

T2RF Research Grant Cycle 7

Requests for Applications

Funding Year - July 1, 2027

DATE OPEN: August 31, 2026 | FULL APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 26, 2027

I. Overview

The TANGO2 Research Foundation (T2RF) supports researchers and scientists at various stages of their careers in order to advance the understanding of TANGO2 deficiency disorder (TDD) and its basic disease mechanisms, identify innovative approaches to therapeutics, and develop strategies that support patients living with TDD. The T2RF Grant Cycle 7 awards provide essential funding for seed or pilot research projects, fostering the exploration of groundbreaking research concepts. These awards support initial testing phases, allowing researchers to embark on smaller-scale endeavors. The emphasis lies in evaluating feasibility and refining methodologies, shaping the trajectory of potential larger-scale studies. Through the T2RF Grant Cycle 7, we empower researchers to take innovative ideas from conception to a vital stage of validation, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and discovery. We seek to fund rigorous, high-quality research studies in efforts to fulfill our foundation's mission enthusiastically.

A. Important Dates

The proposed schedule of events subject to the RFP is outlined below:

Public notice	August 31, 2026
Deadline for questions	September 30, 2026
Deadline for letter of intent (LOI)	November 6, 2026 5pm (EST)
Notification to submit full proposal	December 4, 2026
Deadline for full proposals	February 26, 2027 5pm (EST)
Estimated Notice of Award	May/June 2027
Project Start Date	July 1, 2027

II. Introduction

For more than half a decade, The T2RF has been successful in carrying out its mission to fund innovative basic, clinical and translational research conducted by talented investigators worldwide. The T2RF has awarded over **\$1.3 million** dollars since its inception, funding projects that have the potential to advance the field and have an immediate impact on children and adults living with TDD. The T2RF research grant cycle 6 is our ongoing commitment to the cultivation of resources that accelerate scientific

advancements for TDD while facilitating the next generation of TDD rare disease researchers. The T2RF research grant funds research that is innovative, collaborative and translational to positively impact treatments and potential cures for those affected by TDD. Our funding provides a platform to celebrate these scientists, spread awareness of their efforts, and highlight the importance of their research and its impact on the TDD community.

The T2RF reminds prospective applicants that the priority areas of interest exist to encourage submissions on a topic, not to limit submissions to the specified priority topics. The T2RF welcomes proposals on all topics related to TDD that fall within the guidelines of the grant program. This funding cycle the foundation has identified these priority topics for proposals:

- A. Understanding cellular response to therapeutics (e.g. drug, nutrition, and gene therapies)
- B. Optimizing nutrition in those affected by TDD (e.g. optimization of B vitamins)
- C. Understanding, managing and avoiding the life-threatening symptoms of TDD (e.g. metabolic and/or cardiac crises, rhabdomyolysis, seizures/brain injury)
- D. Improving affected patients' function, quality of life, and independence (e.g. language, behavior, movement and neurological symptoms of TDD)
- E. Development and Validation of Process Outcome Measures

Suitable research topics may focus on the following. *Examples include but are not limited to:*

- A. Cellular and molecular mechanisms disrupted in TDD
- B. Development and characterization of novel animal (vertebrate or invertebrate), cellular, and computational models
- C. Biomarker discovery or development
- D. Therapeutic target identification and validation (e.g. B5, other vitamins quantity/rate)
- E. Bioinformatics, machine learning, and other computational biology approaches applied to existing TANGO2 clinical, imaging, or -omics datasets
- F. Development of novel diagnostics or clinical outcome measures, including digital tools for passive or active data collection.

The T2RF strongly advocates for patient-centered research and early engagement with the TANGO2 community. Investigators whose proposed projects involve participation from individuals or families affected by TANGO2 Deficiency Disorder are strongly encouraged to consult with the T2RF Research Committee during the proposal development process and prior to LOI submission. To schedule an office hour, please contact grants@tango2research.org.

The LOIs and full proposals submitted will be reviewed by both professional and parent/family member TANGO2 stakeholders.

