



CORPORATE & FOUNDATION RELATIONS FUNDING DIGEST - MAY 2026

Note on the "Process/Access" column: Opportunities labeled "By Invitation Only" often require engagement with company/foundation stakeholders prior to submitting an application or letter of inquiry. The NIUF Corporate & Foundation Relations staff can assist faculty/staff with this process. Moreover, while opportunities marked "Open Call or RFP" do not necessarily require prior engagement, connecting with company/foundation stakeholders prior to an application is a best practice in most cases. Please contact us at CFR@niu.edu for assistance.

Newly Added Funding Opportunities

Foundation/Company	Opportunity	Process/Access	Deadline(s)	Est. Amount	Description	Aligning Colleges, Units, Divisions
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	Exemplary Pathways to STEM Graduate Education	Open Call or RFP	6/1/2026	Up to \$500,000	Grantmaking in this program aims to support new and established partnerships between STEM undergraduate and graduate programs nationwide that seek to identify and remove longstanding, systemic barriers to STEM master's and doctoral degrees with attention to undergraduate students enrolled in nonprofit public and private four-year broad access institutions.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	Research Grants	Open Call or RFP	7/10/2026	Up to \$50,000	ASPCA research grants fund high-quality research across a variety of disciplines and methods that has clear potential to benefit animals, either directly or through effecting systems-level change. This year it is soliciting proposals in the following research areas: Psychological Trauma Research; Applied Behavior Research; Access to Veterinary Care Research; Cruelty Research; Farm Animal Welfare Research; and Shelter Research.	CLAS
Anonymous Private Company (contact CFR@niu.edu to submit through Halo)	Sponsored Research	Corporate Partnership	5/29/2026	\$15,000 - \$100,000	Repairing and strengthening protein fibers: We are looking for innovative bioactive ingredients, including peptides and functional small molecules, capable of interacting with keratin fibers to prevent, reduce, or repair structural damage.	CEET; CLAS
Anonymous Private Company (contact CFR@niu.edu to submit through Halo)	Sponsored Research	Corporate Partnership	5/29/2026	\$15,000 - \$100,000	Durable bonding technologies for bio-based fibers: We are looking for technologies that form long-lasting covalent or semi-permanent interactions within or on keratin fibers to deliver durable benefits, resistance to wash out, and visible long term improvements. We welcome solutions from adjacent industries such as textiles, biomaterials, coatings, and polymer science.	CEET; CLAS

Bayer Crop Science (<i>contact CFR@niu.edu to submit through Halo</i>)	Sponsored Research	Corporate Partnership	5/29/2026	Typical range from \$25K-\$200K	Epigenetic modulation of plant traits: We are looking for platforms capable of modulating plant traits through targeted epigenetic modifications, without altering the underlying DNA sequence. We are open to approaches that may be temporal or heritable, qualitative or quantitative, and that can be applied across various genes associated with different traits where underlying genetic factors and targets are already known.	CEET; CLAS
Carnegie Corporation of New York	Grants to Support Reducing Nuclear Dangers	Open Call or RFP	5/29/2026	\$50,000 - \$1,000,000	Applicants must address at least one of the following focus areas: Escalation, Crisis Instability, and Multi-Domain Risk; Verification, Monitoring, and Risk Transparency; or Governance, Institutional Capacity, and Expert Talent.	CLAS
Coefficient Giving	Funding for work that builds capacity to address risks from transformative AI	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not disclosed	Funding work to build capacity in a number of different fields which may be important for navigating transformative AI, including (but very much not limited to) technical alignment research, model evaluation and forecasting, AI governance and policy, information security, and research on the economics of AI.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS; COB
March of Dimes	Discovery Research Grants	Open Call or RFP	9/8/2026 (Application opens 6/8/26)	\$ 200,000	These grants are awarded to seasoned researchers seeking to make consequential translational discoveries that will drastically alter clinical care for pregnant people and babies, whether through evidence-based prevention, diagnosis, or intervention. Areas of research include Spontaneous preterm birth; and Cardiovascular health conditions developed during pregnancy or exacerbated during pregnancy.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS
Michelson Medical Research Foundation	Michelson Prizes: Next Generation Grants	Open Call or RFP	6/22/2026	\$150,000	The Michelson Prizes is looking for research proposals on human immunology and vaccine research. The committee will look for research that aims to tackle the current roadblocks to human vaccine development and expand our limited understanding of key immune processes that are fundamental to successful vaccine and immunotherapy development. Applicants from the full spectrum of related disciplines, including clinical research, biochemistry, molecular biology, protein engineering, computer science, artificial intelligence/machine learning, biophysics, nanotechnology, etc., are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be 35 or younger.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS

