

2026 Unrestricted & Diversity Research Grants

Applications for the 2026 cycle are now closed. This information is provided for reference only.

Grants of \$40,000 for one year will be awarded to early-career investigators working in basic, translational, or clinical respiratory health research.

For the diversity grant, individuals indicate within the letter of intent that they are from an underrepresented group in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences research enterprise in the U.S. or in their local context and that they wish to be considered for this funding opportunity.

Unrestricted and diversity grants support early-career investigators conducting research that advances the knowledge and understanding of respiratory health. A primary goal of the ATS Research Program is to enable early-career investigators to transition to independent research careers.

The Research Program encourages applications in basic, patient-oriented, and public health topics. In the area of public health, the Research Program is particularly interested in funding projects that will inform health policy decisions. These include projects that explore the quality and safety of a specific treatment and compare the effectiveness of different therapies.

Award Information

The ATS Research Program will award up to six unrestricted research grants, inclusive of a diversity grant, of \$40,000 for one year. Funds may be used for salaries, supplies, or a combination of the two.

Indirect costs will not be paid to the sponsoring institution.

Key Dates

Grant Portfolio Opens January 21, 2025

Letters of Intent Due March 12, 2025, 11:59 PM ET

Invitations to Applicants May 2025

Full Applications Due July 1, 2025, 11:59 PM ET

Award Notification September 2025

Grant Start Date January 2026

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be **early-career investigators** for all ATS Research Program grants unless otherwise stated.

ATS defines early-career investigators as individuals within 0-10 years of receiving their terminal degree (e.g., MD, PhD) or completing postdoctoral training, if applicable. For the current grant cycle, this means that you must have received your terminal degree or completed postdoctoral training no earlier than 2015.

- For MDs, postdoctoral training includes **clinical** sub-specialty training, but **not** research training.
- For PhDs, this definition is inclusive of postdoctoral training.
- never having received a non-mentored grant ≥ \$100,000 per year for at least 2 years, e.g., PI on a NIH R01 grant.

Additional Eligibility Details

In addition to early-career investigator status, the following eligibility requirements apply to all grants unless otherwise specified. Review partner grant descriptions for requirements that may be specific to those opportunities.

Applicants must:

- be an ATS member at the time of application OR include at least one key personnel who is an ATS member to submit a letter of intent
- be an ATS member when the grant is awarded

- have completed their primary research training (PhD or sub-specialty fellowship) by January 1, 2025
- have a firm commitment from their home institution for a faculty position by the time the grant is awarded in January 2026
- have not received two ATS Research Program grants or be a current ATS Research Program grantee

ATS considers exceptions to the early-stage investigator requirement for extenuating life circumstances such as parental or military leave. *Sub-specialty training is not considered an extenuating circumstance.*

If you have extenuating circumstances not related to sub-specialty training [contact us](#) before beginning a letter of intent or application.

International Applicants

The ATS defines international applicants as individuals not working at a US-based institution OR someone who does not reside or work in the United States.

ATS accepts submissions from international researchers unless otherwise specified. Review partner grant requirements, which may differ from ATS unrestricted and diversity grants.

ATS Policy on Grant Funding from Other Sources

Simultaneous *submission* of grants with scientific overlap to other funding agencies is allowed.

However, if multiple grants are funded, then the applicant must notify the Research Program within one month of formal award notification. A Scientific Grant Review Committee subcommittee will assess the degree of overlap. In the case of significant scientific overlap, the applicant will have to choose between the ATS research grant and the other grant.

Budgetary overlap is not allowed.

Applicants holding active career development grants (e.g., K award) are eligible to receive ATS funding, but the projects must be scientifically distinct.