

Templeton World Charity Foundation: Grand Challenges for Human Flourishing

REQUEST FOR IDEAS (unlimited)

Coordinator: Tiffany Worboy, Office of Foundation Relations (tworboy@emory.edu)
Website: <https://www.templetonworldcharity.org/rfi>
Submission Limitations: None
Foundation Deadline: **Wednesday, November 11, 2020** (midnight US Pacific Time)

Please inform Tiffany Worboy of your intention to submit an idea to the Foundation.

Templeton World Charity Foundation has launched a new strategy to support new scientific research on human flourishing and to translate related discoveries into practical tools.

- Templeton World Charity Foundation (TWCF) is using an open-submission process to identify bold ideas that can lead to new, multi-grant research portfolios on human flourishing.
- The best ideas will involve rigorous experiments that use new conceptual frameworks to move past age-old debates and lead to significant breakthroughs.
- Through this **Request for Ideas** (RFI) the foundation is asking researchers to tell them where they should invest \$40 million over the next five years.
- Ideas that are selected will be used by the Foundation to shape its priorities for scientific discovery. One or two “winning” ideas will be identified at the conclusion of this process – and those ideas will form the basis of grant-making for the duration of this initiative.
- The foundation strategy involves three distinct stages: (1) discovery, (2) development, and (3) launch.

Available Opportunities:

If the Foundation chooses to pursue your idea, you may be eligible for some of the following:

- Applying for one of the grant opportunities based on your idea;
- Serving as an advisor to Templeton World Charity Foundation to help us support funding in this area;
- Serving as a champion/talent scout to find other people in the area whom we can support;
- Being invited to have your idea published in a sponsored edition of a top journal or Foundation media outlet.

Eligibility:

Any qualified respondent with substantial research experience who is employed full time at an academic or research institution is eligible to submit an idea.

The Foundation is particularly interested in ideas for **interdisciplinary scientific research** towards discoveries that can **promote physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being.**

Templeton World Charity Foundation welcome ideas that bridge gaps between empirical science and the humanities.

Such ideas may include (but are not limited to):

- Experimental testing of philosophically grounded models of human flourishing;
- Research on biological complexity in humans, including genetics, epigenetics, and microbiome research;
- Investigation of key psychological, neuroscientific, or human developmental concepts, such as (but not limited to) altruism, creativity, imagination, narrative, and meta-cognition;
- Research on cognitive, affective, or social capacities of individuals or groups;
- Studies of human biological or cultural evolution.

The Foundation will not be able to support traditional research ideas that would normally be considered by major funding organizations. Although such projects are vital, TWCF plans to focus on innovations that have been neglected or overlooked.

Ideas that are **not likely** to be eligible may include:

- Diagnostic, preventative, or therapeutic discovery in medicine;
- Behavioral intervention development in psychiatry;
- Basic research primarily on neurological conditions, infectious disease, cardiovascular disease, or cancer;
- Research primarily on mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression;
- Research on climate change or related relief efforts;
- Scaling up interventions that have already been established;
- Biomedical research related to COVID-19.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Review the TWCF website to understand the requirements and selection process
2. Listen to an upcoming Foundation webinar: [Tuesday, October 27, 2020 -- 9:00 AM Eastern Time \(US\)](#)
3. Create an account in the TWCF portal to see the application
4. Submit your idea via the portal

KEY DATES:

- **Submission Deadline:** November 11, 2020 (portal closes at midnight US Pacific Time)
- **Announcement of selected topics:** March 2021
- **Earliest grant application submissions:** June 2021

Please see the **Grand Challenges for Human Flourishing** website for more details:

<https://www.templetonworldcharity.org/rfi>