsibility of the Recipient to email the Financial Report Form to the Institution's Financial Officer and ensure that the Grantor receives this completed form. The Grantor reserves the right to place a hold on funds where the Recipient is non-compliant with these reporting requirements.

Requests for NCE or re-budgeting should be made to the Grantor a minimum of thirty (30) and a maximum of ninety (90) days prior to requested effective date of change. In cases where an extension has been granted, Recipients may be required to file an interim status report.

In order for the Grantor to understand the impact of the award in the longer term, the Recipient will be expected to complete brief Alumni Reports as requested following the Award Period. Completing these forms will help ensure that all outcomes related to research funding are captured, so that the Grantor can fully understand the value of its investments in research.

Patents, Copyright and Intellectual Property: The Recipient should follow the Institution's policies regarding discoveries or any other intellectual property that results from research conducted under this Project. Grantor of this Project will not retain any rights to intellectual property including patents, copyrights, trademarks, or other proprietary rights that result from the Project.

Confidentiality and Third-Party Release: Application materials as well as scientific progress and final reports are considered confidential. The Grantor engages third parties who have the necessary expertise to review the submitted materials and evaluate each project. Although the Grantor endeavors to protect the confidentiality of the reports by requiring reviewers to sign confidentiality agreements, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. The Grantor is not responsible for any consequences resulting from the disclosure of the content of these materials to such third parties.

The Grantor reserves the right to public acknowledgement of Project information (Recipient Name, Institution, Project title, and research summary). This information will be made available through the website of the Grantor (https://hria.org/grants/thomead/) and may be posted on other affiliated organization websites, publicly accessible databases of privately funded awards, or published in print form or other media. As noted in the application guidelines, the Project summary submitted with the application will be posted on the Grantor's website if the Project is funded.

Scientific Poster Sessions and Events: The Recipient is expected to share research findings in a timely manner through professional meetings and/or publications.

Acknowledgements: Professional publications or presentations resulting from Project work supported by the award must acknowledge the support from **The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation Awards Program in AD Research, Health Resources in Action.**

Post Award: Recipient shall make good faith efforts to respond to the Grantor's reasonable requests for information on his/her research progress, new position, affiliation, or contact information (especially email address) following the award period. The Recipient may be requested to provide a current Biosketch or update information in an online database. The Recipient understands that this obligation survives the award period.