

EyeFind Research Grant Program

The use of human eye tissue in experiments can be critical to effectively addressing a researcher's scientific question, particularly those involving uniquely human ocular disease. Many preliminary research projects do not have sufficient funding to cover the cost of procuring a sufficient supply of human eye tissue to carry out initial experiments.



EyeFind Research Grants provide supplemental funding in grants of up to \$5,000 per project to researchers to procure

human eye tissue samples from eye banks for use in a well-conceived research project. The applicant must demonstrate financial need related to procuring and using human eye tissue to continue their research.

Use of funds

Funds must be used to underwrite the costs of procuring human eye tissue for the research project outlined in the applicant's EyeFind Research Grant application. Funds may not be used to purchase equipment or to support salary. Funds will be paid directly to the researcher's nonprofit or academic research center. No overhead fees can be assessed by the recipient's institution. Approved funds will be sent to the grantee, not to the eye bank.

Eligibility

Eligibility criteria will include the following:

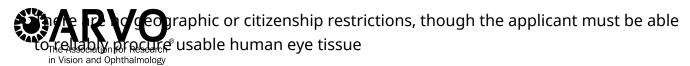
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Application process

The application will include submission of:

- Research project description, including:
 - Project introduction and justification of use of human tissue (200 words max)
 - Experimental plan (200 words max)
 - Anticipated results and impact (200 words max)
- Letter of support from an institutional official certifying the lack of funding for human eye tissue, affirming space is available to conduct the research project, and affirming the applicant is qualified to conduct the research according to institutional guidelines.
- Letter of commitment from the supplying eye bank certifying that the eye bank has the capacity to fulfill the specific needs of the investigator. The letter should affirm the number and type of eye tissues, their availability, the cost of the tissue and shipping details. For example, "Eyebank has capacity to provide two glaucomatous eyes per month to the researcher at \$1,500/pair." A sample letter (/globalassets/arvo/awardsand-grants/sample---eye-bank-letter-of-commitment.docx) is available as a template, if needed.
- NIH biosketch or equivalent
- Affirmations of adherence to all relevant ARVO policies, including compliance with local Institutional Review Board (IRB) requirements (proof of IRB exemption required)

Applicants may submit one application per person per calendar year.

Application period

The EyeFind Research Grant program will launch in a pilot phase in January 2020. Applications will be accepted up to May 31. The first round of grants are expected to be announced by the end of June 2020.

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Sponsorship

The <u>EyeFind tool (/journals-and-publications/EyeFind/)</u> and EyeFind Research Grants stand to benefit the entire eye and vision research community. The ARVO Foundation is grateful to our partners who have committeed to helping researchers access the tissue samples they need. *To inquire about partnership opportunities, please contact Amanda Johnson, Director of Development, at <u>ajohnson@arvo.org</u> (mailto:ajohnson@arvo.org).*

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Free inherited retinal disease eye tissue

The Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute, in collaboration with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, has a collection of over 900 eye globes from donors diagnosed with an inherited retinal degeneration that are available for qualified retina research at no cost.

(/link/9fd33c1f0ffe45ef83b4166cff2c4218.aspx#freetissue)

EyeFind Research Grant application

Applications will be accepted until May 31.

(https://arvo.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/148/home)

About EyeFind

EyeFind assists researchers in finding local and national eye banks that provide services and eye tissues that meet their research needs.

(/journals-and-publications/EyeFind/)

EyeFind tool

Visit the online search tool to find eye tissue

(/journals-and-publications/eyefind-search/)

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