

Endeavor Award



Program Overview

The Mark Foundation Endeavor Awards support collaborative research projects that bring together investigators with diverse areas of expertise to tackle challenges in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. These grants are awarded to teams of three or more investigators to generate and integrate data from diverse lines of research and transform those insights into advances for cancer patients that could not be achieved by individual efforts. A description of the teams granted Endeavor Awards in 2025 can be found [here](#).

Please note: The finalized Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2026 Endeavor Award has not yet been released. The information below reflects expectations based on The Mark Foundation's historical guidelines, as well as information that was explicitly stated in the last RFA as changing for the 2026 cycle and is subject to change once the official RFA is launched.

Eligibility

Investigator Eligibility:

- There are no restrictions on citizenship or geography.
- Applicants must have an independent faculty appointment (tenure-track or equivalent) at a non-profit academic/research institution.
- Investigators may be a co-PI or collaborator on more than one proposal but may only serve as Principal Investigator on one proposal.
- Investigators who are currently a co-PI on an Endeavor team are permitted to apply as co-PI or collaborator on a new application.

Project Eligibility:

- Basic, translational, and clinical projects are eligible.
- The project must seek to address an overarching, urgent scientific question.
- Sub-projects should be designed to elucidate various aspects of the overarching question, theme, or focus.
- The output of the individual team members (data, samples, hypotheses, compounds, etc.) must be integrated and/or shared in a way that makes the impact of the project as a whole larger than the sum of its parts.
- Proposed projects must not be supported by other sources of funding. Finalists will be asked to discuss any potential overlap with other current or pending awards.
- We welcome projects addressing substantial unmet needs in any type of cancer.

Team Composition:

- Teams must be composed of one PI and 2-8 co-PIs (see "Team Roles" section for definitions).
- Teams are encouraged to consider diversity in terms of discipline, seniority, gender, race, ethnicity, and any other parameters that will enhance the team's ability to approach challenging problems from fresh perspectives.
- The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other legally protected characteristics.

Team Roles

Principal Investigator (PI) – 1 per team

- Serves as the single point of contact with The Mark Foundation during the application process and the grant period.
- The LOA will be executed solely with the PI's institution.
- Must meet all criteria of a co-PI listed below.
- Does not need to be the most senior member of the team.

Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) – 2 to 8 per team

- Lab receives at least 10% of the total grant budget.
- Core member of the team's leadership.
- Designated as key personnel in the LOA.
- Must have an independent faculty research appointment (tenure-track or equivalent).

Collaborator – optional

- Lab receives 0-10% of the budget.
- Can provide resources, perform experiments, analyses, etc.
- Serves as a project consultant or advisor rather than a team leader.

Internal LOI Guidelines for the CU Anschutz Cancer Center

The CU Anschutz Cancer Center can submit two (2) nominations for The Mark Foundation Endeavor Award. To ensure we select the strongest proposals to represent the University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC), interested applicants must first participate in our internal competitive review process. Please note that our internal LOI requirements differ slightly from the Foundation's official LOI guidelines. When submitting through the internal process, follow the instructions provided in the Smartsheet application form (linked below). If selected as a UCCC nominee, you will then proceed with the Foundation's LOI submission process and follow their specific requirements.

- **Title Page**
 - Project Title
 - Principal Investigator – name, institution, title, contact info
 - List all co-PIs, and collaborators- name, institution, title, contact info
- **Project Summary (limit 350 words)**
 - Provide a lay summary of your project
 - Answer the following statement: How will the team work together? Describe the plan for team structure, communications, and shared resources.
- **Project Description (limit 2 pages, including figures and tables)**
 - Introduction, background, and description of unmet need
 - Research plan broken into aims, with each aim having:
 - Clear objective
 - Preliminary studies, if applicable
 - High-level description of the experimental approach
 - Milestones and timelines
- **Biosketches (limit 5 pages per biosketch)**
 - NIH-formatted biosketch for PI and all co-PIs

[Please submit your internal LOI here.](#) The deadline to submit is 5:00 pm MT on Friday, May 29.

LOI Guidelines for The Mark Foundation

The two nominees from the CU Anschutz Cancer Center internal competition will need to submit LOIs through The Mark Foundation online grants portal. The LOI will require the following information:

- **Principal Investigator** – name, institution, title, contact info
- **Project Title**
- **Project Summary/Abstract** – limit 350 words
- **Project Description** – limit 3-5 pages, including figures and tables but excluding literature references
 - Specific aims
 - Introduction, background, and description of unmet need
 - Research plan broken into aims, with each aim having:
 - Clear objective
 - Preliminary studies, if applicable
 - High-level description of the experimental approach
 - Milestones and timelines
 - Future directions – if the research plan is successful, what is the 5-10-year vision for expansion of the project?
 - Literature cited (does not count against page limit)
- **Team Description**
 - List all co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs), and collaborators (name, institution, title, contact info)
 - For the PI and co-PIs, provide the following:
 - 1-3 sentences describing their role in the project.
 - Biosketch (NIH or similar format preferred; limit 5 pages per investigator)
 - List any existing collaborations between co-PIs, including existing funding support for collaborative projects.
- **Collaborative Science Statement** – limit 1 page
 - Why is this project a team science project? Describe how the output of the individual investigators (data, samples, hypotheses, compounds, etc.) will be integrated and/or shared in a way that makes the impact of the project as a whole larger than the sum of its parts.
 - How will the team work together? Describe the plan for team structure, communications, and shared resources.
- **Budget overview** – Using the template provided.

Award Terms

- Endeavor Awards are \$3,000,000, disbursed over a 3-year term.
- The requested funding should be divided amongst team members in a manner proportional to the actual cost of the work carried out by each investigator for the project.
- The budget limit includes both direct and indirect costs, with indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the direct costs.
- The letter of agreement will include IP terms with a revenue-sharing component.

Key Dates

Anticipated LOI deadline: Friday, September 4, 2026.