



2026 BCAN Continuity Grant Award Guidelines

DESCRIPTION: This grant is intended to support research investigators who have bladder cancer research projects in the United States that 1) previously have been scientifically reviewed, approved, and funded, but which have been interrupted by terminations in federal funding; or 2) previously have been scientifically reviewed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) within the past 18 months and are imminently fundable but failed to receive federal funding due to funding constraints or changes in the corresponding funding mechanism.

Specifically, the 2026 BCAN Continuity Grant is soliciting research projects that have direct applicability and relevance to bladder cancer and/or upper tract urothelial carcinoma. These projects may be basic, translational, clinical, or epidemiological in nature, or for patient-oriented clinical bladder cancer research projects (e.g. studies of shared decision making, access to care, quality of care, quality of life, health disparities, comparative effectiveness research, patient-centered outcomes research, and survivorship).

This opportunity provides flexible support for a period of up to two (2) years, with a maximum award amount of \$200,000 total costs. Applicants may propose a project period and budget, not to exceed \$200,000 total costs, that are commensurate with the needs of the research plan. This grant mechanism is designed to help sustain promising lines of investigation that would otherwise face interruption or termination due to a funding gap. The BCAN Continuity Grant may be used to support key components of the proposed research project that were previously funded by a federal award, or that were expected to be supported based on a top-tier peer-review outcome but ultimately were not funded. Allowable costs include salary support, research supplies, and data collection and analysis.

BCAN will not re-scrutinize the scientific merit of projects, but projects will be assessed for their applicability to bladder cancer and fit within BCAN's funding priorities.

AWARD INFORMATION

- Award Amount: Individual awards will be limited to a maximum of \$200,000 in direct costs only.
- Award amount cannot exceed previously budgeted total direct costs.
- Funding Period: Maximum period of two years.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

June 29, 2026, by 5:00PM EST

DECISION DATE

August 2026

START OF GRANT TERM

September 2026

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Exclusively available to independent investigators who meet one of the following:
 - a. Have already received federal funding for their bladder cancer research but have since had their funding rescinded due to federal administrative actions since January 20th, 2025.
 - b. Have a bladder cancer research project that has undergone peer review by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) within the past 18 months and received a percentile ranking at or below the 8th percentile.
2. Applicant must be an independent investigator affiliated with a non-profit academic, medical, or research institution within the United States. Proof of permanent resident status or a valid work visa is required if the applicant is not an American citizen. Funding is intended to support individual investigators and their designated research projects. Awards will be made to the applicant as the principal investigator, not to the institution for discretionary or institutional research purposes.
3. If the applicant is awarded the 2026 BCAN Continuity Grant and subsequently receives federal funding (including reinstated funding) or funding from any other source for the same or substantially overlapping project, the Award Recipient must immediately notify BCAN and relinquish this Award. The Award will be considered rescinded as of the date such funding is awarded. Any costs incurred after that date are not allowable under this Award, and any unexpended funds must be returned to BCAN. Costs supported by other funding sources may not be charged to this Award.
4. Applicants must be up-to-date and in compliance with all requirements (e.g., progress reports, final reports) of any past grants received from BCAN.
5. BCAN will accept only one proposal from each applicant in connection with this announcement. There is no limit to the number of applications per institution.

EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

BCAN will not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, age, or any other factor irrelevant to the quality of the application. BCAN will not re-scrutinize the scientific merit of projects, but projects will be assessed for their applicability to bladder cancer and fit within BCAN's funding priorities. Evaluation of the applications will be conducted by a Scientific Review Group (SRG) comprised of medical and scientific experts respected for their own accomplishments in cancer research and as leaders in the field. The SRG will review and score the applications based on the criteria outlined below.

The SRG will recommend the final Award decisions, based on all the included criteria specified in the Award Guidelines, for approval by the BCAN Board of Directors. Any member of the SRG or the BCAN Board of Directors with a conflict of interest will be excused from discussing and voting on the Award decisions.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Consequences of Non-Funding:** The potential risks or setbacks to the project's progress and continuity if funding is not provided.
- **Alignment with Mission:** The degree to which the proposed research aligns with BCAN's strategic priorities and commitment to improving outcomes for the bladder cancer community.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

BCAN requires applicants to submit an online application using ProposalCentral by Monday, June 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time. The online application is available here:

<https://proposalcentral.com/ProposalGI.asp?SectionID=13626&ProposalID=-1>

Exceptions will not be made to the application deadline of Monday, June 29th, 2026, at 5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time. BCAN strongly suggests beginning application submission well before the deadline to allow time for submission and electronic signatures.

