

Transition to Independence Grants

Guidelines and Application Instructions

Only active ASN members are eligible to apply. Check your membership status [here](#).

Applicants may only submit one application during a cycle.

KidneyCure will make an Award solely in accordance with KidneyCure policies, payment, and schedule regulations as described in the original Notice of Award and Grant Stipulations.

Transition to Independence Grants are not renewable and previous recipients are not eligible for a second grant.

Purpose

The KidneyCure Transition to Independence Grants Program provides funding for early career faculty to foster an independent research career. The successful applicant should be competitive to become a principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 grant or equivalent by the end of the grant period.

Eligibility

The eligibility window for applicants to apply is determined by the years since their last terminal degree at the time of activation of the award on July 1, 2027. **Note that the eligibility window excludes residency and clinical fellowship training years.** Over 70% of time should be spent on clinical training for a year to be considered “clinical fellowship training”.

- Applicants with PhDs or MD/PhDs have a 10-year eligibility window to apply.
- Applicants with clinical degrees (e.g. MDs, DOs, DVMs, PharmDs) have a 12-year eligibility window to apply.

Exceptions to the eligibility windows will be considered on a case-by-case basis using criteria outlined in the Extension Requests section.

Additionally, to apply for a Transition to Independence Grant, a candidate:

- Must be working in North or Central America, or the Caribbean during the grant period.
- Must be an active member of ASN. **Check your membership status [here](#).**
- Must hold an MD, DO, PhD, DVM, PharmD or equivalent degree.
- Cannot be a previous recipient of an ASN or KidneyCure Transition to Independence Grant (formerly ASN Foundation for Kidney Research Career Development Grant). Previous ASN-Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (AMFDP) grant recipients are excepted from this clause.
- Cannot be a previous recipient (as PI) of a National Institutes of Health R01 grant, VA Merit Award, or equivalent.

- The goal of the TIG is to generate preliminary data for an R01-level application, and to establish the basis for an independent research program. Therefore, the applicant should propose a project that will be viewed as independent of previous mentors.
- Cannot have more than \$250,000 (in annual direct costs) in external competitive grant support, excluding KidneyCure funds, at the time of the award activation.
- Must devote at least 75% of their time to research.
- Must have a full-time faculty appointment at the time of grant initiation on July 1, 2027, confirmed in writing by the Department Chair, indicating the date of first full-time faculty appointment.
- Must have obtained an institutional commitment that is sufficient to conduct independent research (laboratory and office space, salary support, and at least 75% protected research time) confirmed in writing by the Department Chair.

An applicant who is uncertain of their eligibility should request an advisory opinion from KidneyCure before completing an application. Please email grants@asn-online.org.

Extension Requests

KidneyCure will accept extension requests for the eligibility window on a case-by-case basis. Applicants must submit supporting documentation for requests, which can include family care responsibilities, medical concerns, disability, natural disasters, and active-duty military service. Delays in productivity due to the COVID pandemic are no longer considered valid reasons for exemption.

An automatic 12-month extension will be applied per childbirth. All parents, including those who adopt, are eligible for this particular extension.

To submit an extension request, please email grants@asn-online.org prior to the application deadline.

Previous or Current Funding Allowed

Applicants are allowed to have current or previous extramural (NIH or KidneyCure) mentored career development grant funding (e.g., NIH K08, K01, K23). Applicants cannot be a previous recipient of a National Institutes of Health R01 grant, VA Merit Award, or equivalent. Total competitive external grant funding, excluding the KidneyCure Transition to Independence Grant, cannot exceed \$250,000 in annual direct costs. The amount of the KidneyCure grant will be reduced as appropriate if total funding exceeds this amount at any time during the funding period of the grant.

Should a candidate receive an NIH R01 grant or equivalent with the researcher serving as principal investigator during the funding period, they must notify KidneyCure in writing. KidneyCure will ask the candidate to relinquish their Transition to Independence Grant upon activation of the R01 or equivalent.

Funding and Stipulations

- The award will provide \$100,000 annually for two years, beginning July 1, 2027, and will cover salaries/supplies related to the candidate's research proposal. A maximum of 10% of the award per year may be used to cover indirect costs at the candidate's sponsoring institution.
- Research must begin on July 1, 2027; research start dates cannot be deferred.
- A progress report and a financial report are required for non-competitive renewal of the grant for the second year. Final reports are also required at the end of the funding period. The award is for continuous support, and interruptions in the period of support will require prior written approval from KidneyCure.
- Recipients shall acknowledge KidneyCure's (and co-sponsoring organization, if applicable) support in publications resulting from their proposed work.

