

SEED Grant Program Request for Proposals

Supporting Excellence, Equity, and Discovery for ALS/MND

Key Dates

- **Applications open:** June 21, 2026
- **Application deadline:** September 1, 2026
- **Recipients notified:** Late October/early November 2026
- **Public announcement:** December 2026

Questions: seed@als-mnd.org

Purpose

The SEED (Supporting Excellence, Equity, and Discovery for ALS/MND) Grant Program provides early-stage funding to support capacity-building and field-building efforts that strengthen ALS/MND research infrastructure and readiness in eligible countries, including work on ALS/MND–FTD overlap where directly relevant. For this program, eligible countries are defined according to the [World Bank country income classifications](#) as low-income, lower-middle-income, or upper-middle-income, or as Developing Economies (Global South) according to the [UN classification](#).

ALS/MND affects people across every region of the world. However, many low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income countries remain under-represented in ALS/MND research because the foundations needed for research participation, including diagnosis pathways, data collection, research networks, biobanking, and clinical trial readiness, are still developing.

SEED was created to help strengthen these foundations by supporting practical, locally relevant capacity-building work led by researchers and clinicians working in or with eligible countries.

Program Objectives

SEED is designed to support capacity building as the foundation for stronger participation in ALS/MND research in eligible countries. The program supports practical, regionally relevant work that helps researchers, clinicians, institutions, and networks build the conditions needed to undertake or contribute to future ALS/MND research.

SEED can support capacity building at different stages of the research cycle, from establishing networks and research collaborations to strengthening emerging or developing research capability to preparing for participant recruitment, data collection, sample collection, registry development, biobanking, genetic or epidemiological studies, or future clinical trial readiness.

Because ALS/MND can overlap clinically, genetically, and biologically with FTD, SEED will consider projects that include ALS/MND–FTD overlap when this strengthens ALS/MND research readiness. Projects focused only on FTD are outside the scope of this call.

Supported projects should contribute to sustainable research capacity and help under-represented countries and regions participate in, contribute to, or prepare for global ALS/MND research programs in the short or medium term.

Collaborative projects are encouraged, particularly where they strengthen feasibility, local relevance, regional capacity, or future sustainability. Collaboration may involve multiple institutions, organizations, clinical sites, researchers, clinicians, community partners, or regional networks.

Funding Areas

Stemming from the priority areas identified through the [Global MND Research Roundtable](#), projects focus on practical steps that create, connect, or strengthen the people, systems, partnerships, data pathways, and infrastructure needed for ALS/MND research in the following areas:

- **Genetic and epidemiological studies:** Projects may build the foundation needed to better understand ALS/MND in diverse populations, including future genetic, epidemiological, clinical, or regional studies.
- **Data and registries:** Projects may support the development or strengthening of systems for collecting, managing, and using clinical or research data, including preparation for ALS/MND registries.
- **Biobanking and sample readiness:** Projects may support preparation for future biological sample collection, storage, governance, or use, including workflows, partnerships, training, or infrastructure needed for biobanking.
- **Clinical trial readiness and research infrastructure:** Projects may support early steps that help local teams prepare to participate in or lead future clinical trials or other ALS/MND research studies. This may include training, coordination, site readiness, referral pathways, governance, data systems, or related infrastructure.

Projects may fit more than one area. Applicants should provide clear details on the local or regional gap being addressed, why this step is needed, and how the proposed work will strengthen ALS/MND research readiness. Should any applicant have questions about the relevance of their proposal to the program, please reach out to seed@als-mnd.org.

Out of Scope

SEED is intended to support ALS/MND research readiness and capacity building. Projects focused primarily on fundraising, general advocacy, care support, or access to treatments are not eligible for funding through this program unless they are clearly and directly linked to building ALS/MND research readiness.

Projects focused only on FTD, without a clear ALS/MND connection, are outside the scope of this call. Projects that are not meaningfully connected to ALS/MND research infrastructure, research participation, data collection, registries, biobanking, genetic or epidemiological studies, clinical trial readiness, or related capacity building are outside the scope of this call.

Grant Information

Applicants may request up to US\$50,000 per project. This amount is inclusive of all project costs, including direct costs, indirect costs, institutional overheads, and any applicable taxes or fees. Smaller funding requests are welcome where the amount requested is appropriate for the proposed work.

Projects may run for up to three years with possible no-cost extensions for extenuating circumstances. Applicants should submit focused proposals that reflect the proposed project duration and budget.

Funding should be requested at a level appropriate to the proposed activities. The total amount requested will not be the sole determining factor in funding decisions. Requested funding should be sufficient to achieve the proposed outcomes but should not be excessive.

