



AAO Foundation –Call for Research Proposals

Advancing Orthodontics Through Innovation, Education, and Discovery

Submission Deadline: October 16, 2026, at 5:00 PM Central

Funding Period: July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028

Funding Amount: Up to \$40,000 per project; Center Awards up to \$75,000 (\$25,000 per year) per project over three years

Eligibility: Open to orthodontic researchers, educators, clinicians, residents, and academic institutions in the United States and Canada.

Purpose

The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAO Foundation) invites proposals that advance the science, education, and practice of orthodontics. This funding opportunity is intended to support innovative research, foster faculty development, and generate knowledge that benefits patients, educators, and the specialty.

The AAO Foundation welcomes projects across the full spectrum of orthodontic research and encourages investigators to pursue novel approaches, intra and interdisciplinary collaborations, and emerging technologies that have the potential to improve orthodontic care, education, and professional development.

Areas of Interest

Proposals may address any aspect of orthodontics, including but not limited to:

- **Clinical orthodontics and treatment outcomes**
- **Craniofacial growth and development**
- **Biomechanics and appliance design**
- **Orthodontic materials and technologies**
- **Digital workflows and emerging technologies**
- **Artificial intelligence and data science applications**
- **Patient-centered care and quality improvement**
- **Health services and outcomes research**
- **Access to care and health equity**
- **Practice efficiency and workflow innovation**
- **Resident education and assessment**



- Faculty development and academic career pathways
- Interdisciplinary and collaborative care models
- Ethics, professionalism, and responsible innovation

Faculty Development Priority

The AAOF has a particular interest in projects that strengthen the future academic workforce in orthodontics. Proposals focused on faculty recruitment, retention, mentorship, development, and leadership, as well as those that emphasize educational innovation, curriculum design, competency assessment, and multi-institutional collaborations are especially encouraged.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted electronically through the AAO Foundation Grant Portal:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=aao>