Paralyzed Veterans of America	Research Grants & Fellowships	Open Call or RFP	7/1/2026	\$150,000-\$200,000	The Foundation is focused on funding projects grounded in basic laboratory science and the education of scientists working on breakthroughs directed toward a cure for paralysis, secondary health effects and technologies associated with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D). These projects should be designed to find better treatments and cures for paralysis and support efforts to improve the quality of life of individuals with SCI/D until improved clinical treatments, technologies or cures are discovered, as well as to train post-doctoral fellow investigators and encourage them to specialize in the area of spinal cord research.	CHHS; CLAS; CEET
Research Corporation for Scientific Advancement	Cottrell Scholars Award	Open Call or RFP	7/1/2026	\$ 120,000	The Cottrell Scholar program develops outstanding teacher-scholars who are recognized by their scientific communities for the quality and innovation of their research programs and their academic leadership skills. Eligible applicants are tenure-track faculty members whose primary appointment is in a department of astronomy, chemistry or physics. Eligibility is limited to faculty members who started their first tenure-track appointment in calendar year 2023.	CLAS
Velux Stiftung	Daylight Research	Open Call or RFP	6/4/2026	CHF 100000 - CHF 300000 (US \$64,000 - \$385,000)	The program supports research on the effects and utilization of daylight in three societal topics: Future solar societies; Daylight and global health; Daylight in urban planning.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS; NICCS
Water Environment Research Federation	Paul L. Busch Award	Open Call or RFP	6/1/2025 (Nominations due)	\$ 100,000	The Paul L. Busch Award recognizes an individual for innovative research in the field of water quality and the water environment, with a special focus on those who show promise and make significant contributions in bridging research and its practical application. Nominations must be received by June 1.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS; NICCS
Wellcome Trust	Mental Health Award: Using physical activity and circadian-based interventions to reduce anxiety and depression in young people	Open Call or RFP	7/14/2026	Approx. \$1.3M-\$1.8M	This award will fund mechanistically informed trials of interventions for anxiety and depression in young people aged 10-18 years. Successful teams will build on existing mechanistic evidence to develop more precise and effective early interventions that have the potential to scale.	CHHS; CLAS
William T. Grant Foundation	Institutional Challenge Grant	Open Call or RFP	9/9/2026	\$ 650,000	The Institutional Challenge Grant supports university-based research institutes, schools, and centers in building sustained research-practice partnerships with public agencies or nonprofit organizations in order to reduce inequality in youth outcomes. It welcomes applications from partnerships in youth-serving areas such as education, justice, prevention of child abuse and neglect, foster care, mental health, immigration, and workforce development. Informational webinar on May 6.	ADEI; CEDU; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; OERD

Funding Opportunities

Foundation/Company	Opportunity	Process/Access	Deadline(s)	Est. Amount	Description	Aligning Colleges, Units, Divisions
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	Exploratory Grantmaking in Technology	Letters of inquiry accepted	Rolling	Varies	The Exploratory Grantmaking program intends to identify emerging new sectors, tools and methods that may not receive mainstream funding. Currently, the program focuses on AI in Science and on Automation in Science.	CEET; CLAS
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	Open Source in Science	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	To fully realize the potential of innovations like data science, computational modeling, novel instrumentation, and machine learning, this program aims to adapt and extend best practices in open source into academic technology development while recognizing the unique workflows and incentives of scientific research. Rather than funding individual open source development projects, grants in this area focus mainly on tooling, institutions, economic models, and incentives around the production, maintenance, and adoption of research software, hardware, models, and other related research outputs.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	Public Understanding of Science & Technology	Open Call or RFP	Jan. 1, May 1, Sept. 1 for Books; Rolling for others	Varies	This grant program supports creators of publications aimed at public understanding of science and technology. The program currently accepts proposals for the Books area 3 times annually, and accepts LOIs for Radio, New Media, Television, and YouTube & TikTok on a rolling basis.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
Allen Foundation, Inc.	Allen Foundation Grants	Open Call or RFP	7/15/2026	Varies	The foundation's grants: fund relevant nutritional research; support programs for the education and training of mothers during pregnancy and after the birth of their children; assist in the training of persons to work as educators and demonstrators of good nutritional practices; encourage the dissemination of information regarding healthful nutritional practices and habits; and in limited situations help solve immediate emergency hunger and malnutrition problems. Two annual deadlines- January and July.	CHHS; CLAS; OERD
Allstate Foundation <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Allstate Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	Allstate Foundation makes grants to organizations working to prepare youth to lead and succeed through service, disrupt the cycle of relationship abuse, and support nonprofit leaders.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA

American Chemical Society	ACS Petroleum Research Fund	Open Call or RFP	The Fall 2026 submission window will be from Monday, September 14, 2026, to Friday, October 9, 2026	\$110,000-\$125,000	This endowed fund supports fundamental research directly related to petroleum or fossil fuels at nonprofit institutions. New Directions Grants are intended as seed money, to enable an investigator to initiate a new research direction. Doctoral New Investigator (DNI) Grants support scientists and engineers who are within the first three years of their first academic appointment. Additionally, Research Grants for Non-Doctoral Departments are also available. Two cycles annually.	CEET; CLAS
Brady Education Foundation	Proposals for Program Evaluations	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	The Foundation is currently accepting Research Project (RP) proposals and Existing Program Evaluation (EPE) proposals that are consistent with a strength-based perspective and have the potential to inform future educational research, practice, major philanthropic giving, and/or public policy. There are three deadlines for applications throughout the year. Inquiries may be made in advance to obtain feedback.	CEDU; OERD
Brinson Foundation <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Education Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	Education grantmaking priorities include Health care career development; High school, college, and career success; Liberty, citizenship, and free enterprise; Literacy; STEM; and Student health. Funding is limited to the greater Chicago area. A due diligence discussion is required and available during two time periods each year. Funding is also available for Scientific Research (https://brinsonfoundation.org/scientific-research/) by invitation only.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation	Grant Program	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not disclosed	The following areas of interest are eligible for corporate giving and IME requests: Cardiovascular; Cell therapy; Hematology; Immunology; Neuroscience; Oncology (Solid Tumor). Additional funding opportunities support effective solutions with the goal of removing barriers and improving access to quality care for medically underserved and diverse patient populations.	CHHS; CLAS
Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood	Early Childhood Grants	Open Call or RFP	LOI deadline 5/31/2026	Typical range between \$50,000-\$60,000	Grants support promising research and development projects that appear likely to improve the welfare of young children, from infancy through 7 years. Welfare is broadly defined to support, acculturation, societal integration and childcare. Grants are only made if a successful project outcome will likely be of significant interest to other professionals, within the grantee's field of endeavor, and would have a direct benefit and potential national application. Grants are made in the areas of early childhood welfare; early childhood education and play; and parenting education. 3 LOI deadlines per year (Jan/May/Sept).	CEDU; CHHS; CLAS

CDW <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Advancing Digital Opportunity Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	CDW's Social Impact program has a commitment to digital opportunity for all, and its top priorities are Providing tech access, Supporting education, and Building our workforce. They look to invest not just financials, but coworker time/talent and technological expertise.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
Cisco	Research Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not specified	Cisco Research is currently accepting proposals on: Cisco/IBM RFP-Microwave to Optical Transduction for Quantum Computing Interconnect; Quantum Networks for Distributed Quantum Computing and Distributed Quantum Sensing; Harnessing Quantum Networking to Enhance Classical Applications; Semiconductor Reliability; Intent-Based Networking for the Enterprise; Investigate Media over QUIC for interactive streaming media delivery, and Conference Sponsorships. It also offers sponsorships for hackathons.	CEET; CLAS
CME Group Foundation <i>(managed relationship + limited submission; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Early Childhood & K-12 Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	Early childhood priorities include kindergarten readiness via improved KIDS assessment scores for Black, Latinx, and low-income children in Illinois. K-12 priorities include computer science education, professional development for school leaders/teachers on improving student outcomes by using technology to personalize learning, and improved financial education.	COB; CEDU; OERD; CLAS
Coefficient Giving	Funding for programs and events on global catastrophic risk, effective altruism, and other topics	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not disclosed	This is a wide-ranging call for applications, seeking to fund programs and events in a variety of areas of interest to Coefficient Giving including effective altruism, global catastrophic risks, biosecurity, AI for epistemics, forecasting, and other areas.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS
Crown Family Philanthropies <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Crown Family Philanthropies Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	CFP partners with organizations and communities to further social impact in the areas of education; the environment; health and human services; global health; gun violence prevention; the Jewish Community; and more. By invitation only. Chicago metro geographic focus.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; NICCS; VPA
Deloitte Foundation <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Local Impact Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	Local impact grants support programs across a number of educational needs, including: -Curriculum to help students gain skills or credentials in business, technology, engineering and other related fields -Supplemental learning experiences -Resources in the form of scholarships, mentorship, or college and workforce readiness support to help students and young adults continue on their educational journeys	COB; CLAS; CEET
Driehaus Foundation <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Driehaus Foundation Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	The Foundation's three priorities are the built environment, arts and culture in Chicago, and investigative journalism for government accountability.	CLAS; OERD; VPA