You will receive a confirmation email once you submit your application. If you do not receive one, or if you have questions, please contact Anne Collins at acollins@bcan.org.

Inquiries or technical issues regarding ProposalCentral, and the online application process should be directed to customer support at Phone: 703-964-5840, Toll-free phone: 1-800-875-2562, Email: pcsupport@altum.com. Please note that ProposalCentral live customer support is only available from 8:30 am – 5 pm U.S. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Inquiries about the Award Guidelines, eligibility requirements, and materials can be directed to Rebecca Johnson (rjohnson@bcan.org), Anne Collins (acollins@bcan.org), or to BCAN (grants@bcan.org).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties must contact ProposalCentral well before the 5:00PM EST deadline. Please do not contact BCAN for technical assistance.

APPLICATION FORMAT

The following information is required to submit a complete application. Numbers correspond to the application sections found on the left side of the ProposalCentral website.

Please ensure that your application and ALL attachments conform to the instructions outlined in these guidelines and the related templates, including formatting (e.g., page

limits, section headers, etc.) and required content.

1. PROJECT AND FUNDING INFORMATION

2. DOWNLOAD TEMPLATES & INSTRUCTIONS

- Guidelines and templates can be downloaded from this page.
- Download and complete the following templates: Project Funding Snapshot, Applicant Biosketch, and Applicant Biosketch Supplemental Form.
- Templates must be uploaded as a PDF file.
- Completed templates must be uploaded in Section 9 Application Attachments.

3. ENABLE OTHER USERS TO ACCESS THIS PROPOSAL

4. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- Please be prepared to submit your ORCID number in your application.

5. INSTITUTIONAL AND SIGNING OFFICIAL INFORMATION

6. BUDGET PERIOD DETAIL

- Please enter the budget information here for the project. Applicants must provide budget information **solely for the activities and expenses that will be funded by the BCAN Continuity Grant**. See instructions under section 7: Budget Summary & Justification.

7. BUDGET SUMMARY & JUSTIFICATION (limited to 8,000 characters)

- Applicants may propose a project period and budget, not to exceed \$200,000 total costs, that are commensurate with the needs of the research plan. Direct costs only. Costs supported by other funding sources may not be charged to this Award. Award amount cannot exceed previously budgeted total direct costs. The funding period is a maximum period of two years.
- The BCAN Continuity Grant may be used to support key components of the proposed research project that were previously funded by a federal award, or that received an NIH peer-review percentile ranking at or below the 8th percentile but ultimately did not receive federal funding. Funds may only be used to cover aspects of the research project, including salary support for both the PI and research personnel, research supplies, and data collection and analysis.
- All salary support must adhere to NIH-applicable salary limits.
- Justify all equipment, research/laboratory supplies, publication charges for manuscripts that pertain directly to the project, and other research expenses being requested.
- Funds cannot be used to support the purchase of capital equipment. BCAN considers the threshold for a capital expenditure to be the lower of \$2,000 or any capitalization threshold established by the applicant's institution. All equipment purchases require advance approval from BCAN.
- The Award Recipient is subject to the same compliance requirements with BCAN that were in place pursuant to the federal funding. This also applies to projects

that have undergone scientific review and were determined to be fundable but did not receive federal funding.

- BCAN considers the budget submitted in the grant application to be the final, approved budget unless any changes are requested by the awardee and approved by BCAN prior to signing the Grant Activation Form. Any deviation from an approved budget line item exceeding 10% requires prior written approval from BCAN. Awardees must submit a formal request outlining proposed budget adjustments before any related expenditures are made.

