AACR Cancer Research Education for Success (CARES) High School Scholars Program

2026 Program Guidelines and Application Instructions

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PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PROGRAM SUMMARY
The AACR Cancer Research Education for Success (CARES) High School Scholars Program is intended to support institutions to develop and implement high school summer research programs and provide 5-6 students from under-resourced high schools with a dynamic and innovative experience in cancer research to motivate and equip the next generation of cancer researchers.

Each institution will be responsible for overseeing the recruitment and selection of students, and providing a mentored experience in cancer research. The proposed program must be at least 6 weeks in duration and incorporate lectures, enrichment activities, a research practicum, and a cumulative project/final deliverable. Students are expected to participate in actiivites for at least 25 hours per week.

This grant provides $20,000–$24,000 for student stipends, with each student receiving $4,000.
This grant also provides $7,500 to support implementation of the onsite summer program. Smaller host institutions, defined as those without NCI designation but with strong high school outreach and cancer research capacity, may receive an additional $7,500, for a total of up to $15,000 in program support. All proposed uses of funds must be described in the application and detailed in the budget.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
February 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time

We recommend confirming this time in your respective time zone. To do so, please use a time zone converter.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD
Late March 2026

PRE-SUMMER ORIENTATION AND POST-SUMMER MENTORING PROGRAM
Students selected to participate in the summer research program as AACR Cancer Research Education for Success (CARES) High School Scholars are required to participate in both a virtual pre-summer orientation meeting and post-summer virtual mentoring program, both administered by the AACR.

The virtual pre-summer orientation meeting will be scheduled in consultation with the host institution, depending on the start date of the institution's summer research program. The pre-summer orientation meeting will introduce the program, outline expectations, and provide guidance to support a successful experience. As part of the orientation, students will establish LinkedIn profiles, create professional email addresses, and enroll as AACR student members.

In addition, the Program Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD) or the Onsite Program Administrator is expected to attend the pre-summer orientation meeting to ensure alignment with program objectives and to provide appropriate support to the scholars.

Following their summer research experience, students are required to attend the post-summer mentoring program. The program will bring together multiple cohorts of students from the various institutions into a single, unified virtual community. The virtual post-summer mentoring program will be developed, implemented, and administered by the AACR, continue for one year, and provide ongoing

support and guidance to foster their academic and career development.

Host institutions are responsible for obtaining signed parental consent and permission forms for student participation in these activities and submitting them to AACR before the pre-summer orientation. AACR will provide the required forms.

START OF GRANT TERM
May 1, 2026

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Eligible Institutions
Accredited cancer centers and other institutions with cancer research programs in the US are eligible to apply. This includes, but is not limited to, cancer centers as well as programs hosted by not-for-profit private institutions.

Institutions with existing summer high school programs may apply; however, their program design should clearly demonstrate compatibility with the objectives and expectations outlined by the AACR CARES High School Scholars Program.

U.S. government and for-profit entities are not eligible.

Eligible Individuals (Program Director/Principal Investigator)
Program Directors or Principal Investigators (PDs/PIs) are invited to work with their institution to develop an application for support. PDs/PIs must be affiliated full-time with a US-based institution that conducts cancer research.

PDs/PIs must also be AACR members in good standing (dues paid for the current year). Annual dues are not required for early-career researchers interested in Associate membership. Nonmembers interested in this grant opportunity must submit a satisfactory application for AACR membership by the application deadline. Nonmembers can apply for membership online. Please review the Membership Categories for the category that best fits your qualifications. Nonmembers must obtain a statement of support from a nominator who is an Active AACR member in good standing (dues paid for the current year). Nonmembers requiring assistance with finding a nominator may email membership@aacr.org and include your geographical location to receive a list of members in your area to contact for nominations. For more information check the membership FAQ. Members can renew their membership through myAACR . You will need your logon (email address) and password to access the member portal. If you require assistance logging in, please submit a help form. Lapsed members must be members in good standing by the application deadline and should contact the Membership Department at membership@aacr.org for assistance.

