



OAR Sets New Application Process for 2022 Applied Research Competition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – Since 2002, the Organization for Autism Research (OAR) has hosted the Applied Research Competition to fund pilot research studies that have the potential to improve the lives of families and autistic individuals today. Since the program's inception, applicants have been invited to submit in-depth pre-proposals during the open application period. During the summer, OAR's Scientific Council met over a series of virtual meetings to re-examine and improve the program. Starting on December 3, 2021, applicants will now be invited to submit letters of intent (LOI) instead of pre-proposal applications.

OAR believes this modification to the competition process will simplify the initial application process for applicants and reviewers alike. This is a welcome change, given that the Applied Research Competition, OAR's most competitive program, receives 140 applications annually on average with an applicant success rate of 3-5%. Applicants with successful LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals. The full proposal application process for the second round remains the same.

Detailed Changes

- Letter of Intent – The LOI includes the summary statement, statement of need, specific aims, project activities, statement of impact, biographical information, and statement of innovation. The LOI must not exceed two (2) pages. OAR provides a template word document that applicants fill out and upload to the online application system.
- References – Applicants may list up to 15 references supporting the project plans. References do not count toward the page limit.
- Submission Limits – Applicants are restricted to submitting only one application per cycle.

The application timeline remains the same as in years past. The open application period begins on December 3, 2021. Applications will be accepted through March 21, 2022 at 11:59 PM EST. All applicants will be notified of the results and, if successful, will be invited to submit full proposals by mid-June. OAR's Scientific Council will convene in November to review up to 20 finalists and select up to eight awardees.

The purpose of the program is to support innovative pilot studies that have the potential to improve the quality of life of families and individuals impacted by autism today. This program awards up to \$40,000 to researchers and professionals conducting applied autism research. OAR has invested more than \$4.4 million in over 200 applied research studies. For more information about the program and new application process, applicants are encouraged to review the Request for Applications (RFA) and Overview of Application Process (OAP) listed on [OAR's website](#).

For questions or comments, please contact Kimberly Ha, Research and Programs Director at (703) 243-9762 or e-mail kha@researchautism.org.

About OAR: The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national non-profit organization formed and led by relatives of children and adults with autism. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions. Learn more at their website: www.researchautism.org.

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