ECMC Foundation <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Funding Portfolios	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	ECMC's portfolios and priorities guide grants and investments that improve postsecondary outcomes. The Strategically Responsive Portfolio fuels innovative projects that address barriers to learner success and respond to evolving needs across postsecondary education. The initiatives portfolio focuses on deeper, sustained engagements designed to address specific challenges in postsecondary education (Basic Needs, CTE Leadership, Rural Impact, and Parenting Success).	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; Student Affairs; VPA
Elevance Health Foundation	National Programs grant	Open Call or RFP	Varies by program	Not disclosed	Elevance Health's national grantmaking supports programs promoting scalable and sustainable systemic change in its focus areas of Maternal/Infant Health; Food as Medicine; Behavioral Health. The Maternal/Infant Health application deadline is July 31, 2026; the others re-open in 2027.	CHHS; CLAS
Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust	Grants (Chicago/Cook County)	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	Grants must align with the Foundation's values: promoting thrift, humility, industry, self-sacrifice, and/or self-sufficiency; relieving human suffering; developing self-esteem and dignity; encouraging vigorous athletic activity; and/or developing regional solutions to Chicago's regional challenges.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
Environmental Research & Education Foundation	Research Grants	Open Call or RFP	12/1/2026	Up to \$500,000	EREF has three key priorities: Climate Change Impacts/Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Emerging Contaminants; and Advancing Materials Circularity and Recycling. Some subtopics within each priority area also have specific topics of interest identified; proposals that are aligned with these subtopics are of particular interest to EREF. Submitted pre-proposals must relate to sustainable solid waste management practices and at least one of the priority areas. Pre-proposals will be accepted starting from 15 days prior to the deadline date. Two annual deadlines.	CEET; CLAS; NICCS
Field Foundation of Illinois <i>(managed relationship + limited submission policy; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Journalism & Storytelling Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	Grantmaking is focused on the city of Chicago. Journalism & Storytelling grantmaking promotes efforts to build and sustain media equity; and focuses specifically on news outlets that center underrepresented communities.	CLAS; OERD; VPA
Field Foundation of Illinois <i>(managed relationship + limited submission policy; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Community Power Building Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	Grantmaking is focused on the city of Chicago. Community Power Building grantmaking invests in organizations that advance resident-defined agendas to drive transformational change and improve community wellbeing.	ADEI; CLAS; CHHS; COE; OERD; CLAW; NICCS

Food Allergy Fund	Innovators Research Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	\$75,000-\$250,000	FAF will award grants to the researcher or team of researchers who demonstrate the most innovative approach to identifying what causes food allergies or an improved treatment. Proposals will be reviewed by FAF's Scientific Advisory Board and scored on the NIH scoring scale (1-9). Innovation and collaboration (across disciplines and/or institutions) will be prioritized in the scoring process.	CHHS; CLAS
Gates Foundation (formerly Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) <i>(limited submission policy; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	U.S. Program Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	The foundation's U.S. Program focuses primarily on education and economic mobility. Priorities include educational/career pathways; improving K-12 outcomes for students from underserved backgrounds; postsecondary success; economic mobility; improving education/workforce data; and early learning. Outside of the U.S. Program, the foundation supports initiatives with international impact.	CEDU; CLAS; Academic Affairs; Student Affairs; ADEI; OERD
Gerber Foundation	Research Grants	Open Call or RFP	2027 Application cycle likely to open in November with LOI deadline in February	Up to \$350,000	The Foundation's priority is given to projects that improve the nutrition, care and development of infants and young children from the first year before birth to three years of age. It is particularly interested in fresh approaches to solving common, everyday problems or emerging issues within our defined focus area. Projects should focus on issues faced by care providers that, when implemented, will improve the health, nutrition and/or developmental outcomes for infants and young children. The board is particularly looking for practical solutions that can be easily and rapidly implemented on a broad scale with a predictable time frame to clinical application.	CHHS; CLAS
Gerda Henkel Stiftung	Democracy Funding Programme	Open Call or RFP	6/3/2026	Varies (monthly scholarship)	This program funds historical research into conflict histories surrounding the correct order and just society. The program includes two focus areas: -Democracy as a Utopia, Experience and Threats aims at placing problematic issues in broader historical context and considering the history of conflicts over the foundation of the social order. -Transformations of Democracy? Or: The Contours of Future Democratic Society focuses on analysis of the present situation and predictions for the future.	CLAS; CLAW
Gerda Henkel Stiftung	Lost Cities Funding Programme	Open Call or RFP	5/27/2026	Varies (monthly scholarship)	This interdisciplinary funding program aims to place current challenges facing shrinking and abandoned "lost cities" in historical context. It focuses not on the question of which factors led to a city's abandonment, but rather on the ways in which lost cities are "read," instrumentalized, and codified in various cultures and periods of time. Applicants should be part of research groups in the humanities and/or social sciences.	CLAS; CLAW; Libraries

Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation	Humanities Program	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	The Foundation supports projects which address the concerns of the historical studia humanitatis: a humanistic education rooted in the great traditions of the past; the formation of human beings according to cultural, moral, and aesthetic ideals derived from that past; and the ongoing debate over how these ideals may best be conceived and realized. Programs in the following areas are eligible: history; archaeology; literature; languages, both classical and modern; philosophy; ethics; comparative religion; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; and those aspects of the social sciences which share the content and methods of humanistic disciplines. The geographical concentration is primarily but not exclusively European and American history and letters, broadly defined. Grants tend to range from \$5,000 to \$30,000.	CLAS; VPA
Glenn W. Bailey Foundation	Grants for STEM initiatives	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Typical grant range \$20,000-\$35,000	The foundation's mission is to foster pathways to success in globally competitive STEM careers for students. It supports projects and programs that provide students and educators with enhanced resources for hands-on, STEM-based learning. It also supports Post-Secondary Research and Community Organization Partnerships. It is interested in Entrepreneurial programs; Innovative Environmental Projects; and biomedical research and innovation.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; NICCS; OERD
Global Health Investment Corporation	Frontier Fund	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	\$250,000 - \$1,000,000	The Frontier Fund supports earlier-stage programs to advance novel medical countermeasures that strengthen and expand our capabilities to respond to the growing complexity and unpredictability of health security threats and scenarios. Program funding is targeted towards IP generation to advance products, validate technologies/platforms, and advance companies.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS
Great Lakes Protection Fund	Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	\$400,000-\$1M	The mission of the Fund is to support programs and actions that have the potential for large scale, positive impact on the health of the Great Lakes. The strategy for 2024-2028 is to support collaborative teams who take tangible, real-world actions; launch a cascade of changes in markets, policies, and/or social expectations; and catalyze significant shifts in the systems affecting the health of the Lakes.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; NICCS

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation	Harry Frank Guggenheim Distinguished Scholar Awards	Open Call or RFP	Submit LOI between May 1 and Aug 1	Typically \$15,000-\$75,000	The Foundation welcomes proposals from any of the natural and social sciences and aligned disciplines that promise to increase understanding of the causes, manifestations, and control of violence and aggression. Highest priority is given to research that addresses urgent, present-day problems of violence—what produces it, how it operates, and what prevents or reduces it.	CHHS; CLAS; CLAW
Henry Luce Foundation	Asia Program - Responsive Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	Responsive Grants provide opportunities to build knowledge and increase understanding of East and Southeast Asia through scholarship and exchange, with an emphasis on strengthening capacity in the US. They typically support research and training, the creation of scholarly and public resources, and intellectual and cultural exchange between Americans and Asians.	CLAS; Libraries; VPA
Henry Luce Foundation	Democracy, Ethics & Public Trust - Responsive Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	This initiative considers proposals in three focus areas: information ecosystems; community and governments; or confidence in democracies.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
Henry Luce Foundation	Religion & Theology - Responsive Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	The Religion and Theology Program cultivates diverse knowledge communities to advance more nuanced public understanding of religion. It supports knowledge makers who reconsider accepted histories, weave new narratives, and imagine alternative futures.	CLAS
John Templeton Foundation	Research Grants	Open Call or RFP	7/15/2026 (Online Funding Inquiry (OFI) deadline)	Varies	The foundation's mission is to support interdisciplinary research and catalyze conversations that inspire awe and wonder. It funds discrete projects (generally not operational or program support) in six funding areas: Mathematics & Physical Sciences; Life Sciences; Character Virtue Development; Religion, Science & Society; Individual Freedom & Free Markets; and Public Engagement. The grant duration is often up to three years.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
Joyce Foundation <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Joyce Foundation Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	The foundation invests in policies to advance racial equity and economic mobility in the Great Lakes region. It accepts applications in the following program areas: Culture; Democracy; Education & Economic Mobility; Environment; Gun Violence Prevention & Justice Reform; and Journalism. Letters of inquiry should be submitted at least 6 to 8 weeks prior to the proposal deadline for a given grant cycle. 2026 deadlines are Apr 1, Aug 3, and Dec 1. Applicants are encouraged to submit for April or August deadlines.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; NICCS; VPA

Julian Grace Foundation <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Julian Grace Foundation Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	This is an entrepreneurial private foundation that does high-engagement grant-making in order to create a just, unified, and hopeful world. Its focus areas include educational opportunity for under-served communities (with particular interest in access to science and technology); immigration and human rights; environmental protection; preservation of cultural heritage; and health. Invited proposals are due in Fall and Spring cycles.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; NICCS; VPA
Khyentse Foundation	Academic Development Grants	Open Call or RFP	Submit LOI in advance of 6/15/26 proposal deadline	Not specified	The Academic Development Grants strive to support and advance authentic Buddhist studies at the highest level of academic excellence. Two annual deadlines in June and December.	CHHS; CLAS; VPA
Lung Cancer Research Foundation	OUCH-Int'l and LCRF Research Grant Program on the Effects of Air Pollution and Climate Change on Carcinogenesis and Lung Cancer Prevalence	Open Call or RFP	6/2/2026	\$ 200,000	This award's objective is to fund innovative projects to support research that examines the impact of climate change and environmental pollution on lung cancer risk, diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes and identifies strategies to mitigate these effects.	CHHS; CLAS; NICCS
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation	Grants program	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not specified	The Foundation recognizes that the principles and institutions that characterize American exceptionalism were hard won and can be easily lost. It is therefore dedicated to a vigorous defense of these foundations of a free society. It supports the study, defense, and practice of the individual initiative and ordered liberty that lead to prosperity, strong families, and vibrant communities. Priority areas include Constitutional Order, Free Markets, Civil Society, and Informed Citizens. It sponsors additional programs to advance ideas, promote grant recipients, connect with conservative intellectuals, and build a robust community of knowledgeable and committed donors and friends.	CLAS; CLAW
Medline	Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not specified	Supports investigator-initiated studies (IIS), fellowships, and educational programs. Applications are reviewed based on scientific, medical and health economic merit, and alignment with Medline's strategic business interests. 4 deadlines annually.	CHHS; CEET; CLAS
Mellon Foundation	Mellon Foundation Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	The Mellon Foundation's four priorities are arts/culture, higher learning, humanities in place, and public knowledge. The Higher Learning program makes grants to foster our understanding of American history and culture; develop the interpretive tools and methods scholars use to create meaning; support faculty and students whose work exemplifies a drive toward greater equity in their fields and institutions; and promote pathways for scholars and academic leaders.	CEDU; CLAS; VPA

