

## **Toffler Scholar Program Funding Opportunity**

**Sponsor:** Karen Toffler Charitable Trust and Florida State University College of Medicine

**Program:** Toffler Scholar Program

**Award amount:** \$80,000

**Application deadline:** 6/2/2025 at 12:00 p.m.

**Award period:** 10/1/2025–9/30/26

### **Overview**

The Toffler Scholar Program was established by the Karen Toffler Charitable Trust, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation dedicated to supporting groundbreaking neurological research at its earliest stages. Inspired by the visionary legacy of its founders, best-selling authors and futurists Alvin and Heidi Toffler, the Trust seeks to ignite transformative breakthroughs that have profound and lasting impacts on society.

The Toffler Scholar Program provides **early career university-based researchers** with essential funding and access to a supportive network, particularly targeting innovative projects that often face difficulty obtaining traditional funding. By offering nimble, targeted financial support to investigators working at the forefront of brain science, the program actively fosters novel ways of thinking and innovative problem-solving approaches aimed at solving some of humanity's most pressing and complex health challenges.

### **Karen Toffler Charitable Trust Key Focus Areas**

Applicants must be working in areas related to neuroscience, neurodegenerative, or associated human systems that (may) affect brain development and health.

- Biomarker Research for Early Detection
- Translational Research for New Science
- Emerging Technology Tools for Precision Understanding
- Disease Mechanism Research for Prevention and Resilient Health
- Population and Epidemiology to Understand Future Shocks in Brain Health

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

- Junior faculty at the assistant professor level, research track faculty, and postdoctoral fellows with at least 1 year of support remaining, with an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree are encouraged to apply.
- Proposed research projects may be basic or translational in nature.
- Applicants with more than \$50,000 in extramural support are ineligible.

## Application Process

Applications and related questions should be emailed to [research@med.fsu.edu](mailto:research@med.fsu.edu). Receipt of applications will be confirmed by email. Late applications will not be accepted.

Interested applicants should submit a single PDF including:

1. Toffler Scholar Grant Application Cover Sheet
2. Toffler Scholar Grant Application Narrative: Items 2A and 2B
3. Toffler Scholar Grant Application Narrative: Item 3
  - Please detail costs, including human and animal expenses, and justify all expenses.
  - All funds are to be spent during the 1-year award period.
  - Salary support for PIs who are postdoctoral fellows is capped at 20% of the award amount.
  - Salary support for faculty is not allowed.
  - Funds requested for travel must be justified as engaged in research, and cannot be used for attending meetings.
  - *Note: Award funds will not be released until all IRB and / or IACUC approvals have been secured.*
4. Research Strategy: maximum of 3 pages of text only, single spaced, 12-pt font and one-inch margins.
5. Supplemental figures: optional, maximum of 3 pages.
6. Biosketch in [NIH format](#).
7. Letter of recommendation from department chair, mentor, or current supervisor. If the letter is for a research track faculty member or postdoc, the letter must indicate independence of the proposed research project from those being conducted by the mentor. *Note: As a condition of the award, the applicant's chair, mentor, or current supervisor must agree to the applicant's effort commitment on this project.*

## Review Criteria

The most important criteria are novelty, innovation, breakthrough potential, and feasibility of the proposed research. A committee designated by the Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs in the College of Medicine will conduct the review.

## Reporting Guidelines

The Toffler Scholar Program requires 6- and 12-month reports and at least one introduction / check-in, generally conducted by Zoom with representatives from the Karen Toffler Charitable Trust.



**TOFFLER SCHOLAR GRANT APPLICATION  
COVER SHEET**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person / Primary Investigator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip, Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This organization is classified as a 501 C3 ( )**

**Project/Program Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Project/Program Budget:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summarize the significant problem or critical barrier in the field of neuroscience or neurodegenerative diseases this proposed study addresses?**

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**Has Applicant Received Prior Funding from the Karen Toffler Charitable Trust?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes, please provide the Date Granted, the Amount, and the Research Project/Program Title Funded.**

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## TOFFLER SCHOLAR GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES LIST

Grant Applications to the Karen Toffler Charitable Trust must be submitted with the information outlined below in the order listed.

### 1) APPLICATION COVER SHEET

### 2) NARRATIVE (No more than 4 pages excluding the Staff and Board lists)

#### A. Investigator Qualifications and Environment: (500 words max)

1. Provide Biosketch of Primary Investigator.
2. Provide how the institutional environment (facilities and mentoring support) is conducive to the success of the project and the investigator?
3. Provide how might this project support the next steps of this investigator's research career?
4. If funds for additional staff is being requested, provide their Biosketch and identify what role they will fill.
5. Is the primary investigator willing to support future KTCT grant request review efforts?

#### B. Project/Program Description: (500 words max)

1. Describe the project/program to be conducted, its objectives and specific activities to be conducted.
2. What does success of the project look like and what are its intended outcomes?
3. Include a discussion about the project/program's risks and limitations.
4. Describe the potential of this effort to advance scientific knowledge, clinical practice or lead to fundamental advances in the area of neuroscience or neurodegenerative diseases?
5. Describe the evaluation or documentation method to be used by the investigator and institution to assess the impact of the project/program including a detailed description of the expected outcomes and metrics.
6. Identify any innovative approach, novel methodology or challenge to existing paradigms to be used for this effort.
7. Provide a timetable for implementing the project/program that lists major phases of the project with start and finish dates and overall expected completion.
8. Describe how data will be collected, stored, and shared with the research community to promote transparency and reproducibility.

### 3) BUDGET

1. Provide a detailed budget for the project/program.
2. List the names of other sources of financial support for this project/program including amounts on hand and solicitations currently pending.
3. Explain plans are for this project/program if full funding for the project/program cannot be obtained.
4. Provide a description of internal management controls that have been adopted to prevent deficits in the proposed project.