

Funding Digest

Last scan: 2026-09-25 · Next scheduled review: ~Oct 9, 2026

A running list of open and soon-opening funding for OT students, clinicians, and researchers, curated for the OTA newsletter.

URGENT

Urgent

Due in fewer than 30 days — act soon.

HealthPath Foundation of Ohio

CLINICIAN

New cycle confirmed as the “Improving Maternal and Infant Health” RFP, run jointly with the Public Health Fund of Ohio — addresses barriers to prenatal, postpartum, and infant healthcare access. OT relevance is tangential, mainly fitting early-intervention/developmental programming rather than general OT practice.

Up to \$300,000 total · up to 6 grants of up to \$50,000 / 2 yrs **Opens Sept 1 · Due Oct 6, 2026**
[Funding page →](#)

Mt. Sinai Health Foundation (Cleveland) — Fall 2026 cycle

CLINICIAN RESEARCHER

For 501(c)(3)s improving health outcomes in Greater Cleveland — equitable health outcomes, academic medicine & bioscience. Doesn't fund direct service delivery, so it's a better fit for systems-, access-, or education-focused OT initiatives than direct clinical programming. Applicants are urged to contact a Program Officer before applying.

Amount: not stated **Due Oct 1, 2026**
[How to apply →](#)

NCMRR Early Career Research Award (R03, PAR-25-124)

RESEARCHER

NICHD's own small-grant vehicle for rehabilitation science, for investigators within 8 years of their terminal degree.

Up to \$200,000 / 2 yrs **Standing — next due Oct 16, 2026**
[FOA →](#)

Deadlines and amounts are checked directly against each funder's own site at scan time; confirm details directly with the funder before applying.

NIH Parent R21 & Parent R03

RESEARCHER

Broad exploratory/small-grant mechanisms open to investigators at any career stage. NICHD participates in both (NIDCD participates in the R21 family — verify per-institute participation before submitting).

R21 to \$275K/2yr · R03 to \$50K/yr

Standing — next due Oct 16, 2026

[R21 FOA →](#) · [R03 FOA →](#)

NIH AREA R15 & REAP R15 for Health Professional Schools

RESEARCHER

For faculty at teaching-focused institutions and health-professional/graduate schools (including OT/OTD programs) with limited recent NIH funding history. REAP is arguably the best-fit R15 variant for OT faculty at clinical graduate programs.

Up to \$375,000 / up to 3 yrs

Standing — next due Oct 25, 2026

[AREA \(no trial\) →](#) · [AREA \(trial\) →](#) · [REAP →](#)

AOTF Implementation Research Grant

RESEARCHER

Funds research implementing, sustaining, or scaling evidence-based OT practices into clinical settings. May be a renamed successor to the previously-tracked “Foundational Research Grant” track — unconfirmed on aotf.org, so listed as its own entry for now.

Up to \$50,000 / 1 yr or \$100,000 / 2 yrs

LOI due Sept 18, 2026 · full app Nov 20, 2026

[Funder page →](#)

Akron Community Foundation — Health & Human Services Grants

CLINICIAN

Competitive grant cycle funding programs from basic needs through self-sufficiency services, part of ACF's rotating quarterly Community Fund categories — a fit for community-based rehab, home health, or self-sufficiency programming. For Akron/Summit-area nonprofits; confirm exact service area before applying.

Amount: not published — contact the Foundation

Due Oct 1, 2026

[Grantmaking overview →](#) · [Health & Human Services →](#)

Interact for Health — Data for Equity RFP

CLINICIAN RESEARCHER

Capacity-building funding for nonprofit/governmental organizations to strengthen community-driven, equitable data and evaluation practices. A fit for OT-adjacent community health organizations building outcomes/equity data capacity, not direct clinical service funding. Serves Interact for Health's Greater Cincinnati/rural Ohio service region.

\$40,000 / 18 mo

Due Oct 7, 2026, 11:59 PM

[Open funding page →](#)

NIH REAP for Health Professional Schools — Clinical Trial Required (PAR-27-078)

RESEARCHER

Companion NOFO to the already-tracked REAP R15 mechanism, for research designed as a clinical trial. For health professional/graduate schools (including OT/OTD programs) with limited recent NIH funding history.

Up to \$375,000 / up to 3 yrs

Standing — next due Oct 25, 2026

[FOA →](#)

AOTA Institute for Future Scientists in OT (IFSOT) — 2027 cohort

STUDENT

Two-day mentorship program pairing OT students with established OT scientists to explore research careers and doctoral study, held alongside AOTA INSPIRE 2027 (Apr 9–10, 2027, Boston). Students at Carnegie DRU-VH (research-intensive) institutions are explicitly ineligible. No stipend, travel, or registration coverage is confirmed on the program page.