Eligibility

- The Principal Investigator / lead applicant must be based in an eligible country.
- eligible countries are countries classified by the [World Bank](#) as low-income, lower-middle-income, or upper-middle-income economies or as Developing Economies (Global South) according to the [UN classification](#).
- The Principal Investigator / lead applicant must have the research, clinical, operational, partnership, or other relevant skills and experience needed to lead the proposed project.
- Co-investigators and collaborators may be based in high-income countries, but the project must clearly strengthen ALS/MND research readiness in an eligible country.
- Funds must be spent in an eligible country or used to directly support work that benefits ALS/MND research capacity in an eligible country.
- Applications may come from researchers, clinicians, institutions, organizations, networks, or multi-site teams, where eligible under the final application process.
- Network-based and collaborative applications are encouraged where they are feasible and support the goals of SEED.
- Co-funding from other sources is not required.
- Applicants should identify one administering institution or organization that will receive and manage the grant funds if the project is selected.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted through the SEED application portal. Applicants are encouraged to prepare all required documents before beginning the online submission process and to allow sufficient time to complete the form and upload materials before the deadline.

If applicants experience technical difficulties with submission, they should contact seed@als-mnd.org as soon as possible before the deadline.

The application process is intended to be clear and accessible. Applicants should focus on the local ALS/MND research-readiness gap, what they plan to do, who will carry out the work, what the grant will help them achieve, and how the project will strengthen ALS/MND research infrastructure and readiness.

Detailed instructions for preparing the application are provided below.

Application Guidelines

- **Application deadline:** September 1, 2026
- **Application portal:**
<https://site.pheedloop.com/portal/event/EVEWPACHLYJWN/submission/CALRVQL0M3CUK6F/application#start>

Before submitting, applicants should make sure they have completed all required application materials:

- Project Description PDF (details below)
- Completed SEED Budget (template under “How to Apply” on [the SEED webpage](#))
- CV/Biosketch for the lead applicant / principal investigator (PI) and formal co-investigators (template under “How to Apply” on [the SEED webpage](#))
- Institutional letter from the organization that will administer the grant funds (template under “How to Apply” on [the SEED webpage](#))
- Letters of support from collaborators, partner sites, co-PIs, institutions, or relevant personnel, where applicable (details below)

Applicants should receive confirmation after submitting their application. If technical issues arise, applicants should contact seed@als-mnd.org before the deadline.

What Makes a Strong SEED Application?

SEED is looking for practical, feasible projects that strengthen ALS/MND research infrastructure and readiness in eligible countries.

A strong application should clearly explain the local or regional gap being addressed, why that gap matters, and what realistic progress can be made with SEED funding. Projects should focus on building or strengthening capacity for ALS/MND research, including the practical foundations needed for future participation in research, data collection, registry development, biobanking, genetic or epidemiological studies, and clinical trial readiness.

Applicants should focus on local relevance, feasibility, collaboration where appropriate, and the practical value of the proposed work. SEED welcomes applications from teams at different starting points, including those building early ALS/MND research capacity and those strengthening emerging networks or infrastructure.

Application Format and Length

Please use Arial, 11-point font, with margins of at least 0.5 inches / 1.27 cm.

File Naming

To help with review and administration, applicants should label uploaded files using the lead applicant / PI last name, "SEED," and the document type. Suggested format:

LastName_SEED_DocumentType.pdf

Examples:

- LastName_SEED_ProjectDescription.pdf
- LastName_SEED_BudgetTemplate.xlsx
- LastName_SEED_CVs.pdf
- LastName_SEED_InstitutionalLetter.pdf
- LastName_SEED_LettersOfSupport.pdf

Project Description PDF

Applicants should prepare one Project Description PDF. The PDF should include the following sections and lengths compiled into one PDF document:

- Project title
- Lay summary (maximum 200 words)
- Main project description (maximum 3 pages)
- Significance and potential impact (maximum 1 page)
- Budget Justification (maximum 1 page)
- Bibliography/references (maximum 1 page)

Please review the detailed information below:

- **Project title:** Provide a clear and concise title that describes the proposed project.
- **Lay summary (maximum 200 words):** The lay summary should describe the proposed project in clear, non-technical language that can be understood by a broad audience. It should briefly explain the local or regional need, what the project will do, and what the project hopes to achieve. Applicants should also explain how the project may ultimately benefit people living with ALS/MND by strengthening research readiness, infrastructure, collaboration, diagnosis pathways, data collection, or future research participation.

Applicants should assume that general information about ALS/MND is already available. Please use this section to explain the specific project rather than providing a general definition of ALS/MND.

- **Main project description (maximum 3 pages):** The main project description should include the following sections.
 - **Scientific abstract (max 200 words):** The abstract should provide a concise summary of the proposed project for reviewers. It should summarize the ALS/MND research-readiness gap being addressed, the project aims, the proposed approach or methods, the team or setting, and the expected outcomes. The abstract should also briefly state how the project will strengthen ALS/MND research infrastructure or capacity in the eligible country or countries where the work will take place.

