



SOLVE FSHD Grants Program **Guidelines for Applicants**

Request for Proposals – 2025 Grants Round

Overview

SOLVE FSHD is requesting proposals to its 2025 grants program for funding of research advancing novel treatments for facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD) by end of 2027.

Eligibility

A researcher at an academic and research institution must be the lead applicant, with collaboration with other academic, research or industry partners encouraged. Applications are accepted from organizations based internationally.

Companies are not eligible to apply directly for grant funding. SOLVE FSHD invests in and partners with companies through other programs – please contact the SOLVE FSHD Team if you are interested in working with us.

Amount of funding

SOLVE FSHD will consider funding up to \$300,000 USD total per project.

We will consider funding towards all direct costs of performing the research. For indirect costs and overheads, we will typically consider a maximum contribution of 10% of the total direct costs.

Award period

In line with SOLVE FSHD's 2027 goal:

- Funding will be considered for a period of up to 2 years
- Projects will be expected to start as soon as possible after notification of funding
- Funding offers may expire if not started by agreed date
- SOLVE FSHD is unlikely to consider subsequent requests for extensions of funding awarded past Dec 31, 2027
- As stated in the Process for Review of Applications, review of applications will include assessment of the proposed timeline, readiness to start the research, and planned mitigation of delays and risks

Research areas

SOLVE FSHD will consider proposals towards any research that supports the acceleration of novel treatments for FSHD by end of 2027.

In line with this, SOLVE FSHD encourages proposals aiming to:

- Translate basic research to clinical therapeutics
- Address bottlenecks in FSHD therapeutic development
- Develop translational research tools, including preclinical models, imaging techniques, and clinical outcomes measures
- Perform analytical validation, clinical validation and/or clinical utility studies of biomarkers using human samples, with a focus on circulating or muscle-derived biomarkers
- Deliver high impact for the FSHD research community

SOLVE FSHD is unlikely to progress research proposals focusing on:

- Basic research
- Biomarker discovery

Review of Applications

Timeline for Applicants

1. Deadline for Expressions of Interest: Sun May 4, 2025, at 11pm PT
2. Invitations to Submit Full Application: May 2025
3. Deadline for Full Applications: Sun July 6, 2025, at 11pm PT
4. Notification of Funding Decision: August 2025

Review Criteria

Expressions of Interest will be reviewed against the intent of this Request for Proposals.

Full Applications will be assessed on criteria including:

- Fit with SOLVE FSHD's goals and timeline
- Research plan and scientific merit
- Research team and environment
- Budget justification, co-funding or potentially overlapping contributions
- Research product, impact, dissemination plans and strategy for commercialization, including IP protection if applicable
- Risk identification and mitigation planning
- Readiness to start the research following notification of funding

Process for Review of Applications

1. Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by the SOLVE FSHD Management Team
2. Full Applications will be reviewed by the SOLVE FSHD Management Team, SOLVE FSHD's Scientific Advisory Board and additional consultants for expert review as deemed necessary.

Applications will be treated in confidence by SOLVE FSHD and its reviewers.

Post-Award

SOLVE FSHD will negotiate grant terms and conditions directly with the awardee, although will typically expect only minor changes to our Standard Terms and Conditions.

Researchers will be expected to report:

- Quarterly update via presentation virtually
 - Semi-annual reports on scientific progress and expenditure
 - Final evaluation report
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To apply

Expressions of Interest are to be submitted through the online form: <https://wkf.ms/3FNk1au>

Further information

For any questions, please contact the SOLVE FSHD Team at info@solvefshd.com