- Grants may be transferred from one institution to another only with the prior approval of KidneyCure.

Use of Grant Funds

- Salary/Fringe: Up to \$70,000 per year can be used for the PI's salary, including fringe benefits.
- Supplies and Personnel: Funds may be used for research supplies and to support the salary of research staff.
- Equipment: Funds cannot be used to purchase equipment that costs more than \$5,000, unless such purchase is clearly justified in the research plan and approved by KidneyCure.
- Restrictions: Up to \$2,000 per year may be used on travel to attend relevant scientific meetings. Funds may not be used for clinical or administrative time.

Application and Document Formatting

An application for the Transition to Independence Grants Program must include:

- I. Contact Information and project title
- II. NIH Applicant Biosketch and NIH Biosketch Supplement, produced using the [NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form](#).
- III. KidneyCure Biosketch Supplement - Applicant
 - a. Relevant full-length publications or articles in press (not abstracts or submitted publications) of the applicant and exact order of authorship and journal name. A link to the complete list of published work in the applicant's bibliography must be included. Please test the link to be sure it is available in a public format for reviewers to access.
 - b. Prior, current, and pending research support (include grant number and agency; contact PI and role; award start and end date; and title).
- IV.
- V. Research Project Plan using the KidneyCure provided template (Maximum of nine and a half pages total, not including Literature Cited and the Additional Funding Disclosure)
 - a. Roadmap to Independence (1 page maximum)
 - i. The Roadmap to Independence must discuss the candidate's background, career goals, and career development and be no more than one page, single spaced. Below are prompts to assist in completing this section. ***This section must be written by the applicant.***
 1. What is your primary career intention and your long-term career goals?
 2. How will you measure your success in reaching these goals and what is your anticipated timeline for their completion?
 3. What new knowledge and research skills will be attained through the completion of this award?
 - b. Research Environment (1 page maximum)
 - i. The Research Environment must explain the candidate's research environment at the institution and be no more than one page, single spaced. ***This section must be written by the applicant.***
 - c. Abstract (500 words maximum)
 - i. The Abstract must summarize the proposal in lay terms and be no more than 500 words, single spaced.
 - d. Specific Aims (1 page maximum)
 - e. Preliminary Work, Proposed Research Strategy and Potential Problems (5 pages maximum)
 - i. Optional Scope of Work Statement: Rigorous pilot and feasibility studies or secondary data analysis can be important for next level funding and will be considered by reviewers.
 - f. Literature Cited
 - g. Resubmission Defense (1 page maximum)
 - i. Mandatory if you are resubmitting an unsuccessful proposal from a previous cycle.

- 148 ii. Explain how you addressed the comments of the reviewers to improve your project or
149 proposal in no more than one page, single spaced. If you are not resubmitting, please
150 remove this page from your application.
151 iii. Include the reviewer score sheets from your last submission. The score sheets will not
152 count against the 9 and a half page limit for this section.
153 h. **Additional Funding Disclosure** (if applicable, one page maximum).
154 i. Mandatory if you have current extramural (NIH, KidneyCure, or other) or competitive
155 intramural grant funding.
156 ii. For each grant, provide the following: funding agency and number, start date, project
157 period, title, principal investigator (or role if not the PI) and annual direct costs.

158 **NOTE: The Research Project Plan does not need to include a proposed budget.**

- 159 VI. Letter from Department Chair
160 a. The letter must provide assurance and institutional commitment that the candidate:
161 i. Holds or will hold a full-time faculty appointment prior to the start of the grant term on
162 July 1, 2027 (including the month/year of the appointment and a description of the track).
163 ii. Will devote at least 75% of their time to research.
164 iii. Will use the award for independent investigation.
165 iv. Will have appropriate laboratory or research space, access to necessary equipment,
166 start up funding, and research support.
167 b. The letter should provide the institution's view of the candidate.
168 c. The letter should be signed and on institutional letterhead.
169 VII. Letter from the institution documenting permission to submit the application (this letter should be
170 submitted by an institution or department official/representative).
171 a. The letter must include a statement that the applicant's institution is aware of the program
172 guidelines and has approved submission of the application.
173
174 VIII. Three (3) Reference Letters
175 a. Letters must be submitted prior to the application deadline.
176 b. Reference letters should be written by persons familiar with the candidate's scientific interests
177 and abilities. Letters are submitted blindly and can be addressed to the ASN Grants Review
178 Committee. Applicants cannot submit the letters.
179

