

Funding Digest

Last scan: 2026-10-16 • Next scheduled review: ~Oct 30, 2026

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

URGENT

Urgent

Due in under 30 days — act soon.

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; both clinical-trial-optional and clinical-trial-required REAP NOFOs are included below alongside the AREA variants.

Up to \$375,000 / up to 3 yrs • **Standing — next due Oct 25, 2026, then Feb 25, 2027**

[AREA \(no trial\) →](#) | [AREA \(trial\) →](#) | [REAP \(trial optional\) →](#) | [REAP \(trial required\) →](#)

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 →](#)

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 →](#)

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 →](#)

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 →](#)

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/OOTA 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 →](#)