

## Susan G. Komen Career Transition Awards

2025 – 2026 Call for Letters of Intent

### PURPOSE OF AWARD:

This Susan G. Komen grant mechanism aims to help outstanding **postdoctoral fellows and clinical fellows**, working under the guidance of a mentor, launch their competitive, independent breast cancer research careers. Career Transition Awards provide up to five years of funding in two phases: Phase 1 supports the final years of mentored, postdoctoral training, and Phase 2 supports the independent research of the early career, tenure-track investigators. By supporting the most promising scientists and clinician-scientists as they embark on independent careers dedicated to breast cancer research, Komen seeks to ensure that a diverse group of highly trained scientists who reflect the communities we serve will emerge as the next generation of leaders in breast cancer research.

### CAREER TRANSITION AWARDS OVERVIEW:

The two phases of **this 5-year Career Transition Award** are intended to support individuals pursuing independent breast cancer research careers by providing funding for 1-2 years of mentored postdoctoral research and career development and up to 3 additional years of independent research in a tenure-track faculty position. **The transition from the mentored phase to the independent phase is intended to be continuous.** It is expected that the strongest applicants will provide a vision statement encompassing the 5-year grant term, including a well-conceived research project plan for 1–2 years of substantive mentored research, the plan to build upon this research in Phase 2, and career development activities that will help them become competitive candidates for tenure-track faculty positions (preferably at another institution from their mentored phase training) and prepare them to launch robust, independent breast cancer research labs.

Before beginning the second phase, the PI will submit new materials for programmatic review to recalibrate the project for the independent research phase. PIs should discuss their plans for an independent position with their Komen Research Grants Manager in the final year of the mentored phase of the grant. To activate Phase 2, Career Transition Award grantees must have been formally offered and accepted an independent tenure-track full-time faculty position by the end of Phase 1. PIs will work with their independent phase institution to submit the materials for Phase 2 of the award. The Phase 2 documentation must include an updated project narrative, updated budget, and letters of support from the new institution; further details will be provided to the PI at the appropriate time.

Research projects must be **hypothesis-driven, breast cancer-focused studies**; 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 to 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 AWARD TERMS:

Applicant/Primary Investigators (PIs) may request up to 5 years of funding totaling up to \$650,000.00 over the two phases of the Award. Up to \$100,000.00 per year (direct costs only) for up to two years may be requested for the first phase of the Career Transition Award to support the postdoctoral work (Phase 1). For the second phase of the Career Transition Award, the Applicant/PI may request up to \$150,000.00 per year (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years to support independent research (Phase 2).

#### 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.
- Individuals pursuing independent breast cancer research careers who are in mentored postdoctoral research training positions with no more than five years of total postdoctoral research experience at the time of Letter of Intent submission (**July 24, 2025**). For this application clinical fellows are considered eligible and equal to the postdoctoral rank.
- Applicants must complete **12 months in the mentored Phase 1** to be considered for Phase 2.
- Must have a doctoral degree, such as M.D., Ph.D., Dr.P.H., D.O., or equivalent.
- May not hold any appointment designated as faculty (e.g., assistant professor, clinical assistant professor, faculty-level instructor, or equivalent) that would allow them to apply for independent research funding. Clinical fellows with the title instructor are allowed as long as they are no more than 5 years into their training similar to above bullet concerning postdoctoral training.
- Must be able to **devote at least 75% of full-time effort** to breast cancer research and activities, i.e., protected research time.
- Must conduct proposed breast cancer research and training at the Lead Mentor's U.S.-based institution and must be designated as a member/employee of the Lead Mentor's laboratory by date of Letter of Intent submission.
- **Applicant/PI may not hold another career transition award, training award (K-type awards) or R-type award at time of notification of intent to fund (on or around April 15, 2026). If Applicant previously held an R-type award at any point, they are not eligible to apply for this award.**
- 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 approvals, etc. by the Letter of Intent due date (**July 24, 2025**).
- 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](mailto:winshipgrants@emory.edu). Letters of Intent must include a proposed title for the research project, the Research Plan, Impact and Innovation Statement, and Career Development Plan (described below) and may not exceed two pages in length. The selected investigator will be notified and invited to submit a full Letter of Intent to Susan G. Komen. The two-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 two-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 5-year grant term expected of this grant mechanism, including detailed information on the near-term specific aims and research goals and how the mentored phase (Phase 1) will lead to the independent phase (Phase 2) of research. 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 two-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 on breast cancer patients, including who will/will not benefit from the findings of the research study. This is included within the two-page limit.
- **Career Development Plan:** The Applicant/PI must submit a career development plan encompassing the 5- year grant term that conveys how the Applicant/PI is well positioned to pursue a career in breast cancer research and discusses their potential for making an impact in the breast cancer field. The Applicant/PI needs to present a clear, convincing, and feasible career development plan for developing the necessary research, scientific, management, and leadership skills to achieve career advancement during the Grant term; and how the Applicant/PI plans to transition to research independence beyond the Grant term and how their research project is independent or different from their mentor’s studies. This is included in the two-page limit.

## 2025 – 2026 CAREER TRANSITION AWARDS 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 Transition Awards)

### 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 be pursuing independent breast cancer research careers and are in a mentored postdoctoral research training position with **no more than five years** of total postdoctoral research experience at the time of the Letter of Intent (July 24, 2025) submission. Clinical fellows are eligible and are equal to the postdoctoral rank.
- ☐ Must be able to complete 12 months in the mentored Phase 1 of the application to be considered for Phase 2.
- ☐ May not hold any appointment designated as faculty (e.g., assistant professor, clinical assistant professor, faculty-level instructor, or equivalent) that allows for the applicant to apply for independent research funding.
- ☐ Must be able to devote at least 75% of full-time effort to breast cancer research and activities, i.e., protected research time.
- ☐ Must conduct proposed breast cancer research and training at the Lead Mentor's U.S. based institution and must be designated as a member/employee of the Lead Mentor's laboratory by date of Letter of Intent (July 24, 2025) submission
- ☐ May not hold another career transition award, training award (K-type awards), or R-type award at time of notification of intent to fund (on or around April 15, 2026). If Applicant previously held an R-type award at any point, they are not eligible to apply for this award.
- ☐ 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),