180 Additionally, the proposal must follow NIH guidelines including the following formatting guidelines:

- 181
182 • Font size must be 11 points or larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable
183 as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Recommended fonts include Arial, Georgia,
184 Helvetica, and Palatino Linotype. A Symbol font may be used to insert special characters. Black text
185 color is also recommended.
186 • Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per linear inch.
187 Type may be no more than six lines per vertical inch. Use standard paper size (8 ½" x 11"). Use at least
188 one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. No information should appear in the
189 margins. Do not include additional headers or footers aside from those established in the provided
190 templates.
191 • Uploaded files must be in PDF format only. Documents may be prepared using a preferred editing
192 software (e.g. Microsoft Word), but must be converted to PDF format before uploading to the
193 application. Please note that some PDF conversion software may reduce font size. The final PDF
194 document must comply with the font requirements listed above.
195 • Applications must follow the maximum page limits described in Sections II.-V. to be considered eligible.
196

You must use the KidneyCure-provided Research Project Plan template. Please download it from the KidneyCure website.

Applications that do not adhere to the above instructions will be declined.

Application Process

Applicants for a KidneyCure Transition to Independence Grant must be current, active ASN members to begin an application. To become a member, please visit the [ASN Membership webpage](#).

- I. To begin an application, visit the [KidneyCure Transition to Independence Grants webpage](#). Select the grant you would like to apply for. Click “Application” and log-in using your ASN ID and password.
- II. Download all templates and documents needed to complete your application (Biosketch and Research Project Plan).
- III. Prepare all documents for your application (Biosketch and Biosketch Supplement, Research Project Plan, Letter from Department Chair, Permission to Submit Letter, and email addresses for three referees).
- IV. Enter contact information, including research proposal title and top three keywords.
- V. Upload Biosketch and Biosketch Supplement as one document (maximum of 1 MB).
- VI. Upload the Research Project Plan using the KidneyCure provided template (maximum of 1 MB).
- VII. Upload the letter from the Department Chair
- VIII. Upload the Permission to Submit (maximum of 1 MB).
- IX. Enter the email address of three (3) referees. Each referee will receive an email with a link to upload a letter of reference to the application. The applicant will be copied on each email. *Please enter email addresses early in the application process to allow referees to submit letters prior to the deadline.*
- X. Once you enter all referee contacts and send the emails, click submit.

Editing an Application Before the Deadline

Application fields may be edited at any point before the deadline by visiting the KidneyCure Grants webpage, signing into the website, clicking “Application,”

Applications cannot be edited after the deadline.

Application Checklist

- ✓ Download all templates needed for submitting the application
- ✓ Complete demographic and project qualifiers
- ✓ Upload applicant biosketch and biosketch supplement as one document
- ✓ Upload Research Project Plan (Maximum of 9.5 pages total, not including Literature Cited and)
 - Roadmap to Independence (1 page only)
 - Environment and Institutional Commitment (1 page only)
 - Abstract (500 word maximum)
 - Specific Aims (1 page only)
 - Preliminary Work, Proposed Research Strategy and Potential Problems (5 pages only)
 - Literature Cited
 - Resubmission Defense (1 page maximum)
- ✓ Upload letter from Department Chair
- ✓ Upload letter documenting Permission to Submit
- ✓ Send emails to three referees for letters of support

Evaluation Criteria and Process

The KidneyCure Grants Review Committee will consider the potential of the applicant-to be competitive for NIH R01 grant funding or its equivalent by the end of the grant period. Assessment will include the qualifications of the applicant with respect to prior training, productivity, and independence, as well as the scientific merit of the

proposed project. The institutional commitment to the development of the applicant as an independent investigator will also be assessed.

The review process is as follows:

- 1) Application opens (fall)
- 2) Application deadline (early winter)
- 3) Peer review process (winter)
- 4) Committee meeting (early spring)
- 5) Award notifications (spring)

Notification of Award

In April, all applicants will receive an email from KidneyCure announcing that their application status has changed. The email will contain a unique link that will direct the user to the KidneyCure Grant Submission Panel. Once logged in, the applicant can view the funding decision and download the reviewer comments. All documents in the applicant's KidneyCure Grant Submission Panel will remain live for 30 days after the funding notification.

Contact

Please contact KidneyCure with any questions at grants@asn-online.org