



## Request for Proposals Osteopathic Medicine Community Enhancing Grants

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association Foundation ([POMA Foundation](#)) is the charitable arm of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. The Foundation exists to provide continuing medical education; and to promote public health through collection and dissemination of osteopathic medical knowledge. Through its grantmaking, the Foundation seeks to further clinical, educational, or community service approaches, and spark innovative methods that embody the osteopathic philosophy. Grant activities will benefit patients, osteopathic physicians, and their communities.

### 1. Overview

Osteopathic medicine is based on a holistic view of each patient as a whole person, unifying body, mind, and spirit. The Foundation's grantmaking will be informed by the distinct qualities of osteopathic practice and principles, and the scholarly work that it generates. The Foundation will consider applications in the areas of osteopathic education; quality improvement; or community service. All projects funded under this initiative will be consistent with the [principles of osteopathic medicine](#):

- The body is a unit; the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.
- The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing, and health maintenance.
- Structure and function are reciprocally interrelated.
- Rational treatment is based upon an understanding of the basic principles of body unity, self-regulation, and the interrelationship of structure and function.

The Foundation recognizes that the healthcare environment is in a time of great transition and flux. Part of osteopathic medicine's holistic approach includes a long history of and commitment to making a difference in the lives of their patients and the communities where they live and work. This grant program is driven by that commitment to the profession and to the public.

### 2. Eligibility Criteria

Applicant organizations must be:

- Tax exempt under section **501(c)(3)** of the Internal Revenue Code or educational institutions  
*Applications through a nonprofit fiscal sponsor are permitted, with an appropriate memorandum of agreement.*
- Not a private foundation as defined in IRC section 509 (a).
- Located in Pennsylvania, or for a project with specific applicability to the state.

Application through a nonprofit fiscal sponsor is permitted, with an appropriate memorandum of agreement. A fiscal sponsor is a 501(c)(3) organization that agrees to be the grantee on your behalf, and to administer the grant as proposed if it is funded. If you have a nonprofit fiscal sponsor, you will apply as a nonprofit and furnish documentation about that organization's nonprofit status. If the applicant is not a 501c3 nonprofit, grant funds awarded will be considered taxable.

*Note: At this time, the Foundation cannot award grants to organizations that do not fit these eligibility criteria.*

### 3. Selection Criteria

The following is a list of criteria that will be considered in the review process:

- Project will create a lasting impact on communities in Pennsylvania
- Project addresses a pressing need or timely issue OR presents a unique approach to addressing an “every day,” ongoing challenge
- Project is consistent with the basic principles of osteopathic medicine
- Project has potential for broader impact or replication

Using an online platform linked below, applicants will be expected to describe the problem or situation to be addressed, their approach, and expected outcomes of the work. Brief biographies of the principal project leaders will be part of the application. In addition, applicants will be asked to attach a project budget, a listing of other sources of funds that will be used by the project, and financial statements for the applicant organization (a project budget, an organizational budget, most recent audited financials or alternative financials where appropriate, and for fiscal sponsors, an IRS determination letter).

### 4. Grant Program and Size

The Foundation expects to award between three and five grants, based on the number of quality submissions received. Grants will likely fall in the range of \$15,000 and \$50,000. The Foundation will consider multi-year projects. For projects falling under this threshold, the Foundation has the Bright Ideas grant program, which opens Winter 2026.

### 5. Evaluation and Monitoring

Projects should have a plan for evaluation that defines desired short- and long-term outcomes and steps to measure those outcomes. In addition, projects should incorporate processes for feedback and assessment of ongoing work that will allow for mid-course corrections if necessary. Grantees are expected to meet requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports, as well as potential periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. Awarded multi-year projects will be required to submit progress reports on an annual basis.

### 6. Use of Grant Funds

According to the Foundation’s policy, grant funds may not be used for any of the following:

- Unrestricted general operating expenses
- Indirect or overhead costs, unrelated to the grant project
- Ongoing programs or existing staff, unless their time is being redirected to a new project
- Major capital nor basic infrastructure central to an organization’s mission (however, POMAF will consider funding investment in innovative equipment directly tied to filling a gap)
- Fundraising activities or events (e.g. annual fund drives, phone solicitations, benefit tickets)
- Activities related to litigation, arbitration or other dispute resolution
- Tuition or fees for medical education at the undergraduate or residency training levels
- Memberships to professional associations
- Endowment funds
- Religious purposes
- Lobbying or political activities
- Any activity inconsistent with the Foundation’s status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

Grant funds may be used for the following expenses at reasonable and appropriate levels: new project staff salaries and benefits, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel and other direct project expenses. Please note, for established programs, grant funds may

support the development of a new product, service, or opportunity for program recipients or beneficiaries. However, funds may **not** be used for the salaries or benefits of current staff, **unless** their time is being redirected to a new project.

## **7. Proposal Review and Timetable**

This timetable provides key dates and deadlines for the span of application process.

RFP Release Date:	August 12th, 2025
Proposals Due:	September 9th, 2025
Funding Decisions:	November 9, 2025
Project Start Date:	January 1, 2026

## **8. How to Apply**

To apply for a grant, register and login to the Foundation's [online application system](#). Proposals must be completed and submitted with all required responses and attachments in order to be considered for funding in this grant cycle. Please use the access code **POMAF** to access the application.

## **9. Program Contact**

Questions about this RFP or the Foundation in general should be addressed to Rachel Rifkin ([rrifkin@gmafoundations.com](mailto:rrifkin@gmafoundations.com)). Technical questions about the online application should be directed to Skylar Brown ([sbrown@gmafoundations.com](mailto:sbrown@gmafoundations.com)).

## **10. General Conditions**

To be considered, an applicant is required to submit a complete application along with all required supporting information by the date proposals are due to be received by the Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right to waive or extend any deadline for submission in its sole discretion without notice. Further, the Foundation reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals submitted for any reason or no reason. The applicant is solely responsible for the cost of preparation of the proposal. *All applicant organizations must adhere to strict standards of non-discrimination.*