

The Fisher Center Discovery Award (FCDA) Application Guidelines 2027

Environmental Infectious Diseases

Eligible	Full-time Johns Hopkins University faculty or trainees (A faculty member must support fellow, house staff or student proposals)
Budget	Up to \$70,000.00
Number Available	Maximum of four projects will be awarded in March 2027 (Award Start: April 6 – April 30, 2027)
Grant Period	Twelve months, with a possible 12-month no-cost time extension (NCE) upon review/approval
Application Deadline	Friday, November 20, 2026 at 11:59 PM
Application	https://hopkinsinfectiousdiseases.jhmi.edu/research/research-areas/environmental-id/fisher-center-discovery-program-grants/ or via email request to Diane Lanham: dlanham1@jhmi.edu
Submit Via Email	Submit application and supporting documents via email: fishercenter@jhmi.edu
Contact	Email: fishercenter@jhmi.edu ; or Fisher Center Manager, Diane Lanham: dlanham1@jhmi.edu

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Grant Cycle Calendar

Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission Deadline	Monday, October 26, 2026, at 11:59 PM
Application Submission Deadline	Friday, November 20, 2026, 11:59 PM
Anticipated Award Notification	On or before Friday, March 5, 2027
Award Start	Monday, April 6 – Thursday, April 30, 2027 (all awards will be released on or before April 30, 2027)



Dissemination Plan

- University-wide web and email announcements will be sent at least once.
- The timeline, as published, may be modified in response to unforeseen circumstances. Any alterations to the timeline, program, and Request for Application (RFA) will be broadcast through university-wide web and email announcements.
- Letter of Interest (LOI) must be received by 11:59 PM on Monday, October 26, 2026. **LOI is required.**
- All application documents must be received by 11:59 PM on Friday, November 20, 2026. **Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.**
- Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial of the grant request on or before Friday, March 5, 2027.

PLEASE READ:

Successful Fisher Center Discovery Awards must focus on clinical or translational research within at least one of three areas:

- Environmental infectious diseases
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- Post-infectious conditions

Basic laboratory research proposals will not be reviewed.

Program Goals for 2027

The Fisher Center Discovery Award Program (FCDA) is designed to accomplish the following goals with an emphasis on illness that has a substantial effect on health in North America that lacks substantial funding mechanisms by other means:

- To promote research by providing funds to support projects focused on clinical or translational research in one or more of THREE topic areas:

1. *Environmental infectious diseases (ID)*. Environmental ID encompasses disease-causing agents found in ecological environments, such as air, soil, and water, as well as vector-borne or zoonotic diseases, and those present in built environments (homes, hospitals, and communities) that can cause human illness.
 2. *Antimicrobial resistance*
 3. *Post-infectious conditions* (examples include long COVID, persistent symptoms after Lyme disease treatment)
- To provide expertise, resources, and mentorship opportunities for pilot or clinical studies with a relative lack of traditional funding mechanisms.
 - Research aims should focus on potential improvements in understanding human illness, patient outcomes, or public health within North America. International projects may be considered only if relevant to North American healthcare and cannot be readily performed domestically.
 - To promote novel, cross-disciplinary collaborative clinical research among schools at Johns Hopkins University and potentially other non-Johns Hopkins University research partners.
 - To facilitate the careers of early-career researchers (faculty or trainees) by providing funds for projects, joined with a more senior investigator capable of providing hands-on training and mentoring in the science of clinical investigation.

Eligibility

- All full-time faculty members and trainees of Johns Hopkins University, especially junior faculty, are encouraged to apply as the proposal applicant.
- The grant is offered university-wide. We encourage cross-disciplinary and cross-school collaborative research. Any full-time faculty member or trainee from Johns Hopkins University (JHU), including the schools of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Engineering, Business, Arts/Sciences, and Applied Physics Lab, may apply as the proposal applicant.
- Only Johns Hopkins University faculty members with terminal degrees (MD, DO, PhD, PharmD, DVM, or equivalent) may serve as Principal Investigator (PI). Faculty appointments must be in place and cannot be pending at the time of application.
- A faculty member may submit only one FCDA application per grant cycle as the PI; however, a faculty member may be a co-investigator on a different application within the same grant cycle.
- Hopkins-affiliated postdoctoral fellows, house staff, medical school students, PhD students, graduate students, and undergraduate students may submit an FCDA application as the applicant and be included as research team members on FCDA proposals; however, they may not be the PI. If the applicant is not a faculty member, the supporting faculty member PI is required to write a letter indicating review, mentorship responsibility, and approval of the project. Letters of support should be saved as separate Microsoft Word or PDF documents.
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHU SOM) matriculated candidates for the MD degree are encouraged to be included as research team members. All research projects must be carried out at Johns Hopkins with a Johns Hopkins faculty preceptor.
 - The FCDA application must be accompanied by a letter of support from the faculty member, the proposed research preceptor. Letters of support should be saved as separate Microsoft Word or PDF documents. Do not combine multiple letters of support into a single file.
 - The student's performance to date in the JHU SOM will be considered in the award process. Therefore, an official transcript from the JHU SOM may be requested.
- Current and previous awards and grants to the PI, such as NIH grants, do not impact FCDA award eligibility.
- **Previously submitted unfunded Fisher Center Discovery Award applications will not be accepted.**
- If an FCDA grant is awarded, additional awards obtained after the distribution of FCDA funds will not impact FCDA funds.