Additional Information on Eligibility
Only one application from an institution may be submitted to the AACR Cancer Research Education for Success (CARES) High School Program.

For eligibility questions, please contact Lyngine Calizo, Director, Scientific Conferences and Workshops at lyngine.calizo@aacr.org **before** submitting an application.

SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM ELEMENTS
Proposed program must include a structured curriculum that introduces students to cancer research and provides meaningful, hands-on learning experiences. The curriculum must meet the following **required elements** and will be evaluated based on the **strength, clarity, and alignment** of the proposed activities with the goals of the AACR CARES High School Scholars Program.

Onsite Program Administrator
Each proposed program must designate an Onsite Program Administrator, who will serve as the primary point of contact with the AACR. This individual will be responsible for overseeing the logistics and day-to-day implementation of the summer program. Key responsibilities can include but are not limited to: submitting the grant application, recruiting students, forming and coordinating the Selection Committee, managing the review process, organizing onsite activities, identifying and assigning mentors, and submitting the post-award report.

The Onsite Program Administrator does not need to be an AACR member and may be someone other than the PD/PI listed on the grant.

Duration and Time Commitment
The proposed high school summer program must be at least 6 weeks in duration. Students are expected to participate in activites for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

Curriculum Components
The curriculum must include:
1. **Lectures and Enrichment Activities on Cancer Research and Professional Opportunities** that highlight the wide scope of cancer research and the range professional opportunities within the field. These activities should introduce students to the fundamental types of cancer research across the cancer continuum and offer a broad overview. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to, Introduction to Cancer Research, Why Cancer Research Needs You, and Careers in Cancer Research.

2. **Research Practicum Component** that provides students with hands-on engagement in a research setting, allowing them to actively participate in day-to-day lab activities and scientific inquiry. Each student should undertake an independent, mentored project that is appropriate for their educational level, offering meaningful exposure to the research process while being guided by a mentor.

3. **Signature Areas of Excellence and Institutional/Programmatic Differentiators** that incorporate the institution's research strengths, signature areas of excellence, and unique institutional assets in cancer research to leverage their capacity to engage and inspire high school students. Programs are encouraged to showcase distinctive areas of expertise, which may include, but are not limited to, basic, translational, and clinical cancer research; epidemiology; data and computer science; community engagement; and immuno-oncology.

4. **Cumulative Project/Final Deliverable** such as a scientific poster, brief research paper/essay or abstract, or oral presentation giving students the opportunity to synthesize and communicate their findings to peers, mentors, and the broader research community. Deliverables may be traditional, hypothesis-driven scientific presentations or abstracts; however, students are

encouraged to take a broad approach. Submissions may also highlight experiential learning and personal development gained through the program. Acceptable topics include, but are not limited to:

    a. Participation in science education initiatives
    b. Career development or exploration
    c. Identification and cultivation of mentoring relationships
    d. Growth in professional or research skills
    e. Applied learning in the scientific process (e.g., hypothesis development, research methods, data analysis, and results interpretation)

Student Recruitment and Eligibility

Institutions are responsible for recruiting students to participate in their proposed summer research program.

The following criteria will apply to high school students accepted into the AACR CARES High School Scholars Program:

1. **Age and Grade Level.** Must be at least 16 years old and a rising high school junior or senior by the beginning of the summer internship. Host institutions should describe the age verification process for their program in their application.
2. **Academic Background.** Must have completed general coursework in STEM/STEAM subjects.
3. **Recommendations or Nominations.** Institutions may either collect letters of recommendation for each student from individuals such as teachers, counselors, mentors, religious leaders, nurses, coaches, or employers or accept student nominations through trusted programmatic or institutional pathways, such as after-school programs, school districts, community-based organizations, or other established pipelines. Host institutions should describe their overall process and the information requested from recommenders or nominators.
4. **Interest in STEM.** Institutions should request materials from each student that demonstrate their interest in STEM fields. This could take the form of a personal statement or other formats such as short responses, multimedia presentations, videos, portfolios, or creative projects.
5. **Location.** Students may come from local or non-local high schools. Institutions may determine this criterion and must justify their decision in the application.
6. **Program Participation.** Students must participate in the pre-summer orientation, summer research experience, and the post-summer mentorship program.

