



aarc
American Association
for Respiratory Care

AARC Vision Grant 2026

The primary purpose of the 2026 AARC Vision Grant is to fund members who conduct research documenting the clinical and economic impact of respiratory therapists. The intent is to align with the foundation's mission of promoting respiratory care, as well as AARC's mission to provide the highest quality of care for all patients with cardiopulmonary disease. Contact Lynda Goodfellow at Lynda.Goodfellow@aacrc.org for more information and additional questions.

Submission Details

Interested parties should submit a one-page letter of intent (LOI) by **March 31, 2026**. LOI should be submitted to lynda.goodfellow@aacrc.org.

Projects focusing on innovative ways to educate the workforce that continually increase the level of competency within the profession are needed. This includes how to communicate with consumers of respiratory therapy (professionals and patients) about outcomes-based research that reduces mortality, improves quality and safety, and lowers costs when respiratory therapists are involved in care.

Once a letter of intent is approved, the next step is to submit an online application. Cost sharing is encouraged by educational institutions, professional organizations, hospital systems, and foundations. The deadline for an invited full proposal is **June 1, 2026**.

Vision Grant 2026 Overview

The AARC is funding research on proposals that "elevate" or advance the recognition, value, and role of the respiratory therapist within the healthcare team. An emphasis on education that increases competency is encouraged. This may be reflected in the outcomes of educational advancement in the respiratory care workforce. Funding is also available for proposals that demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of respiratory care through lower morbidity and/or mortality, improved quality, and enhanced patient safety.

The review committee seeks proposals that may include original research studies, clinical interventions, or issue paper statements. The committee stresses the need for

proposals to adequately describe a research plan that addresses the outcomes respiratory therapists deliver in quality-of-care indicators, patient safety, and/or departmental/institutional/company performance on core value measures.

Examples below illustrate the types of proposals the AARC Vision Grant seeks to fund:

- Proposals to evaluate methods or technologies used to educate either students or practitioners to increase competencies in the following areas:
 - Patient outcomes: ventilator days, length of stay, readmission rates, reintubation rates, VAE rates
 - Disease management: patient-driven protocols, recognizing and resolving patient deterioration on mechanical ventilation, acute disease exacerbation, airway emergencies, etc.
 - Patient transport
 - Pulmonary diagnostics, bronchoscopy, etc.
- Proposals to conduct data-set analysis outcomes – comparing test scores/educational levels to the competencies needed before and after entry into the workforce.

Other examples include proposals focused on outcome-based research projects that evaluate the cost and quality of including respiratory therapists on the patient care team. The research should compare morbidity, mortality, and/or the cost-effectiveness of respiratory therapists in patient care settings. Incorporating the Safe and Effective Staffing Guide (SESG) is encouraged.

Eligibility

All are encouraged to submit a LOI describing a research plan that can adequately investigate the effect of respiratory therapists' educational levels on quality-of-care indicators and patient safety, or on departmental/institutional performance on core value measures. Preferences are given when respiratory therapists are PI or co-PI. At least one member of the research group must be an active member of the AARC, as verified by the AARC Executive Office.

Applications of any amount up to **\$50,000** accepted for review.

Proposal Contents and Page Limits

The **one-page** LOI should address the research questions, research methods, and significance of the research. If the LOI is accepted, researchers will be asked to apply with **no more than 10 pages**, including the following requirements:

- State the scientific rationale for the study and detail how this study advances the profession of respiratory care
- Provide specific research question(s) that are sufficiently focused to carefully

- map issues
related to the safety and quality of respiratory care
- Justify the scientific merits of the study plan and the potential impact of the proposed research
 - Provide a timeline for the proposed research and qualifications of all investigators
 - Prepare and justify a proposed budget
 - Document that IRB approval is secured
 - Description of any equipment to be purchased and any implementation expenditures

Review Process

Applications are evaluated based on the ability of the award to:

- Leverage existing strengths of the primary investigators and co-investigators
- Execute well-designed studies that can reveal differences in quality and safety, if any
- Advance the profession of respiratory care and enhance the ARCF's mission and vision
- Include cost sharing with funding partners
- Support AARC members