

Alexion Charitable Foundation Rare Belonging® Grant Program

Health Equity Guidelines & Criteria

Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease is dedicated to transforming the lives of people affected by rare diseases through the development and delivery of innovative medicines, supportive technologies, and healthcare services. Alexion extends this ambition through the charitable giving efforts of the Alexion Charitable Foundation.

The Alexion Charitable Foundation (ACF) is dedicated to addressing health disparities among the rare disease community and ensuring that all underserved communities, including BIPOC families and those of lower socioeconomic status, have equitable pathways to the care, services, and resources they need to live full lives. The Foundation's signature initiative, Rare Belonging®, partners with organizations supporting individuals, caregivers and families impacted by rare disease across three focus areas:

- **Mental Health & Wellbeing**
- **Barriers to Care**
- **Health Literacy**

In 2024, ACF is leveraging Alexion's core health equity strategy to expand its Barriers to Care focus area, which focuses on strengthening the diagnostic journey and access to care by minimizing mobility, language, financial and knowledge barriers for people living with rare diseases. This focus area will now include support for efforts to improve equitable access to diagnostics for people living with rare diseases by identifying innovative solutions to reduce the time to diagnosis for more patients and increasing underserved patients' access to care.

Grant Criteria

All grantees must adhere to the existing [Rare Belonging® Guidelines and Criteria](#). Alexion Charitable Foundation partners must demonstrate a program/project need, align to the Foundation's funding priorities, reach priority target audiences, and demonstrate financial stability, strong governance, and the ability to deliver high quality programs. Grantees must not have a history of violating any healthcare laws. In addition, ideal Health Equity partners will have:

- Experience connecting with and providing services to underserved, BIPOC and/or low-income populations.
- Ability to identify and serve rare disease patients and their caregivers.
- Demonstrated capabilities to effectively reach underserved communities in urban and/or rural settings.
- Prior experience addressing health equity, with a preferred focus on improving diagnosis and increasing access to relevant health services and programs.

Grantee Eligibility

Prospective grantees and proposed programs/projects must meet the following eligibility requirements. *Please Note: More detailed eligibility requirements can be found in the [Rare Belonging® Grant Guidelines and Criteria](#).*

- **Nonprofit Status:** Be nonprofit organizations tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and qualify as public charities, or the international equivalent.
- **Disease Agnostic:** Be disease-state agnostic, meaning the organization serves individuals living with or affected by any rare disease (as opposed to serving only individuals living with or affected by specific rare diseases).
- **Other Restrictions:** The following organization types and activities are **INELIGIBLE** for ACF grants:
 - Requests for general operating support, event sponsorships, and/or fundraising events.
 - Fiscally sponsored organizations and/or those with loans, debt or operating deficits.
 - Individuals, private foundations, social/fraternal organizations, sports leagues, political or religious organizations, and those requiring financial support for clinical care costs.
- Terrorist organizations or those that discriminate based on race, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or other protected characteristic.

Partnership Considerations

- The Alexion Charitable Foundation is legally restricted from engaging in self-dealing transactions or other activities that result in private benefit to the company (among other parties). Foundation activities may not offer direct benefits and/or preferential treatment to the company in regard to product publicity, hiring and recruitment, employee benefits, governmental relationships, and more. Incidents of self-dealing are determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Prospective organizations must not have existing funding or sponsorship support from other areas of the business nor be affiliated with any commercial initiatives.