Students who are selected and participate in the AACR CARES High School Scholars program are not eligible to participate in future cycles.

Student Selection

The Onsite Program Administrator will coordinate the student application and review process, including assembling the student selection committee. The selection process should prioritize students from under-resourced high schools to help ensure the program reaches those who would benefit most. AACR and the host institution will work in partnership as part of the selection process. To support shared goals and ensure consistency with program standards, the student selection committee should include one AACR representative if possible. AACR will also collaborate with the institution to follow up with and track students after the summer program, maintaining accurate contact information to support long-term engagement and evaluation.

Summer Program Evaluation and Participant Data Reporting
Institutions will be responsible for designing and implementing their own evaluation plans. In addition, to support consistency across sites, AACR will provide a core set of program evaluation questions aligned with the goals of the AACR CARES program. These standardized questions will enable a unified rubric for program review and assessment.

To further strengthen program evaluation and support longitudinal assessment, AACR will also administer student surveys at three key intervals: mid-summer, end-of-summer, and one-year post-program.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS
Applications are evaluated by the AACR CARES High School Scholars Program Steering Committee, composed of distinguished cancer researchers who are recognized as leaders in the field. In addition to their scientific expertise, committee members bring extensive experience in designing and leading educational and training programs for trainees at all levels, including high school, undergraduate, graduate, and medical students, as well as early-career scientists.

The committee will consider the following criteria when reviewing applications and determining funding decisions:
- **Student Recruitment** - Ability to attract a range of high school students, including students with demonstrated STEM interest (e.g., STEM courses and programs) from under-resourced high schools
- **Student Selection Process** – Process in alignment with AACR CARES priorities and goals
- **Program Quality** - Strong curriculum and overall program design.
- **Research Mentorship Capacity** - Sufficient number of qualified cancer research mentors to host students for a summer research experience.
- **Evaluation Plan** - Clear and effective evaluation plan for both program implementation and student outcomes.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY FUNDING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST STATEMENT
A high school summer program which is funded by the tobacco industry is not eligible for any AACR grant. A high school summer program that accepts funding from the tobacco industry for any project during the term of an AACR grant must inform the AACR of such funding, whereupon the AACR grant will be immediately terminated.

Tobacco industry funding is defined for purposes of AACR grant applicants and recipients as money provided or used for all or any of the costs of the high school summer program, including personnel, consumables, equipment, buildings, travel, meetings and conferences, and operating costs for laboratories and offices. It is not defined as money provided or used for meetings or conferences that do not relate to the high school program.

Tobacco industry funding includes: funds from a company that is engaged in or has affiliates engaged in the manufacture of tobacco produced for human use; funds in the name of a tobacco brand, whether or not the brand name is used solely for tobacco products; funds from a body set up by the tobacco industry or by one or more companies engaged in the manufacture of tobacco products.

The following do not constitute tobacco industry funding for the purposes of this policy:

- Legacies from tobacco industry investments (unless the names of a tobacco company or cigarette brand are associated with them);
- Funding from a trust or foundation established with assets related to the tobacco industry but no longer having any connection with the tobacco industry even though it may bear a name that (for historical reasons) is associated with the tobacco industry.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The AACR requires applicants to submit an online application by **1:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time** on **Wednesday, February 25, 2026**, using the OpenWater online submission platform at https://aacr.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/608/home.

In order to submit a complete application, applicants need to enter information directly into the online application platform as well as upload a number of documents. Below are details about information that needs to be entered and the materials that need to be uploaded. The section numbering corresponds with the section numbers in the Application Format below and the application on OpenWater.

