

# Frequently Asked Questions About Grant Funding

## What types of research does BSF fund?

BSF funds a broad range of research, including basic discovery science, translational research, clinical studies, and work focused on physiological and psychosocial characterization of the Barth syndrome community. BSF also supports development of research tools, cellular and animal models of disease, and efforts to understand disease etiology.

## Who is eligible to apply?

Both young and established independent investigators are eligible. BSF welcomes applications from researchers across academic, clinical, and industry settings. Pre- and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible to apply. For predoctoral and postdoctoral candidates, applications to the [American Heart Association](#) may be entitled to co-support from BSF.

## How does the grant review process work?

Each application is reviewed by two [Scientific and Medical Advisory Board](#) (SMAB) members and one external expert in the subject-matter area of the application. Reviewers provide a brief summary of the application and score it on three criteria: Importance and Impact, Feasibility, and Prospect of Long-term Funding. Once all reviews are compiled, the full SMAB convenes to discuss the applications and issues a funding recommendation to BSF's [Board of Directors](#), who make the final decision.

## Can a member of BSF's Scientific and Medical Advisory Board (SMAB) apply for grant funding?

Yes. SMAB members are eligible to apply. However, any SMAB member with an application under review is considered to have a conflict of interest and is therefore recused from the review and recommendation process that year — they neither score applications nor participate in the SMAB's funding discussion — ensuring no applicant has an advantage over other investigators.

## Does BSF fund research outside the United States?

Yes, investigators outside the U.S. are eligible for funding, provided their institution is not located in a country subject to U.S. sanctions. Current and recent grantees include researchers at institutions in the Netherlands, Canada, and the United Kingdom, and several projects are co-funded with BSF's international affiliates,

including Barth Syndrome Foundation of Canada, Barth Syndrome UK, Barth Italia, and Association Syndrome de Barth France.

### **What is the maximum amount of funding that can be requested?**

Applicants can request a maximum of \$100,000 USD, with an indirect rate of 10%. Applicants can choose to receive those funds spread out over 1-3 years.

### **When is the annual RFA released?**

The RFA for grants is typically released in July and due in October. Scientific review typically takes place in January the following year followed by a Board determination in the March or April. Applicants are generally notified within one week of the Board's determination whether or not they will receive funding. To ensure you receive timely communications about grant opportunities, [please sign up for our general and science-focused communications here](#).

### **Does BSF fund the same number of grants every year?**

No. The number of grants funded each year is determined by the budget put forward by BSF's Board of Directors, in collaboration with BSF's international affiliates, as well as the number of candidates recommended by the SMAB's scientific review. [A historical overview of BSF's grant funding can be found here](#).

### **Is preliminary data required to submit a grant?**

While preliminary data are not required, inclusion is strongly encouraged. BSF has received historical numbers of applications in recent years. Inclusion of preliminary data de-risks the grant and demonstrates investment of the applicant in Barth syndrome research.

### **How are conflicts of interest and confidentiality handled with reviewers?**

All reviewers (SMAB and external) are required to sign a Security, Confidentiality, and Nondisclosure agreement with BSF prior to receiving grants for review; the document is based on the U.S. National Institutes of Health's (NIH) own agreement. Additionally, prior to receiving grants for review, reviewers must read each applicant's public-facing abstract and declare if a conflict of interest is present. BSF Research and Development staff then assign grants accordingly.

### **How do I apply?**

Starting in 2025, all applications must be completed through [BSF's web-based grant portal called SMApply](#). Applications submitted by email will not be considered. Instructions and templates are all provided within the portal. Applications that do

not meet the formatting or word limit criteria specified in [SMAppl](#)y may also be administratively dismissed.