Michael J. Fox Foundation	Bridge Funding for Disrupted Neurodegenerative Research (BFDN)	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not specified	This program specifically aims to 1) ensure support for early career researchers (based on NIH definition), who have not yet had the opportunity to fully establish their labs and position their projects for ongoing funding, and 2) provide bridge or interim funding for salary and other direct costs for research projects focused on Alzheimer's disease, Frontotemporal Dementia, Parkinson's disease, Dementia with Lewy Bodies, atypical Parkinson's and/or other related disorders that have been impacted by a series of changes at NIH.	CHHS; CLAS
Morton Cure Paralysis Fund	Grant Applications	Open Call or RFP	9/30/2026	Up to \$75,000	The Morton Cure Paralysis Fund (MCPF) is committed to developing effective therapies (cures) for paralysis associated with spinal cord injury and other disorders of the central nervous system (CNS). Basic research will be supported if it has clear potential to accelerate progress at the applied end of the continuum and/or if it reflects innovative research or a 'change of direction.' Two annual deadlines in March and September.	CHHS
Nathan Cummings Foundation	Funding Grants	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	\$100,000 - \$250,000	NCF seeks to connect with innovative partners and proximate change makers who are driving impact. It wants to learn from, work with, and support organizations that share its commitment to advancing racial, economic, and environmental justice (REEJ). NCF offers two types of funding opportunities: grants and PRIs.	ADEI; CLAS; CLAW; COB
Coefficient Giving	Living Literature Review	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	Defines a living literature review as a continuously updated online collection of accessible articles that synthesize academic research on a specific topic. These reviews are primarily written by a single expert who is responsible for its quality and accuracy. Seeking pre-proposals from individuals to write living literature reviews, particularly interested in reviews on neglected topics relevant to policymaking. Support typically allows authors to dedicate a quarter to a third of their time to the project.	CLAS
PNC Foundation	Early Childhood Education and/or Economic Development Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	The PNC Foundation supports a variety of nonprofit organizations with a special emphasis on those that work to achieve sustainability and touch a diverse population, in particular, those that support early childhood education and/or economic development. Must connect with company's state contact to be able to submit.	CEDU; OERD; VPA; CHHS; CLAW
Robert R. McCormick Foundation <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Chicago Area Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	Funding priorities include early childhood education, journalism, veterans, public safety, and thriving Chicago neighborhoods (Englewood, Little Village, United Way neighborhoods).	CEDU; CLAS; OERD

