

Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Research Grants

2025 – 2026 Call for Letters of Intent

PURPOSE OF AWARD:

For more than a decade, Susan G. Komen® Career Catalyst Research (CCR) Grants have fostered promising breast cancer researchers who are in the early stages of their faculty careers by providing support for up to three years of “protected time” for research career development under the guidance of a Mentor Committee. We seek to support those who will emerge as the next key leaders in the fight against breast cancer.

CAREER CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT OVERVIEW:

Applicants must be **Early Career Investigators** who currently hold a faculty appointment or have a formal offer letter from the Institution that confirms position and start date by the Application due date (**October 2, 2025**) and have not been held any faculty appointment, including non-tenure and tenure track appointments combined, for more than a total of **6 years** by the Application due date (**October 2, 2025**). All positions that are considered as “Faculty” positions by the Applicant/PIs institution (or prior institution) count towards the 6-year limit. This may include positions such as Instructor, Research Fellow, or other non-tenure track faculty positions as appropriate. This is a limited submission opportunity: each institution may only nominate a single applicant for this funding opportunity.

Research projects must be **hypothesis-driven, breast cancer-focused studies**. They may be considered basic, translational, clinical and/or population science in nature and should align with Komen’s research priorities and/or mission to save lives from breast cancer. Komen’s research priorities are conquering metastatic and aggressive breast cancers, advancing personalized breast cancer care throughout the continuum of care, and improving health outcomes for everyone impacted by breast cancer. Metastatic breast cancer-focused studies may include, but are not limited to, the development of novel treatment strategies for existing metastatic disease, strategies to prevent or arrest metastasis and late recurrence, and innovative approaches to detect new or recurrent metastatic breast cancer. Precision medicine-focused studies aim to identify the most effective and appropriate strategies to treat, detect, diagnose, and prevent disease based on genomic, biological, environmental, economic, lifestyle and social characteristics. Applications focused on improving health outcomes may expand our understanding of the biological, behavioral, social, and systems contributors to disparities in breast cancer care and outcomes and lead to new ways to treat breast cancer and/or novel approaches to improve access and utilization of timely, high quality breast cancer care. Applications that leverage data science (includes artificial intelligence and other analytical methods applied to data aggregated from multiple sources, such as electronic health records, other clinical data, administrative databases, large data repositories, genomics and other -omics data, etc.) are also encouraged.

Komen believes that diversity in research is essential to expand our knowledge of breast cancer, advance breast cancer care and improve outcomes for everyone. We are committed to supporting a diverse workforce; research environments that encourage a wide range of views, expertise, and experiences; and research studies that include participants who are representative of all people impacted by breast cancer to fuel innovation and scientific discoveries that can benefit all.

FUNDING INFORMATION AND GRANT TERMS:

Applicants/Primary Investigators (PIs) may request funding of up to \$150,000 per year (combined direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (\$450,000).

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be nominated by the Institution’s Office of Sponsored Programs, Grants Office or equivalent. This is a limited submission opportunity, and the applicant/PI cannot self-nominate.
- Must have a doctoral degree, such as M.D., Ph.D., Dr.P.H., D.O., or equivalent.

- Must currently hold a full-time faculty appointment or have a formal offer letter from the Institution that confirms position and start date by the Application due date (**October 2, 2025**), documented by the Applicant/PI Biosketch and Letter of Institutional Support.
- Must not have held any faculty appointment, including non-tenure and tenure track appointments combined, for more than a total of **6 years** by the Application due date (**October 2, 2025**), documented by the Applicant/PI Biosketch and Letter of Institutional Support. All positions that are considered as “Faculty” positions by the Applicant/PI’s institution (or prior institution) count towards the **6-year** limit. This may include positions such as Instructor, Research Fellow, or other non-tenure track faculty positions as appropriate. All faculty positions and terms must be verified by the Letter of Institutional Support which must also include information regarding a pathway to independence if the applicant is not already leading their own research lab.
- Must not simultaneously hold any other Grant awarded by Susan G. Komen.
- Must not currently be or have been a Principal Investigator on an existing NIH R01 grant or their equivalent as of the date of Award Notification (**on or around April 15, 2026**).
- Must conduct the proposed research and training at the Lead Mentor’s U.S. based institution.
- Must have adequate space and facilities to conduct the proposed research and must be able to **devote at least 75% of full-time effort** to breast cancer research and activities, i.e., protected research time.
- Must ensure that all past and current Komen-funded Grants are up to date and in compliance with all Komen requirements; e.g., progress and financial report submissions, IRB (Institutional Review Boards) approvals, etc. by the Letter of Intent due date (**July 24, 2025**), if applicable.
- Is not required to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- May only submit ONE LOI/Application in response to this Announcement.

INTERNAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

Letters of Intent with cover page (see template below) and PI’s NIH Biosketch are **due June 30, 2025, at 11:59 pm** via email as a single PDF document to winshipgrants@emory.edu. Letters of Intent must include a proposed title for the research project, the Research Plan, Impact and Innovation Statement (described below) and may not exceed one page in length. The selected investigator will be notified and invited to submit a full Letter of Intent to Susan G. Komen. The one-page Letter of Intent must include:

- **Title:** The title should be lay-friendly and accurately describe the focus of the proposal. It should be no more than 81 characters in length (including spaces) and should not include abbreviations or all capital letters. It must be included in the one-page limit.
- **Research Plan:** Research projects must be hypothesis-driven, breast cancer-focused studies. They may be considered basic, translational, clinical, data science and/or population science in nature and should align with Komen’s research priorities and mission to save lives from breast cancer. The Research Plan must demonstrate consideration to the entire 3-year grant term expected of this grant mechanism, including detailed information on the specific aims and research goals. The Applicant/PI must propose a Research Plan that includes a clear and concise statement of the research question, hypothesis(es), and specific aims of the Research Project. The Research Plan must be included within the one-page limit.
- **Impact and Innovation:** Briefly summarize how, if successful, the proposal and specific aims will increase our understanding of breast cancer and lead to advances in the field and/or breast cancer care, and the project’s significance and potential impact to breast cancer patients, including who will/will not benefit from the findings of the research study. This must be included within the one-page limit.

2025 – 2026 CAREER CATALYST RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING CYCLE

CYCLE COMPONENT

Date of RFA Announcement

Winship Letter of Intent Due Date:

Winship Announcement of Nominee Selection:

Komen Letter of Intent Due Date:

Komen Application Due Date:

DATE

June 6, 2025

June 30, 2025

By July 10, 2025

July 24, 2025 by 1 pm ET

October 2, 2025 by 1 pm ET

Letter of Intent Cover Page (Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Research Grant)

APPLICANT Information:

Complete below ↓

First and last name (including degrees):	
Professional Title (i.e. Assistant Professor):	
Department:	
E-mail address:	
Appointment Start Date:	
Lead Mentor:	
Mentoring Committee (if known):	

Please confirm ALL the following eligibility items are true by the nomination due date.

(Please check the boxes below):

- ☐ Must have a doctoral degree, such as M.D., Ph.D., Dr.P.H., D.O., or equivalent.
- ☐ Must currently hold a full-time faculty appointment or have a formal offer letter from the Institution that confirms position and start date by the Application due date (October 2, 2025).
- ☐ Must not have held any faculty appointment, including non-tenure and tenure track appointments combined, for more than a total of **6 years** by the Application due date (October 2, 2025).
- ☐ Must not simultaneously hold any other Grant awarded by Susan G. Komen.
- ☐ Must not currently be or have been a Principal Investigator on an existing NIH R01 grant or their equivalent as of the date of Award Notification (on or around April 15, 2026).
- ☐ Must conduct the proposed research and training at the Lead Mentor's U.S. based institution.
- ☐ Must have adequate space and facilities to conduct the proposed research and must be able to devote at least 75% of full-time effort to breast cancer research and activities, i.e., protected research time.
- ☐ Must ensure that all past and current Komen-funded Grants are up to date and in compliance with all Komen requirements; e.g., progress and financial report submissions, IRB (Institutional Review Boards) approvals, etc. by the Letter of Intent due date (July 24, 2025), if applicable.