Regulatory Requirements

- All FCDA projects involving human participants must be approved by a Johns Hopkins Institutional Review Board (IRB). Such projects will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines and policies developed by the [Johns Hopkins Office of Human Subjects Research Compliance Team](#).
- All FCDA projects involving animals must be approved by the [Johns Hopkins University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee](#) (IACUC). Such projects will be carried out using the guidelines and policies developed by the IACUC.
- While advance approval by the IRB and/or IACUC is not a prerequisite for submitting an FCDA application, investigators should be aware of the impact of these and other necessary administrative or regulatory reviews on the project timeline and feasibility. If the project does not receive IRB and/or IACUC approval, FCDA funding will be terminated, and the funds will be forfeited.
- If the proposal is a clinical trial, after the FCDA approval has been announced and the project has received IRB approval, the research must be promptly registered at clinicaltrials.gov.
- Compliance with all federal, state, local and JH regulatory requirements is the responsibility of the PI.

Conflict of Interest

- At the time of application, before FCDA funds are awarded, and throughout the project period, it is the responsibility of the PI and all members of the research team to report any financial or fiduciary interest that might appear to present a conflict of interest to the FCDP (Research Manager, Diane Lanham: dlanham1@jhmi.edu) and the [University Office of Policy Coordination](#), using the JHU disclosure system.
- A conflict of interest does not disqualify investigators from receiving this award but will require the Committee on Outside Interests' review and management of this conflict.
- The failure of any research team member to disclose all outside interests could result in the termination of the FCDA funds and the disallowance of all study costs.

Project Topics

- Proposals must be related to environmental infectious diseases, AMR, and/or post-infectious conditions. FCDA resources will be concentrated on generating clinical or translational research to generate pilot or more comprehensive data.
- Projects covering more than one FCDA topic of interest will be reviewed more favorably.
- To determine whether the proposal's focus meets these criteria, **applicants are required to submit a [FCDA Letter of Intent \(LOI\) 2027](#)** for review/approval by the Fisher Center Director before submitting the complete award application.

[Research Area Concentrations](#)

1. Environmental Infectious Diseases

- Emphasis will be placed on understudied and/or traditionally underfunded infectious diseases caused by environmentally-based pathogens affecting populations in North America. Examples include Lyme disease, West Nile virus, *Vibrio*, *Salmonella*, *Legionella*, atypical mycobacteria, *Nocardia*, *histoplasmosis*, and *toxoplasmosis*.

- Project proposals regarding already well-funded areas (e.g., malaria) and/or not fitting within the theme of environmental infectious diseases (e.g., TB, HIV) will not be considered for awards.
 - Other examples of predominantly human-human spread diseases that will not be funded include Hepatitis B or C, influenza, measles and acute respiratory illnesses such as SARS-CoV-2.
 - Laboratory-based research will only be considered if part of a translational research project.
- Projects may cover a wide range of topics relevant to environmental infectious diseases, including but not limited to these representative areas:

Clinical and Translational Research

- Improving the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of environmental infectious diseases
- Development or evaluation of diagnostic tests or procedures related to environmental infectious diseases
- Characterization of long-term outcomes of environmental infectious diseases
- Comparative effectiveness research
- Modes of environmental infectious disease transmission, including fomites, aerosols, and ventilation
- Use and impact of healthcare informatics or “big data” in environmental infectious disease research
- Impact of ecological and environmental changes on health and disease as it relates to environmental infectious disease

Education

- Effectiveness of training program development for clinicians concerning the diagnosis and treatment of environmental infectious diseases
- Evaluation of community education materials and modes of communication, including print, web-based, and social media, regarding environmental infectious diseases

Animal Research

- Animal modeling of environmental infectious diseases
- Animal-to-human transmission of environmental infectious diseases

Business and Healthcare Management

- The economic impact of environmental infectious diseases
- Impact of health care reform on the diagnosis and treatment of environmental infectious diseases

2. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Successful projects will target innovative scientific investigations focused on combating microbial threats amplified by problematic resistance, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi, that pose significant challenges to public health. Approaches to AMR may include clinical or translational studies of resistance mechanisms, epidemiology and surveillance, diagnostics, therapeutics, antimicrobial stewardship, One Health approaches, drug discovery, and patient outcomes. Proposals should focus on AMR, which impacts health in North America.

