

AAO Foundation – Call for Research Proposals

Topic: *Investigating the Impact of Microplastics in Orthodontics*

Submission Deadline: October 10, 2025

Funding Period: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Funding Amount: Up to \$40,000 per project; Center Awards up to \$100,000 per project over three years

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

Overview

The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF) is soliciting research proposals for its upcoming funding cycle focused on the **environmental and biological impacts of microplastics** in the field of orthodontics. This initiative reflects growing concerns over the proliferation of microplastics in healthcare products and their potential implications for human health and the environment.

Research Priorities

We invite proposals that explore one or more of the following topics:

- **Sources and formation** of microplastics in orthodontic practice (e.g., from aligners, retainers, brackets, or dental resins)
- **Patient exposure** to microplastics during or after orthodontic treatment
- **Environmental impact** of orthodontic materials that degrade into microplastics
- **Toxicological effects** of orthodontics-derived microplastics on oral and systemic health
- **Innovative materials** or processes that minimize microplastic generation
- **Assessment methodologies** for detecting and quantifying microplastics in orthodontic settings

Interdisciplinary and collaborative projects, particularly those involving environmental science, toxicology, and materials engineering, are strongly encouraged.

How to Apply

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

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