Information to be Entered Directly into OpenWater	Application Format Section	OpenWater Section
Program Title and Acknowledgement of Reading the Terms and Conditions	1. Title Page	1) Title Page
Applicant Information	2. Applicant	2) Applicant
Abstract	3. Abstract	3) Abstract

Templates	Application Format Section	OpenWater Section
Program Proposal Template	4.A. Application Documents	4) Application Documents
Applicant's Biographical Sketch Template	4.B. Application Documents	4) Application Documents
Mentors' Biographical Sketch(es) Template	4.C. Application Documents	4) Application Documents
Budget and Budget Justification Template	4.D. Application Documents	4) Application Documents

Additional Materials to be Uploaded	Application Format Section	OpenWater Section
Onsite Program Administrator Professional Background	4.E. Application Documents	4) Application Documents
Statement on the Protection of Minors	4.F. Application Documents	4) Application Documents
Supporting Documentation (if applicable)	4.G. Application Documents	4) Application Documents

Required Signatures	Application Format Section	OpenWater Section
Application Signature Page	5. Signature Page	5) Signature Page

GETTING STARTED IN OPENWATER

To access the application, please click on the "Application" link - https://aacr.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/608/home

Upon clicking the link, you will be prompted to log in to your myAACR account.
- If you are an AACR member and do not remember your username and/or password, please click on **"Need Help? Click here"** below the log in button.
- If you are not an AACR member and do not have an account, please create a new account. This does not register you to become a member of the AACR, but simply allows you access to the myAACR site in order to complete this application.

Application Instructions:

- Complete all required fields in the application form. You may save your progress and return to complete the application at a later time.
- Once your application is finalized and your Signing Official has provided their signature, be sure to log back into the application and **submit** the application as directed in the online form.
- Only complete applications submitted through the online system will be considered. **Paper submissions will not be accepted.**
- All components of the application must be submitted **prior to the application deadline**.

If you have any difficulties accessing the application, please contact Lyngine Calizo, Director, Scientific Conferences and Workshops at lyngine.calizo@aacr.org.

APPLICATION FORMAT
The following information is required to submit a complete application.

1. **TITLE PAGE.** Enter the title of the proposed program.

   Terms and Conditions of the Grant. In order to ensure that the applicant is informed of the terms and conditions of the grant should they be selected as a recipient, applicant must acknowledge that they have read the Terms and Conditions and have shared them with their institution by typing in their name and date in the box provided.

   The terms and conditions of this grant may be modified or amended by the AACR prior to execution of the Grant Agreement. In addition, the grant recipient's institution may only request revisions to sections VII.F.; XI.; XII.F.; and XIII.A. of the Grant Agreement prior to execution. Only in special circumstances will revisions be considered to sections other than those noted above.

2. **APPLICANT.** Enter information for the applicant. Applicants must include their contact information, including e-mail address, phone number, mailing address, and AACR membership information.

3. **ABSTRACT.** Limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces) and must provide a brief summary of the proposed program.

4. **APPLICATION DOCUMENTS.**

   DOWNLOAD TEMPLATES & INSTRUCTIONS. The Program Guidelines and Application Instructions, Terms and Conditions, and all templates can be downloaded from this page. Applicants are required to use the application templates. This application also requires additional attachments for which templates are not provided (Onsite Program Administrator Professional Background, Statement on the Protection of Minors, Supporting Documents [if applicable]).

   Formatting Instructions. Applicants must adhere to the following instructions in completing the templates. **Failure to observe these guidelines may result in the return of the application without review.**

   - Type size. Must use 12-point Times New Roman for the text, and no smaller than 9-point type

for figures, legends, and tables.
- <u>Single-spaced text</u>. Single-spacing is acceptable, and space between paragraphs is recommended.
- <u>Margins</u>. The page margins must be no less than 0.75 inches on each side.
- <u>Page numbering</u>. The Proposal Narrative must be numbered consecutively; do not use section designations such as "3A" or "3B."
- <u>Tips and techniques for inserting images in documents</u>:
  - Reduce the file size of documents with images by "inserting" the image (as opposed to "cutting" and "pasting"). Save graphical images as a JPG or GIF file. Insert the image into the document by selecting "Insert – Picture – From File" from the MS Word menu.
  - Insert only GIF or JPG graphic files as images in your Word document. Other graphical file formats are either very large or difficult to manipulate in the document.
  - Do not insert Quick Time or TIFF objects into your document.
  - Anchor the images that you embed in your document.
  - Once you have anchored the inserted image, you can format text to wrap around the image.
  - Do not edit your images in Word. Use a graphics program.
  - Do not embed your images in tables, text boxes, and other form elements.
  - Do not add annotations over the images in Word. Add annotations to the images in a graphics program.