3. Post-Infectious Conditions

Successful projects may include clinical or translational studies that seek to understand mechanisms, diagnosis or therapeutics in well-described post-infectious conditions (e.g., Long COVID, post-infectious mononucleosis syndromes, post-treatment Lyme disease).

General Comments for Proposals:

- Recognizing diversity in thought and experience strengthens the research team, and collaborative research within the Johns Hopkins University community is strongly encouraged. Novel collaborations with non-traditional partners in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Whiting School of Engineering, Carey Business School, School of Education, Applied Physics Lab, School of Nursing, Bloomberg School of Public Health, and School of Medicine are favorably viewed.
- Both domestic and international projects may be submitted. However, projects should have clear links that may lead to advancing North American-based health issues or have direct utility in North American healthcare.
 - International or global health-oriented projects may be favorably viewed if they cannot be carried out domestically and potentially impact healthcare within North America. Sound science and its relationship to clinical care remain important determinants for funding.
- Projects with the potential for a broad impact will be more positively reviewed.
- Projects emphasizing the development or use of low-cost diagnostics will be more favorably reviewed.
- Mentoring provided by seasoned investigators is an important component of the FCDA. Projects with an early-career investigator or student as the applicant, thus providing grant-writing experience, will be more favorably reviewed.

During the grant period, any significant deviations from the study plan approved as part of the FCDA Application must be reported to and approved by the Fisher Center Director before implementation.

Monetary Support

- **Requests must be no more than \$70,000.** Requests exceeding \$70,000 will not be reviewed. Requests budgeted lower than the \$70,000 ceiling that appear feasible to support research may score more favorably.
- A realistic budget proportionate to the project's scope must be included in the FCDA application package. The budget must be submitted using the [FCDA Budget Template 2027](#).
- FCDA funds may be used only to support research conducted primarily at Johns Hopkins institutions. Subcontracts with outside institutions or facilities are permitted but should not exceed 50% of the requested FCDA budget ([FCDA Budget Template 2027](#)).
- Salary support for early-career investigators may be incorporated into the FCDA budget ([FCDA Budget Template 2027](#)); however, **there will be no salary support by the FCDA for faculty beyond the level of Associate Professor.**
- FCDA funds may be used for staff salaries or student stipends. **If salary support is requested for an individual, that individual must be listed as a research team member on the [FCDA Application Form 2027](#).**
- **FCDA funds may not be used for tuition costs of undergraduate or graduate student applicants or study team members.**
- **FCDA funds may not be used for health insurance costs of undergraduate or graduate student applicants or study team members.** Health insurance costs are only covered when they are part of fringe benefits.
- **Total salary support should not exceed 50% of the total requested FCDA budget ([FCDA Budget Template 2027](#).)** unless there is strong justification for additional salary support. Justification for exceeding the 50% cap is to be submitted as a written letter (i.e., *Budget Justification Letter*) and included with the application package.
- FCDA funds may be used for travel only which is essential to the conduct of the research study. FCDA funds may not be used for travel to established meetings or conferences.
- FCDA funds may be used for supplies, equipment, and laboratory services to develop an assay, diagnostic test, or device. **Total laboratory supplies, equipment, and service costs should not exceed 50% of the total requested budget ([FCDA Budget Template 2027](#))** unless there is strong justification for additional laboratory supplies,

equipment, and service support. Justification for exceeding the 50% cap will be submitted as a written letter (i.e., *Budget Justification Letter*) and included with the application package.