RRF Foundation for Aging (<i>limited submission policy; submit to internal competition through RIPS</i>)	RRF Foundation for Aging Grants	Open Call or RFP	LOI deadlines 2/1, 5/1, 11/1	Varies	The Retirement Research Foundation's priority areas include Caregiving, Economic Security in Later Life, Housing, and Social and Intergenerational Connectedness. Five types of grants are awarded to advance these areas: Advocacy, Direct Service, Professional Education/Training, Research, and Organizational Capacity Building. 3 annual deadlines.	CLAS; CHHS
Russell Sage Foundation	Core Research Grants	Open Call or RFP	7/15/2026	\$ 200,000	For the July deadline, RSF will accept letters of inquiry (LOIs) under its core programs for Behavioral Science and Decision Making in Context (BSDMC) and Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration (REI) and its special initiatives on Immigration and Immigrant Integration (III) and Implications of the 2023 Supreme Court Decision to Ban Conscious Admissions at Colleges and Universities for Educational Attainment and Economic Mobility (SCD23).	ADEI; Academic Affairs; CEDU; COB; CLAS; CLAW; Student Affairs
Samuel H. Kress Foundation	Conservation Grants	Open Call or RFP	LOIs due 3/1 and 9/15	Varies	The Conservation program supports the professional practice of art conservation, especially as it relates to European works of art from antiquity to the early 19th century.	VPA
Samuel H. Kress Foundation	History of Art Grants	Open Call or RFP	LOIs due 3/1 and 9/15	Varies	The History of Art program supports scholarly projects that will enhance the appreciation and understanding of European art and architecture from antiquity to the early 19th century.	VPA
Schmidt Sciences	AI Interpretability	Open Call or RFP	5/26/2026	\$300,000 - \$1M	Schmidt Sciences invites proposals for a pilot program in AI interpretability. It seeks new methods for detecting and mitigating deceptive behaviors from AI models, such as when models knowingly give misleading or harmful advice to users.	CEET; CLAS
Simons Foundation	Targeted Grants in MPS	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	The program is intended to support high-risk theoretical mathematics, physics and computer science projects of exceptional promise and scientific importance on a case-by-case basis. Funding is for up to five years. A letter of intent (LOI), submitted online, is the first step in applying.	CLAS; CEET
Smith Charitable Foundation (<i>managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission</i>)	Grants for Environment, Education, or Arts & Culture	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	This foundation supports organizations that serve the Rockford, IL area; projects must support environment, education, and/or arts and culture. Invited proposals due Sept. 15 of each year.	CLAS; CEDU; NICCS; VPA

Smith Richardson Foundation	Strategy and Policy Fellows Program	Open Call or RFP	6/22/2026	\$60,000	The Foundation sponsors an annual Strategy and Policy Fellows grant competition to support young scholars and policy thinkers on American foreign policy, international relations, international security, military policy, and diplomatic and military history. The purpose of the program is to strengthen the U.S. community of scholars and researchers conducting policy analysis in these fields. The award will enable the recipients to research and write a book. Within the academic community, this program supports junior or adjunct faculty, research associates, and post-docs who are engaged in policy-relevant research and writing.	CEDU; CLAS; CLAW
Smith Richardson Foundation	International Security & Foreign Policy Grants and Domestic Public Policy Grants	Accepts Inquiries	Rolling	Not specified	The International Security and the Foreign Policy Program and the Domestic Public Policy Program make grants for research and writing on public policy topics that have been identified as priority areas for the Foundation. Those priorities are described in greater detail on each program's home page.	CEDU; CLAS; CLAW; COB
Society of Family Planning	Bridging investments in abortion and contraception research	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Up to \$100,000	The Society of Family Planning deeply understands the potential loss of knowledge if NIH grants are ended abruptly without resources. As such, the purpose of this funding opportunity is to support the completion or partial completion of terminated NIH grants focused on abortion and/or contraception in the US, ensuring that research efforts still have their intended impact on just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science.	CHHS; CLAS
State Farm <i>(managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	Community Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	Good Neighbor Citizenship® company grants focus on safety, community development, and education.	COB; CLAS; CEET; CHHS; Academic Affairs
Takeda <i>(Contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission)</i>	U.S. Growing Communities Grant	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not specified	Takeda's purpose of "better health for people, brighter future for the world" serves as the inspiration for our U.S. philanthropic giving efforts. We seek to reduce the social disparities affecting underrepresented populations in our communities by supporting meaningful programs in two focus areas: Food is Health and Building STEM Foundations. Two annual deadlines in May and October.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS; OERD

Teagle Foundation (<i>managed relationship; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission</i>)	Cornerstone: Learning for Living	Open Call or RFP	12/1/2026	\$25,000-\$300,000	The initiative aims to reinvigorate the role of the humanities in general education, and in doing so, expose a broad array of students to the power of the humanities; help students of all backgrounds build a sense of belonging and community; strengthen the coherence and cohesiveness of general education; and increase teaching opportunities for humanities faculty. Institutions can pursue planning grants (\$25,000 for 6-12 months) or implementation grants (\$300,000 for 24 months).	CLAS
Teiger Foundation	Hosting Grant	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Up to \$75,000	Hosting grants support curators or artistic directors presenting a contemporary visual art exhibition or project that originated elsewhere, adapted meaningfully within the context of their own institution and community. Adaptations might include developing new public programs, collaborating with local partners, and/ or supplementing or otherwise modifying the exhibition checklist, layout, and/ or interpretive materials. Four deadlines per year.	CLAS; VPA; Libraries
The Commonwealth Fund	Grants for Healthcare Practice and Policy	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Varies	The Fund carries out its mission by supporting independent research on health care issues and making grants to improve health care practice and policy. It supports research in the following programmatic areas: Expanding Coverage and Access; Improving Care Delivery; Making Health Care Affordable; Achieving Equitable Outcomes; and Promoting International Learning and Exchange.	CHHS; CLAS
Topfer Family Foundation	Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	This funder supports initiatives in the Chicago metro region targeting child abuse prevention/treatment, youth enrichment, job training, children's health, and aging in place. Applicants must be invited to apply; the NIUF CFR team can assist in this process.	CHHS; CEDU
United States-Japan Foundation	Grants Program	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	Not specified	The grants program seeks to empower the community to illuminate and confront shared challenges and seek ways where the U.S. and Japan can work together to address problems in each country, in the region, and around the world. Quarterly LOI deadlines.	CEET; CLAS; COB; CVPA; OERD