When a template is provided, the template <u>MUST</u> be used. Prepare and upload the following documents to your application in portable document format (PDF):

A. **Program Proposal.** *Applicants are required to use the template available from the OpenWater website. The information must be presented in this order:*
   I. **Table of Contents (maximum 1 page).** Complete the Table of Contents by indicating the appropriate page numbers for each section.
   II. **Program Title, Overview, and Logic Model (maximum 1 page).** Provide the Program Title, a brief description of the summer program, and a logic model that outlines the program's goals, activities, outputs, and intended outcomes.
   III. **Program Plan (maximum 6 pages, including figures and tables)**. The Table of Contents Page; Program Title, Program Overview, Logic Model Page; and References Page do not count against this page limit. The information must be presented in this order and include these subheadings:
      (a) **Program Structure and Curriculum.** The curriculum should include structured lectures and enrichment activities focused on the breadth of cancer research and career development, offering participants exposure to a broad range of cancer research and professional pathways.

      A hands-on research practicum should be central to the experience, enabling students to engage in meaningful scientific inquiry. Applicants must include the number of available laboratories and a list of potential principal investigators who will serve as research mentors.

      Institutions are encouraged to highlight their signature areas of excellence and unique programmatic features that distinguish their approach.

Finally, the curriculum should culminate in a cumulative project or deliverable, allowing participants to synthesize their learning and showcase their contributions.

Each applicant should provide a structured table outlining their weekly curriculum for the full duration of the summer program. The curriculum should account for at least 25 hours per week of student engagement and should reflect a thoughtful balance of instructional content, hands-on learning as part of a research practicum, and mentoring. Professional development activities, such as career talks, skill-building workshops, lab tours, or networking opportunities, should be clearly integrated.

(b) Timeline. Applicants should include a timeline of their summer program, outlining key milestones such as student recruitment, application submission, selection process, orientation, and program start and end dates.

(c) Student Recruitment, Application Review, and Selection Process. Describe how students will be recruited and selected for the program including the following:

  i. *Student Recruitment.* Applicants should provide a clear description of their student recruitment strategy, detailing how they identify and engage potential student participants. Applicants should describe any existing or developing partnerships with local or other schools. If applicable, they may include letters of support from school district superintendents and/or high schools they are collaborating with. Additionally, applicants should indicate whether they are working with Title I or Title III schools.

  ii. *Application, Criteria for Acceptance, and Student Selection Process.* Applicants should describe the eligibility and selection criteria for students in their program. They should also clearly identify the application materials their program requires, the reasoning behind each requirement, and how they expect these criteria to influence the demographics and characteristics of the students who apply to and are ultimately accepted into their program. In their response, they should explain their rationale for including or excluding specific components such as GPA, letters of recommendation, personal statements, and geographic boundaries.

  Applicants should also outline their student selection process, including the composition of the selection committee, who is involved and the rationale for their inclusion.

  Applicants should explicitly connect their student recruitment, application, and selection processes to the overarching goals of the AACR CARES program. Whenever possible, applicants are encouraged to support their description with preliminary data to illustrate impact and inform future improvements.

  iii. *Strategy to Address Attendance and Attrition.* Applicants should provide a detailed description of their strategy for managing student attendance and mitigating potential dropouts, including a plan for allocating the stipend throughout the summer experience as a component of their attendance management approach.

(d) Program Faculty, Potential Research Mentors, and Staff. Applicants should include a

concise overview of the program's faculty, potential research mentors, and staff, highlighting their qualifications and explaining how their expertise supports the goals and success of the program.