- During the grant period, any deviation from the allocation of FCDA funds approved as part of the initial FCDA application budget (*FCDA Budget Template 2027*) **must** be reported to and approved by the Fisher Center Director, prior to implementation.
- Funds will be released to the PI as a Johns Hopkins University internal order number or cost center number. All funds must be released on or before April 30, 2027.
- FCDA funding will be for twelve months, with the award start date between April 6 and April 30, 2027.
- At the end of the grant period or at the time of early termination, all unspent FCDA funds **must** be returned to the Fisher Center for Environmental Infectious Diseases. Any remaining funds cannot be used for other purposes or projects within the PI's home department/division at Johns Hopkins.
- If a study PI is no longer employed by Johns Hopkins during the grant period, either a new PI (who is a faculty member of JH) must be appointed, with review and approval by the Fisher Center Director, or the study must be terminated early, and all unspent funds be returned to Fisher Center for Environmental Infectious Disease. A PI may not take any remaining funds to their new place of employment, nor can any remaining funds be used for other purposes or projects within the PI's previous home department/division at Johns Hopkins.

No Cost Extension (NCE)

- After completing the initial twelve months of the FCDA, the PI may apply for a no-cost extension of up to 12 months. This extension allows for the completion of research projects, data analysis, and manuscript preparation.
- Beyond one NCE period, additional NCEs will only be considered under extenuating circumstances; hence, applicants should plan to complete the research project within 24 months.
- All grant extension requests must be submitted six weeks before the end of the initial 12-month project period using the *FCDA Extension Request* form, which can be requested via email: fishercenter@jhmi.edu or from the Fisher Center Research Manager, Diane Lanham, dlanham1@jhmi.edu.

How to Apply

- For the *FCDA Application Form 2027* and documents, go to the Fisher Center's [website](https://hopkinsinfectiousdiseases.jhmi.edu/research/research-areas/environmental-id/fisher-center-discovery-program-grants/) at <https://hopkinsinfectiousdiseases.jhmi.edu/research/research-areas/environmental-id/fisher-center-discovery-program-grants/>. The application and supporting documents may also be requested via email from the Fisher Center Research Manager, Diane Lanham: dlanham1@jhmi.edu
- Applicants are strongly advised to review the *FCDA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2027* document before completing the *FCDA Application Form 2027* and supporting documents.
 - **Completion and submission of *FCDA Letter of Intent (LOI) 2027* is required.**
- Download and complete the *FCDA Application Form 2027* as directed.
- Download and complete the *FCDA Budget Template 2027* as directed.
- Create and/or compile all supporting documents. Explanations for using these documents may be found in the *Application Documents* section (pages 7-10 of this document).
- For formatting requirements, refer to the *Documents Presentation and Formatting* section (pages 10-11 of this document).

- Send the completed [FCDA Application Form 2027](#), protocol, completed [FCDA Budget Template 2027](#), letters of support, biosketches (or CVs, résumés) and other required documents as **separate files**, but attached to a single email, to fishercenter@jhmi.edu before November 20, 2026, 11:59 PM. **Applications received after this date will not be accepted.**
 - If the documents exceed the email file size, send the remaining documents in a second email, indicating in the first email that the remaining documents will be sent separately.
- Any questions or concerns regarding application documents or submission requirements may be directed to the Fisher Center Research Manager, Diane Lanham dlanham1@jhmi.edu.
- **NOTE: The applicant or PI cannot change application documents once submitted.**
- Non-electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Application Documents

To maintain the integrity and formatting of each document, complete and save documents as individual files. Do not combine multiple documents, such as the protocol, biosketch (or CV, résumé), and letters of support into one large file. *Combined documents will be returned to the applicant.*

PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED UNFUNDED FCDA APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

[Letter of Intent \(LOI\) \(REQUIRED\): FCDA Letter of Intent \(LOI\) 2027](#)

- **Submitting an LOI is required** to determine whether the proposed research fits within the FCDA program.
- The FCDA Letter of Intent informs the Fisher Center Scientific Advisory Board that you plan to respond to a request for application (RFA) and acts as a preliminary review tool for the FCDA.
- The FCDA Letter of Intent is a PDF fillable form. It may be found on our website and/or requested via email to the Fisher Center Research Manager, Diane Lanham at dlanham1@jhmi.edu
 - Please note: Some users have reported issues using a Mac/Apple computer to complete the PDF fillable form. Please contact Diane Lanham at dlanham1@jhmi.edu if you have technical difficulties.
- All LOIs must be submitted on the FCDA Letter of Intent form.
- Email the completed FCDA Letter of Intent, the applicant biosketch (or CV, résumé), and the Principal Investigator biosketch (if different from the applicant) as **separate files** but attached to a single email to fishercenter@jhmi.edu.
- Email the Fisher Center Research Manager, Diane Lanham dlanham1@jhmi.edu with any questions or submission issues.
- **The FCDA Letter of Intent submission deadline is Monday, October 26, 2026, at 11:59 PM.**
- The Fisher Center Director will provide feedback for all submitted FCDA Letters of Intent.