III. Grant Specifics

A. Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for this grant funding:

- A clinical, basic, or community researcher with a terminal degree (MD, DO, Ph.D., NP, or international equivalent) working in an academic medical institution or nonprofit/research institution.
- At least 3 years experience of initiating and leading (PD/PI or Co-I roles) rare disease research is preferred.
- Eligible applicants who will be named as the project's Principal Investigator are allowed to hold only one grant from T2RF per funding cycle. Note PD/PIs can be listed as a Co-Investigator (CO-I) on other collaborative project LOIs and proposals.
- Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible to apply unless they can provide a letter of employment verifying they will begin a faculty position at, or equivalent to, the assistant professor level by the beginning of the funding period in Fall 2027.

The T2RF is committed to increasing the diversity of the scientific workforce and encourages applications by researchers from underrepresented or historically excluded populations, those based outside of the U.S., not previously funded by the T2RF, as well as Early Stage Investigators as defined by the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#).

B. Award

- This funding cycle T2RF will fund projects via the following mechanisms, by either a:
 - **Single-institution (single or multi-PI)** - Award amount up to \$25,000 USD
 - This grant supports a research initiative within a single institution that may or may not involve multiple research investigators and/or a multi-departmental research team.
 - **Multi-institutional (multi-PI)** - Award amount up to \$50,000 USD
 - This grant supports a collaborative research initiative which requires the PI/PD to partner with an institution or personnel outside of their own academic/research institution, and/or affiliated hospital institution.
 - Joint proposals within and outside the US are encouraged.
- Indirect costs are unallowable
- 1-year grant duration (7/1/2027 - 6/30/2028)

- with the opportunity for a competitive one year renewal (up to an additional \$25,000 USD for single institution proposals or \$50,000 USD for multi-institution proposals).
- No-cost extensions (NCE) can be requested and are subject to foundation approval.

C. Letters of Intent (LOI)

All grant applicants with exception to competitive grant renewal applicants **must** submit an LOI. LOIs will be accepted starting **September 30, 2026** through **November 6, 2026 5pm EST**. Applicants will complete the T2RF Cycle 7 LOI fillable form via Submittable. The following information will be requested in the LOI fillable form and shall not exceed 5 pages, excluding NIH formatted Biosketches.

Applicant name, credentials, title (**Note: Applicant submitting LOI must be the project's PD/PI**)
Applicant academic medical Institution, mailing address, email address, phone number

Please provide the following if applicable:

Co-Investigator(s) Name, Credentials, title

Co-Investigator(s) academic medical institution, mailing address, email address, phone number

Single or Multi-Institutional Award

Project Title

Lay summary of the project (not to exceed 7-10 sentences)

Project Overview (not to exceed 2 pages) - Briefly describe the project to be funded, providing the following information: relevance, purpose, rationale, specific research aims & objectives, concise methodology, expected outcomes, and main activities. Include evidence of your prior work as it relates to the proposal. Please specify if human subjects, live vertebrate animals, biological agents or recombinant DNA will be involved in the study and if approval for the study is in place through the Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Radiation Safety Committee, and/or the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Budget & Budget Narrative (not to exceed 2 pages) - Provide a brief and succinct budget narrative and budget. The budget narrative should breakdown costs for each of the major cost

categories (ie., salaries, fringe benefits, equipment, supplies, and other direct costs). Describe each line item in the budget and show the calculations used to derive the costs. Expenses should be justified in the context of the LOI proposal. **List any other funding sources that will be applied to this project.**

Funding Restrictions - T2RF Cycle 7 grant funds cannot be used for the following:

- Starting a new business
- Paying back loans
- School tuition
- Registry maintenance or development
- Fundraising
- Personal use of goods or services
- Travel costs
- Equipment (more than \$3,000 USD)
- Facilities and Administration (F&A) costs
- Visas and/or Passports
- Research Patient Care
- Conference/Symposium/Other event registration fees
- Membership dues

Compliance Statement (not to exceed 2-3 sentences) - Please provide a statement outlining the compliance practice for your proposed project highlighting if this work was approved by the appropriate governing bodies.

Research Compliance Bodies:

- The **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** functions to assure that research involving human subjects is carried out in an ethical manner. The principles of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice will prevail in IRB review of research involving human subjects.
- The **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)** oversees the Animal Care and Use Program, Vertebrate Animal Housing and Facilities, and Live Vertebrate Animal Procedures.
- The **Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)** provides guidance to researchers who use biological agents or recombinant DNA within the scope of their work.
- The **Radiation Safety Committee** has the responsibility to oversee projects utilizing radioactive materials or radiation sources.

