



**AANA
FOUNDATION**

Funding Opportunity Announcement

Title: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Education Grant

Purpose and Goals: The purpose of this grant is to provide support for innovative and impactful education proposals that further the goals of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) values within the nurse anesthesia community. Education projects might include workshops, lectures, workplace education, webinars, or online learning modules, among others.

Funding Amount: Up to \$25,000

Deadline(s): June 30, 2026; October 30, 2026

Application Submissions: Applications are to be submitted online through the link on the Foundation website.

Background and Scope

The mission of AANA Foundation is to advance the science of anesthesia through education and research. AANA Foundation aims to support investigators across the CRNA development lifecycle from student residents through program directors and established research faculty. Programs are designed to develop research careers in nurse anesthesia. AANA Foundation funds research, evidence-based practice, and education grants.

The purpose of this grant is to provide support for innovative and impactful education proposals that further the goals of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion values within the nurse anesthesia community. AANA Foundation values the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work while excluding and rejecting bias.

Addressing bias and inequities for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists (CRNAs), Resident Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists (RRNAs), and our patients is critical for improved health and wellness.

Grants are intended to support education efforts and increase diversity within the nurse anesthesia profession with innovation and creativity. Education projects might include

programs that further the development of nurse anesthesiologists, including workshops, lectures, workplace education, webinars, or online learning modules.

Award Period

The award period is expected to be 12 months.

Eligibility

Eligible investigators include CRNAs or Resident Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists (RRNAs)/CRNAs in DNP/DNAP programs. The applicant investigator must be an AANA Member. Eligible organizations include institutions of higher education; nonprofit organizations; for-profit organizations; and nonprofit/for-profit/government-owned health systems.

Application and Submission Information

Applicants are to follow all instructions delineated in the application guide, available through the link on the Foundation website.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs include tuition, training, consultancy, equipment, supplies, travel, and other miscellaneous direct costs.

Human Subjects/Animal Research Requirements

Applicants are encouraged to submit documentation of a Human Subjects Determination at the time of application, if possible, to adequately anticipate project classification (e.g., research/not research; human subjects/not human subjects) and potential needs for Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review. Once an application is approved for funding by the Foundation Board of Trustees and notice is sent to the recipient, recipients are required to submit documentation related to human subjects or animal research. If a project is determined to be research and human subjects or vertebrate animals are involved, investigators are expected to submit IRB/IACUC documentation to the Foundation within 12 months of award and before any research activities are initiated or funds are released.

Review and Award Information

Peer reviewers for grant applications are selected from the AANA Foundation Reviewer Corps, a repository of qualified peer reviewers. Reviewers are assigned to review specific applications based on relevant expertise.

The first level of review is conducted by a peer review panel, comprised of members from the Reviewer Corps. This Primary Review is focused on scientific merit and the potential for impact.

The second level of review is conducted by the Research and Scholarly Activities Committee (RSAC) and the Board of Trustees (BOT). This Programmatic Review reflects on scientific merit and impact judged in the primary review and places additional focus on alignment with Foundation research priorities.

The Foundation uses a 9-point rating scale (1 = exceptional, 9 = poor) for each scored criteria and overall impact score. Narrative justification for each review criteria is required that outlines strengths and weaknesses.

Individual Review Criteria include:

- Importance: Including significance and innovation (numeric score 1-9; strengths and weaknesses)
- Rigor and feasibility: Including approach and study timeline (numeric score 1-9; strengths and weaknesses)
- Expertise and resources: Including investigators and environment (narrative only with strengths and weaknesses, with no numeric score but considered in overall impact)

An Overall Impact Score Overall is also issued (rating scale 1 to 9, x 10 for scores ranging from 10 to 100), including all individual criteria considered as a whole (not necessarily an average of numeric scores).

Specific to this funding opportunity, peer reviewers will consider the following in their individual reviews:

- Importance: To what extent does the educational strategy foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in the nurse anesthesia community? How innovative are the educational strategies proposed? What is the likelihood the education approaches will mitigate inequities with nurse anesthesia patients and providers?
- Rigor and Feasibility: How rigorous are the strategies for achieving the educational objectives? How feasible are the strategies for reaching the intended target population? How reasonable are the educational outcomes to be achieved?
- Expertise and Resources: To what extent do the investigators represent diverse populations and perspectives? To what extent do the investigators represent the population to be reached or affected by the educational strategy?

A Summary Statement is generated that outlines the overall review scores and includes a summary of key strengths and weaknesses. The Summary Statement is provided to the RSAC and BOT for funding consideration and to the applicant once a funding decision is made.

Funding decisions may include approve, approve with conditions/stipulations, or reject.

Applicants are notified of the funding decision by a letter issued by the Foundation CEO and Research Director. Approved grants are issued a Notice of Award with terms and conditions.

Anticipated Award Date

December 2026 (for June submissions) and April 2027 (for October submissions)

Administrative Requirements

All grant recipients must comply with policies outlined in the AANA Foundation Grantmaking Policy.

Documentation of Human Subjects Determination or IRB/IACUC Approval is required for funding (see the Human Subjects/Animal Research Requirements section for more details). Grant recipients will receive a Notice of Award outlining the terms and conditions of the award. Grant recipients are required to follow all policies outlined in AANA Foundation Grantmaking Policy.

Prior approval is required for reallocation of budget items exceeding 25% of the total budget category, significant changes (e.g., in scope, PI, cost), and no cost extensions. If additional research that would efficiently leverage and complement the project is identified, the recipient would need to apply for additional funds.

Awards of \$10,000 or less are typically distributed in full after appropriate award documents are submitted. Awards of over \$10,000 are typically distributed in increments after the recipient submits appropriate documents. Funding policies are outlined in full in AANA Foundation Grantmaking Policy.

Publication of results in peer-reviewed scientific or professional journals is expected. Recipients are encouraged to submit an abstract application for presentation at the AANA Foundation Poster Session at the AANA Annual Congress and publish results in the AANA Journal or other scientific publication.

Data from investigator-initiated research awards supported by the AANA Foundation are owned by the investigator. The investigator will own copyright to the data. Title to any Invention shall reside with the recipient or the recipient's institution. Inventions will be reported to the AANA Foundation by the recipients of the grant. See AANA Foundation Grantmaking Policy for more details and guidelines related to net royalty income.

Recipients are required to submit Annual and Final Progress Reports and Final Expenditure Reports. Failure to submit complete, accurate, and timely final reports indicates the need for closer monitoring by AANA Foundation. Lack of compliance may result in award delays or enforcement actions, including return of unexpended funds and prohibition from receipt of future grant awards.

Foundation Contacts

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