[Application Form \(REQUIRED for all submissions\): FCDA Application Form 2027](#)

- The FCDA Application Form is a PDF fillable form. It may be found on our website and/or requested via email to the Fisher Center Research Manager, Diane Lanham dlanham1@jhmi.edu
 - Please note: Some users have reported issues using a Mac/Apple computer to complete the PDF fillable form. Please contact Diane Lanham at dlanham1@jhmi.edu if you have any difficulties using the online PDF fillable form.
- Completion of the [FCDA Application Form 2027](#), in its entirety, is required for all proposals.
- Please indicate a preferred start date between April 6, 2027, and April 30, 2027.
- [FCDA Application Form 2027](#) MUST include a list of all co-investigators on the research team known at the time of application. Listing your collaborators will help reviewers determine if you have a team on board that possesses the

necessary knowledge and experience to complete the research as stated. In addition, when assigning reviewers, we aim to avoid conflicts of interest between the reviewer, the applicant, and the PI.

- **In addition, if you request salary support for an individual on the [FCDA Budget Template 2027](#), that individual must be listed as a research team member on the [FCDA Application Form 2027](#).** This requirement includes study team members, such as research nurses, study coordinators, laboratory personnel, and technicians. If the specific individual is unknown, please list the research team role on the application [example, *Research Coordinator, TBD*].
- **FCDA salary support will not be granted to individuals on the research team beyond the level of Associate Professor.**
- Submit the completed [FCDA Application Form 2027](#) with all other required documents as **separate files**, but attached to a single email to fishercenter@jhmi.edu.

[Research Protocol \(REQUIRED for all submissions\)](#)

- The Protocol is required in addition to the [FCDA Application Form 2027](#). One cannot substitute for the other. Both a [FCDA Application Form 2027](#) and a research protocol are required.
- Submission of a research protocol is required. **If a protocol is not submitted, the proposal will not be reviewed.** The following sections must be included in the submitted protocol:
 - Abstract (250 words maximum suggested length)
 - Introduction and Background (1-page maximum suggested length)
 - Specific Objectives (1-page maximum suggested length)
 - Procedures and Methods (3 pages maximum suggested length)
 - Timeline of study activities (1-page maximum suggested length)
 - Benefits or significance of the research (1-page maximum suggested length)
- A list of citations that support the research protocol must be included as part of the protocol.
- **Please number the pages in the protocol document.**
- The submission date, principal investigator's name, and project title should be in the header in the top right-hand corner of each protocol page
- Create and save the protocol as a Microsoft Word or PDF document.
- Submit the protocol with all other required documents as **separate files** but attached to a single email to fishercenter@jhmi.edu

[Biosketch, Curriculum Vitae, or Résumé \(REQUIRED for all submissions\)](#)

- The submitted application package must include a current biosketch, curriculum vitae (CV), or résumé for the PI, co-investigators and all persons listed on the study team in the [FCDA Application Form 2027](#).
- If salary support is requested for an individual on the [FCDA Budget Template 2027](#), you must provide their biosketch, CV, or résumé. This requirement includes research nurses, study coordinators, laboratory personnel, technicians, and other relevant personnel.
- An [NIH-style biosketch](#) is preferred for all personnel, but a curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé are accepted.
- **Please number the pages in the document.**
- Each biosketch, CV or résumé must be saved as a separate Microsoft Word or PDF document. **Do not combine multiple biosketches, CVs, or résumés into a single file. Combined documents will be returned to the applicant.**
- Submit all individual biosketches, CVs and résumés with all other required documents as **separate files** but attached to a single email to fishercenter@jhmi.edu

[Letters of Support \(optional, but encouraged, with exception\)](#)

- Letters of Support inform FCDP reviewers of the FCDA Applicant's collaborators' support and proposal approval. Letters of support relevant to the project are strongly encouraged from collaborators and research partners within and outside the University.
- Letters of Support are generally optional but are **required** from the Faculty research preceptor (PI) for applicants who are JHU fellows, house staff, medical school students, graduate students, and undergraduate students.
- Limit letters of support to 1-2 pages.
- Each Letter of Support must be saved as an individual, separate Microsoft Word or PDF document. **Do not combine multiple letters of support into a single file. Combined documents will be returned to the applicant.**
- Submit all individual Letters of Support with all other required documents as **separate files**, but attached to a single email to fishercenter@jhmi.edu

