

Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities Pilot/Exploratory Grant 2026-2027

About the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities:

The vision of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities is to lead local, national, and global efforts in bioethics and medical humanities that improve healthcare education, delivery, research, and scholarship. The mission of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities is to advance bioethics and medical humanities at Northwestern and beyond through education, innovation, clinical application, and thought leadership

Purpose:

The Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities will fund pilot/exploratory grants that support research in bioethics and medical humanities. This award will provide funding for pilot/exploratory projects that consider an important emerging or unanswered bioethics problem in clinical care, biomedical research, public health, or healthcare policy. The aim is to support preliminary work that will provide a foundation for obtaining funding that supports larger research projects.

Award Information:

Projects can be up to one year in duration. Awards up to \$2,500.00 (total costs) will be granted.

Eligibility:

To be eligible, applicants must be one of the following:

- A Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine medical student, resident, or fellow*
- A Northwestern University graduate student or fellow*
- An employee of Northwestern Medicine/Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, or Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital*
- A Northwestern University faculty member

*All students, residents, fellows, and employees should identify a Northwestern University faculty mentor with whom to collaborate. Mentor qualifications and plans for mentor oversight should be described in the proposal.

Applicants must have the backing of a department or center who can receive the funds in full and process all payments related to the project. Applicants may apply to no more than one grant per year from the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities.

Preference will be given to proposals with a clearly delineated plan for obtaining subsequent extramural or internal funding, to earlier career people (including students, trainees, and instructor/assistant professors) and to employees, and to people who have not previously received CBMH funding.

Requirements:

All awardees will agree to the following:

- Request membership to the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities
- Prepare two progress reports, one halfway through the period of funding, and one at the end of the period of funding

- Acknowledge funding from the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities in presentations and publications

How to Apply:

Applications should include the following:

- A proposal narrative with the following headings (should not exceed 4 pages):
 - o Specific Aims
 - o Background and Significance
 - o Approach
 - o Next Steps
 - o Timeline
- Budget with budget justification (1 page)
- Non-faculty applicants: Mentor qualifications and plans for oversight (1 page – if applicable)
- Non-faculty applicants: Mentor endorsement should be provided by obtaining your mentor's signature on your proposal or including a confirmation email from your mentor (as a PDF or screenshot)

Once complete, please visit the online grant proposal form to upload your application document(s) and provide additional information:

<https://forms.office.com/r/QZ8mW3V4jN>

Review Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Background/Significance - How well does the applications describe the background and need for the research? If all the specific aims are achieved, would the project make a significant/important contribution to this field and how significant/important is this contribution?
- Approach - Are the strategy, methods, and analyses well-reasoned, well described, and appropriate to accomplish the aims? Is completion of the proposed work feasible?
- Mentor - How strong are the mentor's qualifications and what are the plans for mentorship oversight? (required for non-faculty applicants only)
- Plans for subsequent funding - Are the plans for obtaining subsequent funding adequately described? What is the likelihood of obtaining subsequent funding?

Important Dates:

- Deadline for submitting applications: May 26, 2026 at 5 PM CT
- Funding decisions communicated: August 2026
- Funding period: September 2026 – August 2027

Questions: Please contact Bryan Morrison (bryan-morrison@northwestern.edu) with any questions.