Conflict of Interest (not to exceed 2-3 sentences) - All Investigators are required to disclose their outside financial interests related to the proposed project at the time of LOI submission, on an annual basis in the event the project is funded and on an ad hoc basis as changes in their situation arise.

Biosketch - Please attach a Biographical Sketch/Curriculum Vitae (CV) in [NIH format](#) of the project's Principal Investigator(s). T2RF staff and peer reviewers utilize the biosketch to ensure that individuals included on the applications are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.

The T2RF internal review committee of professionals and family stakeholders will review LOIs. Full proposals will be requested based on LOIs meeting LOI submission requirements, project's potential impact, likelihood of successful project completion and other factors. Successful candidates will be notified by the T2RF Research Director via email to complete a full proposal application via Submittable.

D. Full Proposals

Successful candidates will be notified by the T2RF Research Director via **email** to complete a full proposal application. Full proposals will be accepted starting **January 1, 2027** through **February 26, 2027 5pm EST. Acceptance of late applications will be made on a case-by-case basis, dependent upon the explanation provided in a cover letter submitted with the application.** Applicants will complete the T2RF Cycle 7 full proposal fillable form for submission via Submittable. Applicants may develop and revise their full proposal within Submittable until the published submission deadline, or until they elect to submit in advance of that deadline.

If an applicant submits prior to the deadline and subsequently identifies the need for revisions, they must contact **grants@tango2research.org** to request that the application be reopened in Submittable. Once reopened, the proposal will remain editable until the submission deadline, unless the applicant resubmits earlier.

Upon resubmission, the revised proposal will be considered the final version and will replace all prior submissions for review.

Applicants are reminded that non-conformity with application requirements can have serious consequences. T2RF may withdraw any application identified during the receipt, referral and review process that does not conform with the instructions.

The following information will be requested in the full proposal fillable form and shall not exceed 12 pages, excluding NIH formatted Biosketches and cited references.

Applicant name, credentials, title **(Note: Applicant submitting full proposal must be the project's contact PD/PI)**

Applicant academic medical Institution, mailing address, email address, Applicant phone number
Please provide the following if applicable:

Co-Investigator(s) Name, Credentials, title

Co-Investigator(s) academic medical institution, mailing address, email address, phone number

Single or Multi-Institutional Award Application

Project Title

Abstract (not to exceed 300 words) - The abstract should explain the key elements of your research project in the future tense. Please state: (1) the general purpose, (2) specific goals, (3) research design, (4) methods, and (5) significance (contribution and rationale). Be as explicit as possible in your abstract.

Lay summary of the project (not to exceed 7-10 sentences)

Introduction (not to exceed 2 pages) - The introduction should cover the key elements of your proposal, including the following: a statement of the problem, the purpose of research, research goals or objectives, and significance of the research. The statement of problem should provide a background and rationale for the project and establish the need and relevance of the research. How is your project different from previous research on the same topic? Will you be using new methodologies or covering new theoretical territory? The research goals or objectives should identify the anticipated outcomes of the research.

Project Narrative (not to exceed 5 pages) - Please provide in detail the following information in this specific order: specific research aims, goals/objectives or deliverables, hypotheses, methodology, analyses or other activities, the tools, technologies and time-frames needed to meet the grant's objectives, as well as the evaluation and dissemination plan of the research results. Include evidence of your prior work as it relates to the proposal. Please specify if human subjects, live vertebrate animals, biological agents or recombinant DNA will be involved in the study and if approval for the study is in place through the Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Radiation Safety Committee, and/or the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Applicants will be given the option to upload any preliminary data, text, images, audio or video to support the project narrative that will not count against their 5 page limitation.

Budget Narrative (not to exceed 2 pages) - Provide a brief and succinct budget and budget justification. The budget narrative should breakdown costs for each of the major cost categories (i.e., salaries, fringe benefits, equipment, travel, supplies, and other direct costs). Describe each

line item in the budget and show the calculations used to derive the costs. Expenses should be justified in the context of the full proposal. **List any other funding sources that will be applied to this project.**

Funding Restrictions - T2RF Cycle 7 grant funds cannot be used for the following:

- Starting a new business
- Paying back loans
- School tuition/housing
- Registry maintenance or development
- Fundraising
- Personal use of goods or services
- Travel costs
- Equipment (more than \$3,000 USD)
- Facilities and Administration (F&A)/Indirect costs (IDC)
- Visas and/or Passports
- Research Patient Care
- Membership dues
- Conference/Symposium/Other event registration fees

Project Timeline (not to exceed 1 page) - Please provide a detailed statement or visual graphic outlining your proposed project's timeline highlighting its main activities, deliverables, milestones and any other pertinent information.