Amount: not stated — no stipend/travel coverage confirmed

Opens Sept 14 • Due Oct 19, 2026

[Program page →](#)

Ohio Department of Higher Education — Choose Ohio First FY27 RFP

STUDENT RESEARCHER

Statewide RFP funding Ohio colleges/universities — not individual students directly — to build scholarship capacity recruiting/retaining students in STEM and health-profession fields, with a required work-based learning (co-op/internship/research) component. OT programs have received this funding in prior cycles; whether OT's specific CIP code is on the FY27 eligible list wasn't independently confirmed — verify before promoting.

Amount: varies by institutional proposal (unconfirmed)

RFP due Oct 1, 2026

[RFP portal →](#) · [Program overview →](#)

Greater Toledo Community Foundation — Healthy Aging Fund

CLINICIAN

Supports collaborative, cross-agency nonprofit programs helping adults 60+ in Northwest Ohio stay healthy, connected, and independent — priorities include physical/social well-being, reducing isolation, and caregiver support. OT-adjacent via aging-in-place and community-mobility programming. Amount not published on the public page.

Amount: not published — see full guidelines

Due Oct 15, 2026, 11:59 PM

[Funding page →](#)

COMING UP

Coming Up

30–90 days out — worth planning for now.

Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland — Good Samaritan Grants

CLINICIAN

For 501(c)(3)s and government entities serving underserved populations in Cleveland's Central neighborhood specifically (narrow geography). Focus on health and social drivers of health.

Amount: not stated

Rolling — LOIs accepted continuously

[Submission timing →](#)

AOTF Dr. Carolyn Baum OT & Functional Cognition Mentor Award

RESEARCHER

2026–27 dates are now posted: applications open Sept 18, 2026, deadline Nov 6, 2026. \$10,000 stipend for a senior OT researcher (mentor, 7+ years post-doc) mentoring a junior faculty member or postdoctoral fellow (mentee) in functional cognition research.

\$10,000 stipend

Opens Sept 18 • Due Nov 6, 2026

[Funder page →](#)

Nord Family Foundation

CLINICIAN

Lorain County, Ohio-based private foundation funding community programs, including a Health & Social Services category — a community-program fit, not a research fit (academic research projects are explicitly excluded). Grants go to 501(c)(3)s, mostly for work in or benefiting Lorain County, with occasional reach into Cuyahoga County. No stated OT-specific priority, so this is a lead rather than a guaranteed fit. Rolling online portal; quarterly deadlines of April 1, August 1, and December 1. Amounts aren't published — contact the foundation directly to gauge typical grant size.

Amount: not published

Next due Dec 1, 2026 (rolling)

[How to apply →](#)

Deadlines and amounts are checked directly against each funder's own site at scan time; confirm details directly with the funder before applying.

AOTF/ASHT/AHTF Hand in Hand Research Grant

RESEARCHER CLINICIAN

Joint AOTF–American Society of Hand Therapists–American Hand Therapy Foundation award for hand-therapy-focused OT/PT research (health disparities, comparative effectiveness, orthosis/biophysical agents). No LOI stage — direct full application.

\$50,000 / 1 yr

Due Nov 2, 2026, 11:59 PM ET

[Funder page →](#)

AHTF Aaron and Winthrop Hand Therapy Educational Scholarship

CLINICIAN

Covers tuition for American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) educational courses, with stated priority for orthotics/splint-fabrication courses. Preference given to applicants serving underserved or vulnerable populations; ASHT membership preferred. For licensed clinicians, not students.

Up to \$500 toward course tuition

Open Sept 1 • Due Nov 1, 2026

[Scholarship page →](#)

WATCH LIST

Watch List

90+ days out, or not yet confirmed open — worth checking.

NIDILRR FY2027 funding cycle (incl. Switzer Research Fellowship)

RESEARCHER STUDENT

All FY2026 NIDILRR opportunities have closed. ACL advises checking back October–April for new postings; FY2027 opportunities — including the Switzer Research Fellowship for doctoral researchers in disability/rehabilitation — are expected to appear around October–November 2026. Still nothing posted as of this scan (confirmed via ACL/grants.gov — most recent Switzer posting was FY2025, closed Sept 2025).

Varies by mechanism

Expected Oct–Nov 2026

[ACL R&D programs →](#)

AOTF/OTA scholarships & AOTA E.K. Wise Scholarship

STUDENT

Includes the Rosa Hartsook Memorial Scholarship for Ohio post-professional students. Both closed for 2026 (AOTF's window closed Feb 20, 2026) or don't reopen until outside this window (AOTA opens Feb 2027). Flagging early for students and advisors planning ahead.

Varies by award

Expected ~Jan–Feb 2027

[AOTF Scholarships →](#) · [AOTA E.K. Wise →](#)

Deadlines and amounts are checked directly against each funder's own site at scan time; confirm details directly with the funder before applying.