AHA RESEARCH FUNDING PROCESS



For many of our advancements, the AHA relies on volunteer scientists to ensure we fund the most high-impact and ground-breaking research.

Investigators Respond to AHA Calls for Applications Every year, thousands of researchers develop ideas to support the AHA mission.

Evaluated

The expert reviewers summarize the strengths and areas for improvement, and generate preliminary scores used in discussion at the review study group meeting.

Peer Review Study Group

After their initial in-depth evaluations, reviewers come together as 67 review committees, some with non-science volunteers, to further discuss and score the applications' merit and potential impact on the AHA mission.

American Heart Association

Dollars Raised

Applications Are Ranked

The submissions are ranked based on their scores.

Unfunded Research

The demand for funding is apparent. Each year, more researchers look to the AHA to fund their advancements, but the pool of dollars is not large enough to accommodate every idea. AHA invested nearly \$157.9 million to fund 690 new research awards in 2021-22. We received 2,027 more proposals, worth \$700.1 million, that we could not fund. This means many scientific projects were shelved, and the knowledge that would result from them deferred.

Applications Submitted

Ideas are submitted through an electronic application process. In fiscal year 2021-22, the AHA received 3,082 applications for funding.

Assigned to Reviewers

Volunteer researchers and leading experts impartially review the proposals. In fiscal year 2021-22 the AHA benefited from the expertise of 1,847 volunteer reviewers.

Funds Are Granted

The AHA Research Committee allocates funding to the most deserving ideas.

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Projects Are Conducted

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Awardees share their research methods and findings through presentations, publications and databases.