### **Are there awards beyond the standard grant program?**

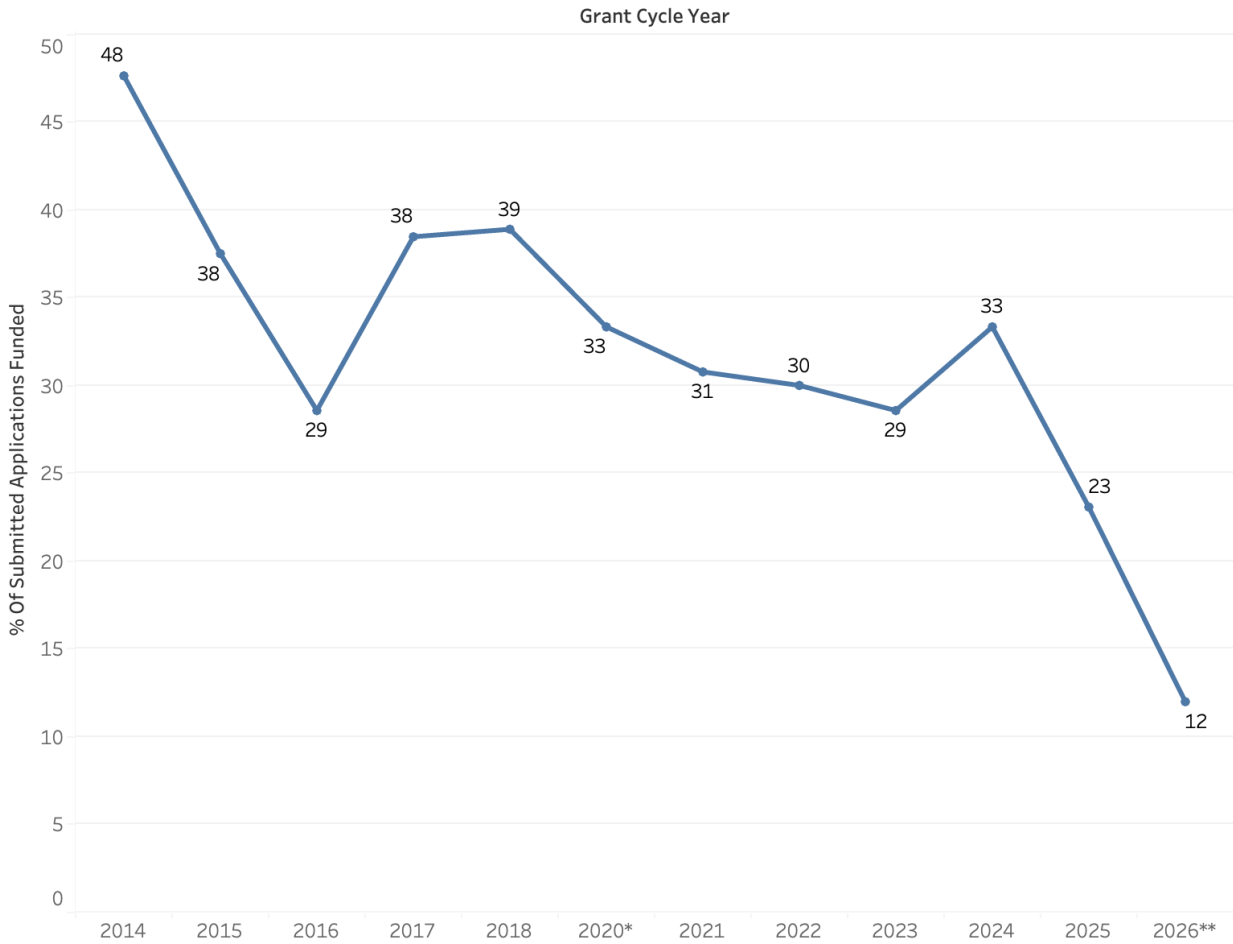
Yes. BSF maintains a separate funding mechanism called the [Strategic Initiatives Program](#) (SIP). Permission to apply to this program are considered is granted on a case by case basis. Areas of interest are those where the project is large in scope but higher risk and unlikely to receive national funding from an agency like NIH or something that might be considered too niche for federal funding. If you are interested in learning more about programs previously funded by this mechanism, please [visit the SIP webpage](#).

### **How long has BSF been funding research?**

BSF launched its peer-reviewed grant program in 2002.

### **Are grantees expected to present their work publicly?**

Yes. Researchers funded by BSF are expected to present the results from their grant to the Barth syndrome community. Given that the Barth community supports the grant program, it is vital to return the results to them, which helps demonstrate value in funding research. Presentation opportunities are available at the Barth Syndrome International Scientific, Medical & Family Biennial Conferences or virtually via a BSF-hosted webinar.



\* BSF modified its grant cycle dating convention to follow the year upon which research funds are disbursed. Previously, the Foundation referred to the year in which the application was submitted.

\*\* Record number of applications received.