Conflict of Interest (not to exceed 2-3 sentences) - All Investigators are required to disclose their outside financial interests related to the proposed project at the time of LOI submission, on an annual basis in the event the project is funded and on an ad hoc basis as changes in their situation arise.

References Cited - Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication); the article title; journal or book title; volume number; page numbers; and year of publication. Include only APA or AMA bibliographic citations.

E. Competitive Renewal Proposals

Upon completion of the initial grant period, investigators who meet the eligibility requirements for competitive renewal will be notified by the T2RF Research Director via email and Submittable and invited to submit a competitive renewal application.

Eligible investigators may apply for a one-year competitive renewal to build upon the accomplishments of their initial award and further advance a research project with demonstrated progress and high potential to improve the understanding or treatment of TANGO2 deficiency

disorder. Single-institution awardees may request up to an additional \$25,000 USD, while multi-institutional awardees may request up to an additional \$50,000 USD.

Competitive renewal funding is **not automatic** and is contingent upon satisfactory progress during the initial award period, submission of a competitive renewal application, successful peer review, and the availability of funds.

Recipients of competitive renewal awards are not eligible for no-cost extensions (NCEs). Exceptions may be considered only under extenuating circumstances and require prior written approval from the TANGO2 Research Foundation.

Competitive Renewal Eligibility

To be eligible for competitive renewal consideration, applicants must be in good standing with all T2RF reporting and compliance requirements and must not have an approved no-cost extension (NCE) for their current T2RF-funded project. Applicants considering competitive renewal funding must:

- Be the Principal Investigator (or Multi-PI) of an active or recently completed T2RF-funded project.
- Be in good standing with all T2RF reporting requirements.
- Have submitted all required scientific and financial progress reports.
- Demonstrate satisfactory progress toward the original project aims.
- If invited, submit a renewal application via Submittable immediately following the original funding period. **(For example, an investigator with an initial project end date of June 30, 2026, may be eligible to submit a competitive renewal application beginning January 1, 2027. If selected for funding, the competitive renewal award will commence on July 1, 2027).**
- Propose work that builds directly upon the originally funded project.

Renewal applications will be accepted starting **January 1, 2027** through **February 26, 2027 5pm EST. Acceptance of late applications will be made on a case-by-case basis, dependent upon the explanation provided in a cover letter submitted with the application.** Applicants will complete the T2RF competitive renewal application fillable form for submission via Submittable.

The following information will be requested in the competitive renewable fillable form and shall not exceed 12 pages, excluding NIH formatted Biosketches and cited references.

Single or Multi-Institutional Award Competitive Renewal Application

Project Progress (not to exceed 2 pages)

Describe:

- Progress toward each original Specific Aim

- Major accomplishments
- Key findings
- Challenges encountered
- Modifications made to the original study
- Publications, presentations, abstracts, datasets, software, protocols, or other products resulting from the award

Preliminary Results (not to exceed 1 page)

Summarize the preliminary data generated during the original award period and explain how these findings support the proposed renewal activities.

Applicants will be given the option to upload any preliminary data, text, images, audio or video to support the preliminary results that will not count against their 1 page limitation.

Renewal Research Plan (not to exceed 4 pages)

Describe:

- Remaining research questions
- New Specific Aims
- Scientific rationale
- Methods
- Timeline
- Expected outcomes
- Future funding strategy
- Impact on TDD research

The Renewal Research Plan should clearly distinguish completed work from the activities proposed for the renewal period. Additionally, applicants should clearly identify any significant changes from the originally funded project, including: changes in Specific Aims; methodology; personnel changes; institutional changes; revised milestones and or budget modifications.

Any substantial changes should be justified within the renewal application.