8. ORGANIZATION ASSURANCES

9. APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS

- Formatting Instructions: Must be in English, single-spaced.
 - Paper Size: 8.5" x 11".
 - Margins: at least 1/2" all sides.
 - Font: Arial or Helvetica at least 11pt (or larger).
- Complete and upload the following documents into your application as PDFs using the provided templates.
 - **PROJECT FUNDING SNAPSHOT (2 page limit):**
 - **IF YOUR PROJECT WAS PREVIOUSLY FUNDED:** Please provide a summary of: the originally funded research project, how the federal orders have impacted your research, what the BCAN Continuity Grant will be used for, the direct costs per year for all the funded years of the original funded grant, and any efforts made to secure funding from other sources (e.g. institutional or private philanthropy).
 - **IF YOUR PROJECT WAS PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED BY THE NIH WITHIN THE PAST 18 MONTHS AND RECEIVED A PERCENTILE RANKING AT OR BELOW THE 8TH PERCENTILE AS DESCRIBED IN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA 1.b:** Please provide a summary of the original research project, the anticipated impact of the lack of federal funding on the proposed research, what the BCAN Continuity Grant will be used to support, the direct costs per year outlined in the original proposed budget, and any efforts made to secure funding from other sources (e.g., institutional support or private philanthropy).
 - **APPLICANT BIOSKETCH & BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH SUPPLEMENTAL FORM:** Please follow NIH templates provided in ProposalCentral. Adhere to the NIH page limit. Please ensure to add the Biographical Sketch Supplement page as an appendix to the respective Biographical Sketch Common Form.
- **Please upload the following documents, as applicable:**
 - **If originally funded:** A copy of the originally funded grant, the initially approved budget, any submitted progress reports, as well as

evidence of the federal funding termination.

- **If not originally funded:** A copy of the initially reviewed grant, the initially reviewed budget, official documentation demonstrating the application's NIH peer-review outcome, including a percentile ranking at or below the 8th percentile, as reflected in a Summary Statement, score notice, or other written communication from the NIH, and documentation confirming that the proposed project did not receive federal funding.
- **APPENDICES:** Appendices are not required and may **ONLY** be used for IRB/IACUC/IND approval.

10. **VALIDATE**

- Validate the application in ProposalCentral. This is an essential step. An application that has not been validated cannot be submitted. "Validate" checks for required data and required attachments. You will not be able to submit if all the required data and attachments have not been provided.

11. **SIGNATURE PAGE**

- The applicant and institutional signing official must electronically sign this page in ProposalCentral. The application will be considered incomplete if this page is not complete. BCAN is no longer requiring an ink signature for submission. You can print signature pages to save or keep a copy of your application. You do not need to upload anything here.

12. **SUBMIT**

- After successfully passing the "Validate" check, click the **"Submit"** link. An email will be sent to you confirming your submission. Once your application is submitted you may view it by accessing the "Submitted" link under the "Manage Proposals" tab. The status column will show "Submitted" and the date. You may need to refresh your browser screen after submitting the application to see the updated status.

There will be no exceptions to the application submission **deadline of Monday, June 29th, 2026, at 5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time.**

CHANGES TO YOUR APPLICATION

WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION

Please advise BCAN promptly, in writing, should you decide to withdraw your application for any reason. Your letter or email should include your name, the title of the proposal, and the reason for withdrawal.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Notify BCAN, in writing, of any changes of address, email, or phone number, following the submission of an application. Include your name and application number. The email address provided with your application will be used for all official communication about your submission, including the recipient selection results, and must be kept up to date.

TERMS OF AWARD

Award Administration and Disbursement

Payment will be made to the comptroller or to the designated financial officer of the sponsoring institution, which shall then disburse the funds to the individual Award Recipient. BCAN considers the start of the grant to occur at the time of grant activation and disbursement of funds and aligns the status report deadline accordingly. The award start date will be September 1st, 2026. Any activities that occur from the time of grant activation through the end of the grant term, including start-up activities, should be reported on in the status report at the end of 12 months. The Award Recipient and the sponsoring institution shall pay at their own costs all taxes and impositions in connection with the Award. The Award does not create an employer-employee relationship between the Award Recipient and BCAN. BCAN does not assume any legal responsibility or obligation for the conduct or acts of the Award Recipient, the mentor, or the sponsoring institution.

