

# The W.M. Keck Foundation

## Request for Initial Concept Papers – June 2025 Cycle

This is a limited submission process that will select up to four internal applicant's projects to proceed to the consultation call stage with a Keck Foundation program officer.

The program officer will provide feedback on each concept paper and the IRSC will select which applicant will proceed with the single Phase 1 application allowed each cycle. Phase 1 deadline is November 1.

**Note:** *Applicants must have a WFSOM faculty designation*

**Funding Range:** Grants typically range from \$1.2M - \$1.3M

**Overview:** The W. M. Keck Research Program seeks to benefit humanity by supporting Medical Research projects that are distinctive and novel in their approach, question the prevailing paradigm, or have the potential to break open new territory in their field. The Research Program employs a two-phase application process after an initial concept paper review with the Keck Foundation. All communication with the foundation, including submitting applications, proposals and reports must be via the institution's designated liaison, the Corporate & Foundation Relations team in the Office of Philanthropy.

They fund projects that:

- Focus on important and emerging areas of research
- Have potential to develop breakthrough technologies, instrumentation, or methodologies
- Are innovative, distinctive, and interdisciplinary
- Demonstrate a high level of risk due to unconventional approaches or challenge the prevailing paradigm
- Have potential for transformative impact such as the founding of a new field of research, enabling of new observations, or altering perception of a previously intractable problem
- Fall outside the mission of public funding agencies
- Demonstrate that W.M. Keck Foundation support is essential to the project's success

### **The Foundation does not allow the following charges in the project budget:**

- Indirect costs/overhead – they recommend including this in the Other Sources portion of the final budget
- Student tuition
- Support for tenured and tenure track faculty exceeding 10% of their academic year salary
- Renovation more than 10% of the request
- Grant funds spent outside the US more than 10% of the request

Applicants are encouraged to review previously funded grant abstracts: <https://www.wmkeck.org/our-focus-research/#focus-abstracts-research>

**Guidelines:** <https://www.wmkeck.org/research-overview/#funding-guidelines>

**Concept Papers:** must be single page with 12-point font with 1-inch margins and include:

- Organization Name
- Project Title
- Full name of Principal Investigator
- An overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies
- A description of the methodologies and key personnel
- A brief justification of the need for Keck Foundation support
- An estimated budget not to exceed \$1.2 million – If possible, broken down by major areas, e.g. personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc.
- With any remaining space within the 1-page limit, authors may add other details
- If a reference is necessary, abbreviate it as (Science, 323, 45, '11). DO NOT USE (Jones et al., 2011)
- Please avoid any illustrations

Concept papers should be submitted through the [Keck Foundation Funding submission system](#) by the deadline to be considered for selection.

Questions regarding the application process should be directed to **Joanna Yu**, senior corporate and foundation relations officer, at [jhyu@wakehealth.edu](mailto:jhyu@wakehealth.edu).

### Key Dates

Date	Action Item
April 11, 2025 11:59 pm EST	Concept Paper Deadline
May 5, 2025	Applicants Notified of Selection Status
Mid-May to mid-June	Applicant Proposal Counseling Prep
July 1 – August 15, 2025	Concept Counseling Call