    (e) **Sustainability and Long-Term Strategy.** Applicants should address the long-term sustainability of their proposed program. Specifically, we encourage responses that outline:

        i. Whether the program is intended to continue beyond the initial funding period.

        ii. The strategy for maintaining and growing the program over time.

        iii. Plans for securing future resources, partnerships, or institutional support.

        iv. How the program aligns with broader organizational goals or community needs to ensure its relevance and longevity.

        v. If applicable, how this funding will be used to establish proof of concept or generate early results that can be leveraged to secure larger-scale funding or institutional investment.

    (f) **Assessment and Evaluation**. Applicants should provide clear and effective evaluation plan for both program implementation and student outcomes. Define measurable learning objectives for students, such as acquiring specific STEM skills, conducting research, or completing projects. Describe the methods that will be used to assess student progress, program effectiveness, and overall impact.

  IV. **References (maximum 1 page)**. AACR reference style follows that of the _Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals_. Note that the _Uniform Requirements_ specify that, for articles with more than six authors, the names of the first six authors must be listed, followed by "et al." For articles with six or fewer authors, all authors should be listed.

B. **Applicant's (PI/PD) Biographical Sketch.** Applicants should provide a biosketch for the program PI/PD or the primary individual submitting the institution's application. _Applicants are required to use the template available on the OpenWater website._

C. **Mentors' Biographical Sketch(es) and Other Support.** For each prospective research practicum mentor who will host a student, applicants should provide a brief biosketch and current grant funding information, such as an NIH Biosketch and NIH Other Support page. The biosketch should present clear examples of the types of projects available to high school students during the program, along with a description of the mentor's relevant experience as well as their role in guiding and supporting the student throughout the duration of the summer program. Mentors should also provide a table of any previous high school mentees, their projects, and outcomes, if applicable. Current funding information should include all funding sources, including foundation grants and endowment funding. This information will be used to assess whether the institution has a sufficient number of qualified mentors to host students in their laboratories for the summer program. _Applicants are required to use the template available on the OpenWater website._

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D. **Budget Proposal and Justification.** Applicants should provide a brief budget justification and a detailed budget outlining how the funding allocated for program support will be utilized. Be sure to specify the categories of expenditure (e.g., personnel, materials, travel, etc.) and justify how each aligns with the program's objectives. _Applicants are required to use the template available_

from the OpenWater website.
    a. **Program Support.** $7500. Program Support may be used for salary support or other programmatic needs, including indirect costs.
    b. **Additional Program Support for Smaller Institutions (optional).** $7500. One to two smaller institutions may be awarded an additional $7500 for up to $15,000 total in program support funding. This enhanced support is intended to assist smaller institutions that may require additional resources to develop a high-quality, competitive program. Smaller institutions are defined as those without NCI designation but with strong high school student outreach and cancer research capacity.
    c. **Student Stipends**: $4000 (5-6 students). Please provide the payment structure.

E. **Onsite Program Administrator Professional Background.** If the Onsite Program Administrator is not the same individual as the Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD), applicants should provide a brief summary detailing the Administrator's professional background, relevant experience, and qualifications. While a full biosketch is not required, the provided biosketch template may be used if preferred.

F. **Statement on the Protection of Minors.** Applicants should provide a description of the program's and institution's policies and procedures for the protection of minors, including the age verification process used for high school student participants.

To ensure the safety and integrity of the AACR CARES High School Scholars Program, participating institutions are required to adhere to the following compliance standards:
    a. **Clearances and Background Checks**
    Institutions must certify that all faculty, mentors, and key personnel participating in the AACR CARES High School Scholars Program have successfully completed all required clearances and background checks in accordance with applicable laws and institutional policies.
    b. **Documentation**
    Institutions must maintain documentation verifying these clearances and background checks. AACR reserves the right to request this documentation at any time, and institutions must provide it promptly upon request.
    c. **Institutional Responsibility**
    By submitting the assurance/certification, the institution affirms its responsibility for ensuring compliance with these requirements and acknowledges that failure to comply may result in withdrawal of funding or other corrective actions as determined by the AACR.