Budget (REQUIRED for all submissions): *FCDA Budget Template 2027*

- Please review the *Monetary Support* section (page 6 of this document) before completing the *FCDA Budget Template 2027*. Total funding requests are limited to \$70,000.
- All proposals must be accompanied by a completed *FCDA Budget Template 2027*. Remember to include the *Project Title, PI, and Submission Date* at the top of the template.
- To gauge if the proposed budget corresponds to the project protocol and the costs are reasonable, **specific line items are to be listed on the budget.**
- On the *FCDA Budget Template 2027*, do not delete rows or categories. Additional rows may be added within existing categories. Do not add new categories.
- The budget must include costs related to personnel, patient care, animal care, laboratory, travel, and other study-related expenses. If funds are not requested for a particular category, enter a zero in the total column.
 - Under the Personnel section, only those persons are listed as slated to receive salary support from the FCDA funding. If a person is on the research team but will not receive salary support, then do not list that person on the *FCDA Budget Template 2027*.
 - **FCDA salary support will not be granted to individuals on the research team beyond the level of Associate Professor.**
 - If salary support is requested for an individual, that individual must be listed as a research team member on the FCDA Application 2027.
 - List the person's name and role on the research team; if unknown at the time of application, TBD (to be determined) is acceptable [example, *Research Coordinator, TBD*].
 - *Direct Patient Care and Remuneration* are defined as direct patient or study participant care and participant remuneration items. Please **provide specifics** regarding costing allocations. For example, Blood collection kit (10 at \$10/kit). In the total column, enter \$100.
 - *Animal Care* is defined as items related to the purchase and care of animals. Please **provide specifics** regarding costing allocations. For example, Care of Mice (\$0.64 per cage/day x 15 cages x 10 days). In the total column, enter \$96.
 - *Laboratory Supplies, Equipment, and Services* are defined as items necessary to complete the research but are not related to direct patient care, such as lab supplies and testing. Please **provide specifics** regarding costing allocations. For example, Pipettes (4 boxes, \$20/box). In the total column, enter \$80; 30 ml 2% EDTA solution (2 bottles, \$80/bottle), \$160 total; PCR testing (50 tests, \$100/test), \$5000 total.
 - *Travel* is defined as travel expenses related to the conduct of the research. **Funds may not be used for travel to established meetings or conferences.** Please **provide specifics** regarding costing allocations. For example, an airline round trip to California to collect samples (1 RT flight at \$300.00) costs \$300.00 in total.

- *Other Expenses* are defined as expenses that do not fit into the other categories. Applicants are encouraged to include publication fees, IRB fees, biostatistical consultation, and data analysis fees in their budgets under Other Expenses. Applicants are encouraged to consider and include costs related to patent application fees (if applicable) and ICTR Research staff support or resource fees (if applicable). Please **provide specifics** regarding costing allocations. Example: Dell Laptop Computer will record study results in the field (1 at \$1500.00), \$1500.00 total.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to direct budget questions to the Fisher Center Research Manager, Diane Lanham (dlanham1@jhmi.edu), before submission of the application.
- Complete FCDA Budget Template as a Microsoft Excel document. **Do not save the budget as a PDF document.**
- Submit completed *FCDA Budget Template 2027* with all other required documents as **separate files**, but attached to a single email to fishercenter@jhmi.edu
- During the grant period, any significant deviations to the submitted and approved *FCDA Budget Template 2027* **must** be reported to the Fisher Center Research Manager (dlanham1@jhmi.edu) and approved by the Fisher Center Director, prior to implementation.

Documents Presentation and Formatting

Software

- Application documents must be submitted using their original software format (Microsoft Excel for the budget, Microsoft Word or PDF for all other documents). Handwritten applications will not be accepted.

Language

- All applications must be submitted in standard American English
- If terms are not universally known, spell out the term the first time it is used and note the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses. The abbreviation may be used after that.

Font

- Arial or Calibri, 11-12 points, black type.
- A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters
- Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch
- Type may be no more than six lines per inch
- Shadings or colors may not be used in text portions of the FCDA Application Form.

Paper Size and Page Layout

- Use standard-size (8.5" X 11") sheets of paper
- Use 1-inch margins on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages
- Standard, single-column format for the text
- Single-sided and single-spaced
- The consecutive number of pages throughout the application is in the footer, centered on each page. Do not use suffixes (e.g., 1a, 1b)
- Do not include unnumbered pages
- Do not include additional blank pages

Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes/Endnotes

- A smaller type size is acceptable, but it must be in black ink, be readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirement. Illegible documents will be returned to the applicant.
- Footnotes or endnotes are to be consecutively numbered.