- **Background:** Describe the ALS/MND research-readiness gap the project will address. Please focus on information that directly supports the proposed project. Where possible, include local or regional information and data that explains the need, such as existing gaps, barriers, available resources, or work already underway that this project can build on.
- **Aims:** Describe the overarching goals of the project. The aims should be practical, realistic, and clearly connected to the local or regional need.
- **Methods:** Describe how the project will be carried out. This section should focus on the practical steps the team will take to achieve the aims and how the work will be completed.

The project plan should be focused and realistic. If the project involves recruiting participants, collecting samples, developing a registry, creating a data system, training personnel, or convening partners, applicants should briefly describe the practical steps involved.

If specialist equipment, software, storage, or infrastructure is needed, applicants should explain whether it is already available or will be supported through the grant.

Applicants should consider whether all proposed steps can be completed within the project period and whether the plan is feasible with the requested budget.

- **Timeline and milestones:** Provide a timeline of the main activities in Gantt chart format or as a simple table. Applicants should include key milestones and explain any important timing considerations that affect feasibility. If the project is multi-year, include expected progress for each year.
- **Risks and feasibility:** Briefly describe any major risks that could affect the project and how these risks will be managed. This may include delays in approvals, coordination across sites, recruitment or sample collection challenges, data access, personnel availability, or institutional processes.
- **Ethics, governance, or approvals:** If the project involves people living with ALS/MND, clinical data, biological samples, interviews, surveys, animals, biosafety considerations, or sensitive information, briefly describe any ethics, governance, regulatory, or institutional approvals that may be needed.

Applicants should explain which approvals may be required, whether any are already in progress, the expected timeline, and any known risks of delay. Documentation is not required at the application stage, but required approvals must be in place before funds are released for the relevant activities.

- **Expected outcomes:** Describe what will be achieved by the end of the grant period. Outcomes may include but are not limited to the setup of processes, partnerships, workflows, training activities, data pathways, registry plans, biobanking workflows, ethics pathways, feasibility plans, or other measurable steps toward ALS/MND research readiness.

Applicants should describe what success will look like in practical terms. Examples may include sites engaged, staff trained, partners convened, data fields agreed upon, standard operating procedures drafted, an ethics pathway started, samples stored, people living with ALS/MND identified for future research, or a network structure established.

- **Significance and potential impact (maximum 1 page):** Explain why the project matters and what it could enable next. This section should clearly describe the project's relevance to the ALS/MND community and how the proposed outcomes will strengthen research capacity or capability.

Applicants should describe how the project could support future research participation, data collection, registries, biobanking, genetic or epidemiological studies, clinical trial readiness, future collaborations, or larger-scale funding.

Applicants should also include a brief plan for sustainability or next steps beyond the proposed SEED project. This may include the type of work that could build on the results of the project, potential sources of follow-up or sustainable funding, and whether re-application to the SEED program may be appropriate if future rounds are available.

- **Budget justification (maximum 1 page):** Applicants should include a brief budget justification that explains how the requested funds will support the proposed project.

The budget justification should reflect the costs listed in the completed SEED budget template. It should summarize the main budget categories and explain why the requested costs are needed to carry out the proposed work. Applicants should address direct personnel costs, direct non-personnel costs, and indirect costs, where applicable.

For multi-site or collaborative projects, applicants should briefly describe the role of each participating institution, site, or partner and explain what each will contribute to the proposed work. Applicants do not need to repeat the institutional allocation table in the budget justification, but the description of partner roles should be consistent with the completed SEED budget template.

The total amount requested may not exceed US\$50,000 and must be inclusive of all costs, including direct costs, indirect costs, institutional overheads, and any applicable taxes or fees. Indirect costs, including institutional overheads, may not exceed 5% of the total budget requested.

- **Bibliography/references (maximum 1 page):** Applicants may include references where they are directly relevant to the proposed project. Please use a compact Vancouver-style format. References may use first author et al. and should be numbered in the order they

appear in the application. For reports or websites, include the organization, title, year, and link where available.

Example format: First author et al. Title of article. Journal Name. Year;Volume(Issue):Pages.

Supporting Documents

Applicants should upload the requested supporting documents via the application portal. These documents are submitted in addition to the Project Description PDF.

- **Budget template:** Applicants must submit a completed SEED budget template with the application. The SEED budget template should list requested costs by year and

category, including direct personnel costs, direct non-personnel costs, indirect costs, and the total amount requested.

For multi-site or collaborative projects, applicants should also complete the institutional allocation summary in the budget template to show how funds will be allocated across participating institutions or sites.