Budget Narrative (not to exceed 2 pages)

Provide a detailed budget and budget justification only for the proposed renewal period. The budget narrative should breakdown costs for each of the major cost categories (i.e., salaries, fringe benefits, equipment, travel, supplies, and other direct costs). Describe each line item in the budget and show the calculations used to derive the costs. Expenses should be justified in the context of the full proposal. **List any other funding sources that will be applied to this project.**

Funding Restrictions - T2RF Competitive Renewal funds cannot be used for the following:

- Starting a new business
- Paying back loans
- School tuition/housing
- Registry maintenance or development
- Fundraising
- Personal use of goods or services
- Travel costs
- Equipment (more than \$3,000 USD)
- Facilities and Administration (F&A)/Indirect costs (IDC)
- Visas and/or Passports
- Research Patient Care
- Membership dues
- Conference/Symposium/Other event registration fees

Updated Timeline (not to exceed 1 page)

Please provide a detailed statement or visual graphic outlining your proposed project's timeline highlighting its main activities, deliverables, milestones and any other pertinent information for the additional one-year funding period.

Conflict of Interest (not to exceed 2-3 sentences) - All Investigators are required to disclose their outside financial interests related to the proposed project at the time of LOI submission, on an annual basis in the event the project is funded and on an ad hoc basis as changes in their situation arise.

References Cited - Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication); the article title; journal or book title; volume number; page numbers; and year of publication. Include only APA or AMA bibliographic citations.

F. Scoring

The T2RF grant review committee will review full proposals and competitive grant renewal applications. Full proposals and competitive grant renewal will be scored using [NIH grant scoring criteria and guidelines](#). Proposals will be given a raw overall impact score from 1-9, where 1 is exceptional and 9 is poor. To arrive at your overall impact score, reviewers consider the following core review criteria:

- Significance
- Investigator
- Innovation
- Approach

- Environment

For competitive renewal applications, reviewers will additionally assess the extent to which applicants have demonstrated significant scientific progress and provided a compelling justification for how the proposed renewal will build upon prior accomplishments and meaningfully advance the project beyond the original award.

T2RF defines impact as the likelihood that your project will exert a powerful influence on its field. Reviewers also usually comment on its relevance to the T2RF's mission.

Notice of awards for full proposals and competitive renewal applications will be made via email from the T2RF Research Director in May/early June 2027.

G. General Rules & Award Conditions

Acceptance of a TANGO2 Research Foundation (T2RF) Research Grant constitutes agreement to the following terms and conditions:

1. Progress Reporting

- The Principal Investigator (PI)/awardee is required to provide periodic written progress updates to the T2RF Research Committee throughout the award period. T2RF may also request brief virtual or written updates to discuss project progress, milestones, challenges, and anticipated next steps.

2. Final Report

- Within 60 days of the project end date, the PI/awardee must submit a final scientific report summarizing the project's objectives, accomplishments, key findings, challenges, and future directions. A financial summary of how award funds were utilized may also be requested.

3. Sharing of Research Findings

- T2RF is committed to fostering collaboration and accelerating research progress. Upon request, awardees agree to share project updates, preliminary findings, and final results with the T2RF Research Committee, other T2RF-funded investigators, and the TANGO2 community through appropriate channels, including presentations, webinars, scientific meetings, publications, or community forums, when scientifically and ethically appropriate.

4. Acknowledgment of Funding

- All publications, presentations, abstracts, posters, and other scholarly products resulting from work supported by this award must acknowledge funding from the TANGO2 Research Foundation.

5. Project Changes

- Significant changes to the project's scope, research aims, timeline, Principal Investigator, institution, or budget require prior written approval from the TANGO2 Research Foundation.

6. Award Termination

- If the PI/awardee or institution is unable to complete the proposed research project, or if

the project is terminated before completion for any reason, the TANGO2 Research Foundation must be notified promptly in writing.

7. Return of Unexpended Funds

- In the event a project is discontinued, terminated, or cannot be completed, any unexpended or unobligated award funds must be returned to the TANGO2 Research Foundation within 60 days of project termination, unless otherwise approved in writing by T2RF.

8. Compliance

- The PI/awardee and sponsoring institution are responsible for ensuring that all research supported by this award is conducted in accordance with applicable institutional policies and all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including obtaining and maintaining all required ethical and regulatory approvals.

9. Communication and Collaboration

- Awardees are encouraged to maintain open communication with T2RF throughout the award period and to participate in collaborative activities that advance the Foundation's mission of accelerating research and improving outcomes for individuals living with TANGO2 Deficiency Disorder.