Photographs and Images

- All photographs, graphs and other materials must be embedded directly within the FCDA Application Form.
- Images may be included if they are critical to the application's content.

Post-Submission of Application Materials

- Additional or revised application materials will only be accepted after application submission if they result from unforeseen administrative or technical issues, or if the Fisher Center Research Manager or Scientific Advisory Board requests revisions or clarification.
- Acceptable post-submission materials include:
 - Revised budget due to new funding or proposed changes to the allocation of funding
 - CVs/Biosketches/Resumes of new study team members resulting from a change in personnel
 - Letters of support or collaboration resulting from a change in personnel
 - Adjustments resulting from natural disasters
 - News of an article accepted for publication
 - Specific documents requested by the Fisher Center Advisory Board or the Fisher Center Research Manager

Review Process

- Only complete applications received by the deadline will be reviewed. **The application deadline is Friday, November 20, 2026 at 11:59 PM. Application documents received after this deadline will not be accepted.**
- Upon submission, each application will be assigned an application number. This number will be used in all future FCDA communication with the applicant/PI and will also serve as the grant number should the proposal be funded.
- The review process is as follows:
 - The Fisher Center Research Manager will review the submitted FCDA application package for completeness and compliance with the abovementioned grant process. Document errors will be referred back to the applicant for correction.
 - FCDA application materials will be assigned and distributed to individual Fisher Center Scientific Advisory Board Faculty reviewers (primary and secondary reviewers) with expertise in a field similar to the proposed research topic.
 - The Fisher Center Scientific Advisory Board is comprised of JHU senior faculty members who will review and score FCDA applications on a 1-5 scale (1 Exceptional...5 Poor) in five areas:
 - Relevance to FCDA stated goals of research: environmental infectious disease, AMR or post-infectious conditions
 - Scientific impact, novelty, and merit in the experimental design
 - Feasibility of project completion within twelve months
 - Collaboration between investigators and JHU schools
 - Potential for development of research and/or clinical leadership

- Reviewers will submit written feedback regarding the FCDA applications they have scored to the Fisher Center Research Manager. The Fisher Center Research Manager will compile comments and preliminary scores for each application.
- The Fisher Center Advisory Board members will convene to discuss all applications, assign a final score, and discuss funding awards.
- The Fisher Center Director will finalize the FCDA, including funding. All FCDA funding decisions are final.
- An additional review will not be permitted.
- FCDA applicants will be notified in writing of acceptance or rejection of the grant proposal on or before March 5, 2027. Written feedback will be provided to all applicants regardless of the funding decision.
- Revisions after a rejection will not be permitted.
- The PI and a representative of the FCDP will sign a written agreement outlining the terms of the award. The start and end dates of the twelve-month funding period will be included in the FCDA written agreement. **The start date of awards will be between April 6 and April 30, 2027.**
- Previously awarded FCDP/FCDA PIs may apply for a new FCDA or FCIA for a significantly revised or different research project after the end date of the original research project.
- **Previously submitted unfunded applications will not be considered or reviewed.** Applicants with rejected proposals are encouraged to utilize Fisher Center Scientific Advisory Board feedback. Unsuccessful applicants may apply for FCDP awards (either FCDA or FCIA) in consecutive/future rounds **only with substantially different proposals.**

Feedback

- As part of the mentoring objective, the Fisher Center considers feedback to applicants after peer review essential.
- All applicants will receive written feedback via the *FCDA Review Summary Statement*.
- The meaning of numeric designations will be indicated in the *FCDA Review Summary Statement*.
- Denied applicants may meet with the Fisher Center Director to discuss the application review outcome and obtain guidance for future applications.

Post Award Requirements

- **Any substantive changes to the original approved FCDA research plan or budget *must* be discussed with and submitted in writing to the Fisher Center prior to implementation. Failure to do so will result in the termination of the project and forfeiture of the remaining funds.** Protocol changes must be submitted to the responsible Johns Hopkins University regulatory body.
- The Fisher Center may suggest revisions to the application, protocol, research plan, budget, IRB application, or other pre- or post-award study documents.

Oral Presentations

- The forum for FCDA oral presentations is the Fisher Center Research and Clinical Research Topics Meetings, held on Tuesdays at 12:00 PM. Fisher Center staff will contact the PI and applicant to coordinate scheduling and discuss details.
- Oral presentations may occur virtually or in a hybrid format (in-person at PCTB Fisher Center Conference room 212) and involve ~45-50 minute PowerPoint presentation with ~10 min for Q&A. Shorter presentations are permitted.