If the grant is awarded, institutions must certify that all faculty, mentors, and key personnel participating in the AACR CARES High School Scholars Program have completed the required clearances and background checks for working with minors. Documentation of these clearances must be provided to AACR upon request. The assurance/certification must be made and verified by the signature of the institutional official signing the application or equivalent responsible institutional official.

G. **Supporting Documentation.** Examples of acceptable supporting documentation are letters of

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support from school district superintendents, collaborating high schools, or research practicum mentors. Supporting Documentation should state a commitment to participation in the program or confirm applicant's access to resources. Supporting Documentation should be included only to provide information on the ability to provide for a programmatic need, and should not comment on the applicant, or program environment. Each supporting document is **limited to one page** and must be presented on the appropriate institutional or company letterhead.

There is no limit to the number of supporting documents that may be provided. However, documents that do not satisfactorily meet the description of supporting documentation provided above, or uploads such as tables, charts, articles, and other inappropriate additional materials will be removed.

5. **SIGNATURE PAGE.** To ensure that all required parties have approved the application, electronic signatures from both the Signing Official and the Applicant/Principal Investigator (PI) are mandatory.

   Please note that each submission must be signed electronically by the Applicant and the institution's Signing Official by 1:00 PM (ET) on February 25.

   You will be unable to submit your application until the application is signed by both the applicant and the institution's Signing Official. All required signatures must be obtained through the designated online Signature Pages. These signatures transmitted by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as original signatures. Any individual whose signature is required will be granted access to the Program Guidelines, Terms and Conditions, and application materials.

   On the Signature Page, the applicant must enter the name and email address of their institution's Signing Official. The Signing Official will receive instructions and must review the complete grant application and provide their electronic signature confirming their approval no later than 1 p.m. ET on February 25, 2026.

   Applications that do not include all required signatures will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered.

SUBMITTING COMPLETE APPLICATION

6. **SUBMIT.** Although you will be able to fill out and save your application, you will not be able to submit it until after all signatures have been received. Once your Signing Official has provided their signature, you will be notified by email and asked to log back into the system to finalize and submit your application.

   Once all sections are complete, click on **"Save and Finalize"** and submit your application. An e-mail will be sent to you confirming your submission.

CHANGES TO YOUR APPLICATION

Withdrawal of Application. Please contact us as soon as possible, should you decide to withdraw your application for any reason. Your correspondence must include your name, the grant opportunity to which you applied, the program title, and the reason for withdrawal.

INQUIRIES

Inquiries about the program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application materials can be directed to Lyngine Calizo, Director, Scientific Conferences and Workshops at lyngine.calizo@aacr.org

ABOUT THE AACR

Founded in 1907, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is the world's first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research and its mission to prevent and cure cancer. AACR membership includes more than 58,000 laboratory, translational, and clinical researchers; population scientists; other health care professionals; and patient advocates residing in 141 countries and territories around the world. Presently, 32% of members live outside the United States and 22% of AACR's international members are located in countries with emerging economies. The AACR offers seven categories of membership to support each aspect of our members' professional development and enhancement in cancer research. In support of the professional development of early-career researchers, no annual dues are required for Associate membership. The AACR marshals the full spectrum of expertise of the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, biology, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer by annually convening more than 30 conferences and educational workshops, the largest of which is the AACR Annual Meeting with more than 22,500 attendees. The AACR's Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting attracted over 74,000 attendees. In addition, the AACR publishes ten prestigious, peer-reviewed scientific journals and a magazine for cancer survivors, patients, and their caregivers. The AACR funds meritorious research directly as well as in cooperation with numerous cancer organizations. As the Scientific Partner of Stand Up To Cancer, the AACR provides expert peer review, grants administration, and scientific oversight of team science and individual investigator grants in cancer research that have the potential for near-term patient benefit. The AACR actively communicates with legislators and other policymakers about the value of cancer research and related biomedical science in saving lives from cancer. For more information about the AACR, visit www.AACR.org.