BCAN considers the budget submitted in the grant application to be the final, approved budget unless any changes are requested by the Award Recipient and approved by BCAN prior to signing the Grant Activation Form. Any deviation from an approved budget line item exceeding 10% requires prior written approval from BCAN. Award Recipients must submit a formal request outlining proposed budget adjustments before any related expenditures are made. The Award Recipient is subject to the same compliance requirements with BCAN that were in place pursuant to the federal funding. This also applies to projects that have undergone scientific review and were determined to be fundable but did not receive federal funding due to budgetary limitations, programmatic considerations, or changes to the relevant funding mechanism.

Funds cannot be used to support the purchase of capital equipment. BCAN considers the threshold for a capital expenditure to be the lower of \$2,000 or any capitalization threshold established by the applicant's institution. All equipment purchases require advance approval from BCAN.

Research Scope and Compliance Requirements

Applications involving animals and/or human participants must receive approval from their Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and/or Institutional Review Board (IRB), respectively. Documentation of IACUC and/or IRB approval must be provided to BCAN prior to distribution of the Award and yearly during the funding period. Applications involving an Investigational New Drug (IND) must receive approval from their IRB. Documentation of IND approval must be provided to BCAN prior to distribution of the Award and for each year of funding.

Reporting and Use of Funds

This Award is designed to help sustain promising lines of investigation that would otherwise face interruption or termination due to the funding gap and provide support for up to a **two-year period only**.

This Award is distinct from BCAN's standard funding mechanisms and is not intended to provide comprehensive or long-term research support. As such, the Award Recipient acknowledges and agrees to the following:

- **There is no guarantee** that the funded or imminently fundable research will be completed within the scope of this Award.
- **Future funding is not assured**, and investigators may or may not be able to secure additional support following the conclusion of the BCAN Continuity Grant Award.

At the conclusion of each 12-month Award period, the Award Recipient must complete a status report summarizing the research conducted, and any plans to continue the research beyond the Award period. Additionally, BCAN requires a final financial report within 60 days of the end of the Award period. BCAN requires that any unused Award funds must be returned to BCAN by the sponsoring institution via check within 60 days of the end of the Award period. No cost extensions are allowable with advance notification and BCAN's approval.

Publications, research talks, and poster presentations based on any study or research done with the support of the Award should acknowledge the support of BCAN throughout and following the Award period. Reprints of such publications or abstracts should be sent to BCAN.

The Award Recipient may be asked to complete brief award outcome reports for BCAN detailing any publications, funding awards, collaborations, or other outcomes resulting from this Award for a period of three years after Award completion. The Award Recipient understands that this reporting obligation survives the Award period.

BCAN reserves the right to terminate this grant, in whole or in part, if the Award Recipient materially fails to comply with any term or condition of the grant, if the Award Recipient's federal funding is reinstated, or if the Award Recipient subsequently receives federal funding for the same or substantially overlapping research project. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to adhere to performance objectives, reporting requirements, or the improper use of funds in accordance with the approved budget. Upon termination, the Award Recipient will be required to return any unspent or improperly used funds. If the applicant is awarded the 2026 BCAN Continuity Grant Award, and their federal funding is reinstated, or they receive funding for the same or overlapping research, the Award Recipient will immediately relinquish this Award. This Award is considered rescinded as of the date federal funding is reinstated. Any costs incurred after the date that federal funding is reinstated are not considered allowable costs under this award. Any outstanding funds must be returned to BCAN. No costs incurred under the federal award may be charged to this Award.

BCAN permits the transfer of an active award to a new institution in the event that a Principal Investigator (PI) changes institutions during the grant period. Such transfers are subject to BCAN review and approval. Transfers will only be considered to another eligible academic, nonprofit, or governmental institution located in the United States or Canada. Transfers to for-profit, private industry, or pharmaceutical organizations are not permitted. To inquire about initiating a transfer, please reach out to grants@bcan.org.

In the event the Award Recipient's research is substantively delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, or the recipient is unable to complete the project, the Award Recipient and/or sponsoring institution is responsible for notifying BCAN as soon as possible to discuss the next steps. In the event no mutually agreeable mitigation strategy is feasible that would allow for the completion of the project and the Award is terminated, the unused portion of Award funds must be returned to BCAN by the sponsoring institution within 30 days of the date of termination.