The total amount requested may not exceed US\$50,000 and must include all costs, including direct and indirect costs, institutional overheads, and any applicable taxes or fees. Indirect costs, including institutional overheads, may not exceed 5% of the total budget requested. The budget should be realistic and directly connected to the proposed project. Smaller funding requests are welcome if the amount requested is appropriate for the proposed work.

- **Curriculum vitae (PDF):** Applicants should use the provided CV/biosketch template. CVs should be provided for the lead applicant / PI and formal co-investigators. Each CV should be no more than three pages and should focus on experience relevant to the proposed project.

All the CVs of the project investigators should be compiled into one document and uploaded as a single PDF file. The combined PDF should include the lead applicant/PI's CV first, followed by the CVs of any formal co-investigators.

The CV template includes space to describe each person's role in the proposed project. Applicants may also include the project title on each CV, if helpful.

CVs should help reviewers understand whether the team has the research, clinical, operational, or partnership experience needed to complete the proposed work. Collaborators who are not named as formal investigators do not need to submit CVs unless requested in the application portal.

- **Institutional letter:** Applicants should use the provided institutional letter template. The institutional letter should be submitted on the letterhead of the institution or organization that will administer the grant funds. The letter should confirm that the institution or organization is willing to receive and administer the grant funds, support the proposed project, and provide any required financial reporting.

The letter should be signed by an authorized institutional official who can confirm the organization's role in administering the award.

- **Letters of support:** Letters of support (LOS) should be provided where the project depends on collaborators, partner sites, co-PIs, institutions, or relevant personnel who are important to the proposed work. All LOSs should be compiled into one document and uploaded as a single PDF file. The LOS should briefly describe the collaborator's role in the project and confirm their commitment to the proposed work.

Evaluation and Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed, scored, and ranked by an International Peer Review Panel. The panel will include reviewers with expertise in ALS/MND or related neurological diseases and familiarity with the needs in eligible countries. The International Peer Review Panel will provide a recommended funding scenario based on the pool of available funds.

Applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- **Significance and impact:** Reviewers will consider the relevance of the project to ALS/MND research readiness, including ALS/MND–FTD overlap where relevant, and its potential to strengthen research capacity or capability in eligible countries.
- **Project rationale, strategy, and design:** Reviewers will consider the strength of the project rationale, alignment with the objectives of the SEED program, whether the proposed plan is appropriate to achieve the aims, whether the milestones and timeline are feasible given the budget, and whether the design is sufficiently developed for the proposed work.
- **Team capability and project feasibility:** Reviewers will assess whether the PI and team have the relevant experience, skills, partnerships, resources, and collaborations needed to undertake the proposed project.

Additional review considerations include local or regional need, feasibility, capacity-building value, collaboration, leadership and benefit in eligible countries, budget appropriateness, and whether the project can create measurable progress toward ALS/MND research readiness. Reviewers will consider that applicants may come from regions with different levels of existing ALS/MND research infrastructure. A clear, realistic, and locally important proposal is the priority.

Conditions of Award

Funds will be paid to the nominated administering institution. The administering institution will be responsible for receiving and managing the grant funds, supporting the proposed project, and providing any required financial reporting.

The lead applicant / PI and administering institution are responsible for ensuring that the institution can receive international grant funds and complete any internal, legal, financial, banking, tax, or regulatory requirements needed to accept the award. The Alliance may request information needed to process the award but will not be responsible for completing institutional approval processes, setting up local fund-transfer mechanisms, or resolving country- or institution-specific requirements for receiving funds.

For multi-site or collaborative projects, SEED funds will be paid to one administering institution. Any distribution of funds to other participating institutions, sites, or partners must be managed by the applicant team through the administering institution and clearly reflected in the approved budget.

Awardees must inform the Alliance of any significant difficulties, changes in resources, additional funding sources, or changes to the project plan during the grant period.

Significant changes in project aims or budget allocation will require prior approval from the Alliance. No-cost extensions may be considered in extenuating circumstances before the approved project end date and will require prior approval from the Alliance.

Reporting Requirements

Awardees will be required to submit annual progress and financial reports. These reports should summarize project progress, key milestones, any challenges or changes, and use of funds during the reporting period. Subsequent installments, where applicable, may be contingent upon receipt of satisfactory progress and financial reports. A final progress report will be due after the end of the grant period. Reporting deadlines, submission instructions, and report templates will be provided by the Alliance upon acceptance of the award.

Awardees may be asked to support reasonable communications or media activities related to the funded project, its outcomes, and its impact, subject to applicable ethics, privacy, institutional, and consent requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

Applicants should review the SEED Frequently Asked Questions on [the SEED webpage](#) before applying.

For questions not addressed in the FAQ, applicants may contact seed@als-mnd.org.

Contact

For questions about eligibility, project fit, application requirements, or budget preparation, please contact seed@als-mnd.org.