VNA Foundation (<i>managed relationship + limited submission policy; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission</i>)	Grants (Cook County)	Open Call or RFP	Paused - Will share update in May 2026	Up to \$80,000	VNA Foundation awards grants to support nonprofit home- and community-based healthcare and health services for medically underserved populations. Funding categories include Access to Healthcare and Preventative Health; Mental Health and Support Services; Maternal and Reproductive Health; and Technology Assistance and Organizational Resiliency. The majority of grants are made to organizations serving Cook County. Organizations in McHenry, Kane and Will are also eligible for funding, if serving HRSA-designated medically underserved populations in Health Workforce Shortage Areas.	CHHS; CEDU; CLAS
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	The Kellogg Foundation believes that education, health, food, and workforce systems are intertwined with community efforts toward racial equity and racial healing in serving what children need to thrive. It supports holistic solutions across these integrated systems.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
W.M. Keck Foundation (<i>limited submission policy, managed by RIPS</i>)	W. M. Keck Research Program	Open Call or RFP	May 1 or Nov. 1	Up to \$5,000,000	The program seeks to benefit humanity by supporting Medical Research and Science & Engineering projects that are distinctive and novel in their approach, question the prevailing paradigm, or have the potential to break open new territory in their field. Two grant cycles annually.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS
Walton Family Foundation (<i>limited submission policy; contact CFR@niu.edu prior to outreach or submission</i>)	Education & Environment Grants	By Invitation Only	Rolling	Varies	Education funding strives to increase access to high-quality education, create coalitions, embrace education as the engine of achievement and opportunity, support innovation to improve schools and student outcomes, and support research. Environmental funding is geared toward water protection/preservation in the Colorado River Basin, Mississippi River Basin, and oceans. The Foundation's goal is to make sure there is enough healthy, available water for people and nature to thrive together.	CLAS; CEDU; NICCS
Weiss Asset Management Foundation	Programs and Research to Reduce Suffering	Open Call or RFP	Rolling	\$50,000-\$1.5 million	WAM Foundation supports highly cost-effective research and programs that alleviate human suffering in developing countries. Priority areas include Nutrition, Health Impacts of Poor Air Quality, and Health Services Delivery.	CEET; CHHS; CLAS
Whitehall Foundation	Research Grants (Neurobiology)	Open Call or RFP	10/1/2026	Up to \$300,000 total (max. \$100,000 per year)	The Foundation assists scholarly research in the life sciences (particularly in areas of basic biological research that are not heavily supported by Federal Agencies). It is currently interested in basic research in neurobiology. There are three deadlines for LOIs throughout the year (Jan, Apr, Oct).	CHHS; CLAS

William T. Grant Foundation	Research Grants on Improving the Use of Research Evidence	Open Call or RFP	7/29/2026	\$100,000–\$1,000,000 over 2-4 years or \$25,000–\$50,000 over 1-2 years	This program supports research on strategies focused on improving the use, usefulness, and impact of evidence in ways that benefit young people ages 5-25 in the US. There are now 2 annual deadlines.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
William T. Grant Foundation	Research Grants on Reducing Inequality	Open Call or RFP	7/29/2026	\$100,000-\$600,000 over 2-3 years or \$25,000–\$50,000 over 1-2 years	This program supports research to build, test, or increase understanding of programs, policies, or practices to reduce inequality in the academic, social, behavioral, or economic outcomes of young people ages 5-25 in the US, along dimensions of race, ethnicity, economic standing, sexual or gender minority status (e.g., LGBTQ+ youth), language minority status, or immigrant origins. There are now 2 annual deadlines.	CEDU; CEET; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; COB; VPA
William T. Grant Foundation <i>(limited submission policy managed by RIPS)</i>	William T. Grant Scholars Program	Open Call or RFP	6/30/2026	\$ 425,000	This program supports career development for promising early-career researchers. The program funds five-year research and mentoring plans that significantly expand researchers' expertise in new disciplines, methods, and content areas. The foundation's research interests center on studies that examine ways to reduce inequality in youth outcomes. It welcomes descriptive studies that clarify mechanisms for reducing inequality or elucidate how or why a specific program, policy, or practice operates to reduce inequality. It also welcomes intervention studies that examine attempts to reduce inequality. Finally, it welcomes studies that improve the measurement of inequality in ways that can enhance the work of researchers, practitioners, or policymakers.	ADEI; Academic Affairs; CEDU; CHHS; CLAS; CLAW; Student Affairs