

Alexion Charitable Foundation (ACF)

Guidelines and 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 recognizes that patients and caregivers are people first and seek to understand their unique experiences to better serve their unique needs. Alexion extends this ambition through the charitable giving efforts of the Alexion Charitable Foundation (ACF).

***Please Note:** ACF reserves the right to change any aspects of the grant program at any time in its sole discretion, including grantee eligibility and grant criteria (without advance notice). All decisions to issue grants are the sole discretion of ACF and subject to an internal review and selection process. ACF does not guarantee grants. An initial grant is not a guarantee that an eligible entity will receive a subsequent grant.*

Mission

The Alexion Charitable Foundation seeks to bring promise, hope, and belonging to people affected by rare disease. ACF's mission is to address health disparities within and among the rare disease community. We invest in projects to ensure that all underserved communities have equitable pathways to the care, services, and resources they need to live healthier lives.

Grant Program

ACF supports programs and services that benefit individuals, caregivers, and families impacted by rare diseases listed in Global Genes' RARE List¹. **Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, or the international equivalent, may apply for grants if they meet the criteria set forth in this document.**

Focus Areas and Sample Types of Programs

For the 2026 grant cycle, the Foundation is placing greater emphasis on advancing equitable diagnosis and improving the rare disease diagnostic journey. ACF seeks to partner with organizations aligned to the focus areas outlined below.

Focus Areas	Sample Types of Programs
Science-Driven Solutions Close gaps in early symptom recognition and increase access to clinical, genetic, and diagnostic testing.	• Early symptom recognition and education workshops • Community-based screening and testing initiatives • Public awareness campaigns for early detection • Newborn screening pilots or enhancements in underserved regions
Technology and Innovation Enhance diagnostic accuracy and speed through technological advances and breakthroughs.	• AI-enabled diagnostic support tools • Portable or remote screening technologies • Care navigation or triage apps • Digital platforms connecting families to evaluation resources

¹ <https://globalgenes.org/rare-list/>

Patient Supports Help patients and caregivers access interventions and care throughout the diagnosis journey.	• Translation and interpretation services • Patient and family navigation assistance • Transportation, housing, or logistics support
Research and Policy Support policy efforts and lived-experience research focused on diagnostic pathways and systems improvements.	• Research on diagnostic delays among women in rare disease • Studies on bias and access gaps in diagnosis • Newborn screening gaps analysis study in high-risk countries • Multi-stakeholder think tanks, symposiums or policy roundtables • Development of patient-informed diagnostic pathway insights

Application Process

ACF cannot fund every worthwhile project. Thus, it is highly selective in its philanthropic giving so that it may address key needs and maximize impact. Organizations whose programs and services align with ACF's focus areas are encouraged to carefully review our guidelines and consider participating in the Open Call.

Open Call Timeline:

- Opens: August 3, 2026
- Closes: August 21, 2026

The grantmaking process will begin with the submission of a Preliminary Request Form. Following review, a select group of organizations will be invited to submit a full grant application. Please note that submission of a Preliminary Request Form does not guarantee invitation to the full application stage or funding consideration. All eligible organizations will be evaluated using the same criteria through the same competitive review process

Grant Criteria

Successful grant applications will meet the following criteria:

- Clear programmatic alignment with ACF's mission and one or more of its related focus areas.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively serve the rare disease community in the organization's home country. International organizations and those with multi-country or global reach may be given preference.
- Demonstrated capacity to deliver quality programming and meet established goals.
- Financial support from an array of sources.
- Demonstrated excellence in governance, reputation, and best practices.
- Demonstrated ability to report on measurable social impact results and outcomes.

Grantee Eligibility

To be considered for an ACF grant, the organization and the program or project for which funds are being requested must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- **Nonprofit in Good Standing:** All grant recipients must be nonprofit organizations tax-exempt **under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and qualify as public charities, or the international equivalent.** Organizations should be in good standing, including compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Grant recipients must further meet generally recognized benchmarks demonstrating excellence for public charities (such as the percentage of funding used for charitable activities rather than administration and fundraising). Due

diligence will be conducted to confirm organizations are in good standing. The Foundation may require additional documentation and expects cooperation and transparency from all prospective partners.

- **Expertise:** All grantee organizations must have demonstrated expertise with, or capacity to, scale reach to the rare disease community.
- **Conflicts of Interest:** ACF 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.
- **Other Restrictions:** Additionally, the following organization types and activities are **INELIGIBLE** for grants awarded from ACF:
 - Individuals.
 - Requests for general operating support.
 - Religious organizations whose programs are not offered to the general population of individuals living with or affected by a rare disease, regardless of religious affiliation.
 - Political organizations and organizations whose primary purpose is to influence legislation or participate/intervene in political campaigns on behalf of or against any candidate for public office.
 - Organizations requiring a fiscal sponsor.
 - Social, labor, alumni and fraternal organizations (e.g., higher education alumni groups, sororities, fraternities, workers' unions, exclusive membership clubs limited to a specific constituency, etc.).
 - Professional and amateur sports events, organizations and teams (e.g., Little Leagues).
 - Private foundations.
 - Organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or identification, political affiliation or any other protected characteristic or local policy.
 - Terrorist organizations or those not compliant with domestic anti-terrorism laws (e.g., USA Patriot Act).
 - Event sponsorships or fundraising events/campaigns (e.g., galas, awards ceremonies, raffles, walks, auctions, endowments, etc.). Prospective organizations must not have existing funding or sponsorship support from other areas of Alexion's business nor be affiliated with any commercial initiatives.
 - Loans, debt reduction, and operating deficits.
 - Costs of clinical care to treat rare diseases, including the cost of drug therapy. Funding may not be used to pay for co-pays, deductibles or co-insurance for any prescription drug costs or other clinical care.

Measurement and Reporting

ACF expects organizations that have been awarded a grant to provide interim progress reporting as well as a final grant Impact Report on activities completed and project outcomes at the conclusion of the grant period. Reporting timelines will be outlined in the Grant Agreement.

Grant recipients will be asked to report on the following, if applicable to the proposed program or project, among other parameters outlined in the grant Impact Report:

- Progress against intended objectives, milestones, outputs and outcomes (as proposed in the organization's grant application).
- Explanation if objectives were not met.
- Status update on funds expended.
- Qualitative data (such as quotes and stories about specific individuals helped).

ACF grant recipients that fail to submit interim and final grant impact reports will not be eligible for future funding.

Technical Difficulties and Other Assistance

If you are experiencing difficulties — technical or otherwise — in the application process, please send an email inquiry to ACF@Alexion.com. Foundation staff will make every effort to respond to your email within 48 hours.