- Attendance at Fisher Center Research and Clinical Research Topics Meetings is open to faculty, fellows, students and staff of any department or division at Johns Hopkins, as well as special guests invited by the Fisher Center Research Manager/Director (ex., donors, donor staff, members of outside organizations such as MDH)
- **Initial Presentation:** Within three months of the release of funds, FCDA-funded PIs or their designees will orally present a preliminary overview of the research project. The preliminary presentation allows for early project improvement feedback from more senior investigators.
 - Failure to participate in the initial oral presentation as described above will result in termination of the project and forfeiture of remaining funds and/or may negatively impact future funding decisions.
- **Final Presentation:** Near the completion of the 12-month award or extension period, FCDA-funded PIs or their designees will orally present a comprehensive review of the research project.
 - Failure to participate in the final oral presentations described above will result in termination of the project and forfeiture of any remaining funds and/or may negatively impact future funding decisions.

Written Reports

- **Interim Report:** Within six months of the release of funds, FCDA-funded PIs or their designees are required to submit a written progress report using the *FCDA Interim Report* form. Interim Reports must also include a *SAP Non-sponsored YTD Transactional Detail Report*, which consists of all revenues and expenditures, G/L breakdown, and all rows.
 - The *FCDA Interim Report* template form will be emailed to the PI or their designee approximately six weeks before the due date. **Failure of the PI to submit the FCDA Interim Report as specified will result in the termination of the project and forfeiture of remaining funds and/or may negatively impact future funding.**
 - Requirements for submission of the *SAP Non-sponsored YTD Transactional Detail Report*, extrapolated into MS Excel, will be provided on the *FCDA Interim Report* template form. The *SAP Non-sponsored YTD Transactional Detail Report* must be submitted to the Fisher Center Research Manager along with the *FCDA Interim Report*. **Failure to submit the Financial Report as specified will result in the termination of the project and forfeiture of remaining funds and/or may negatively impact future funding.**
- **Final Report:** Within 90 days after completing the 12-month award or NCE extension period (i.e., study end date), FCDA-funded PIs or their designees are required to submit a written comprehensive review of the research project using the *FCDA Final Report* form. As part of the Final Report submission, PIs or their financial management designees are also required to include a *SAP Non-sponsored YTD Transactional Detail Report* that covers all fiscal years from the fund release date through the date of the final written report. The report includes all revenues and expenditures, G/L breakdown, and all rows.
 - The *FCDA Final Report* template form will be emailed to the PI or their designee approximately six weeks before the due date. **Failure of the PI to submit the FCDA Final Report as specified may negatively impact future funding.**
 - Requirements for submission of the *SAP Non-sponsored YTD Transactional Detail Report*, extrapolated into MS Excel, will be provided on the *FCDA Final Report* template form. The *SAP Non-sponsored YTD Transactional Detail Report* must be submitted to the Fisher Center Research Manager along with the *FCDA Final Report*. **Failure to submit the Financial Report as specified may negatively impact future funding.**

Annual Reports

- For seven years after the completion of the initial award, the FCDA-funded PI or their designee will be asked to submit a brief update of the project related to impact and subsequent related grants, awards, and publications using the *FCDA Annual Award Follow-Up* form.

- Information from all FCDA-funded projects is compiled into an annual report presented to the Fisher Center Discovery Program Advisory Board and donors to assess return on investment program goals and document post-FCDA funding awards and publication metrics. These metrics are used for donor funding decisions.
- **Failure to submit annual reports as described above may negatively impact future funding decisions.**

Publication Requirements

- Publication of FCDA-funded research is strongly encouraged.
- **All publications resulting from research using FCDA resources are required to cite the FCDA as a contributing source of support.** When publishing articles related to this research, the following language is highly recommended:
This publication was made possible by support from the Sherrilyn and Ken Fisher Center for Environmental Infectious Diseases, Division of Infectious Diseases of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Its contents are solely the authors' responsibility and do not necessarily represent the official view of the Fisher Center or Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Contact Information

- The Fisher Center encourages applicants to communicate with our staff concerning our programs, resources, and granting process. We are here to help.
- **Contact Us**
The Sherrilyn and Ken Fisher Center for Environmental Infectious Diseases
Phone 443-287-4800 (ask for Diane Lanham, Research Manager)
Fax 410-502-7029
Email fishercenter@jhmi.edu or dlanham1@jhmi.edu (preferred contact method)
Website <https://hopkinsinfectiousdiseases.jhmi.edu/research/research-areas/environmental-id/fisher-center-discovery-program-grants/>