

# Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative Explorer Awards

**No Deadline: Applications are considered on a rolling basis**

More details are available on the website at  
<https://sfari.org/funding/grants/explorer-awards-rfa>.

The Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) seeks to improve the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders by funding, catalyzing and driving innovative research of the greatest quality and relevance. Although SFARI's immediate priority is to benefit individuals challenged by autism spectrum disorders, autism research is expected to yield insights into the neural mechanisms of fundamental human capabilities. Thus SFARI's efforts will aid the broader mission of the Simons Foundation to advance research in basic science and mathematics.

This award program is designed to enhance our existing support of autism research by providing timely resources to enable focused experiments highly relevant to our mission. A deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying autism spectrum disorders or potential therapeutic approaches will require investigation at multiple levels, including but not limited to studies focused on gene discovery, molecular mechanisms, circuits, anatomy, and cognition and behavior. We will consider proposals at all of these levels. The maximum budget is \$60,000, including indirect costs for one (1) year, non-renewable.

Explorer Awards are intended to provide resources to support exploratory experiments that will strengthen hypotheses and lead to the formulation of competitive applications for subsequent larger-scale funding by SFARI or other organizations. Innovative, high-risk/high-impact proposals are encouraged. We especially encourage applications from investigators who are new to the field of autism, but who have expertise that could be brought to bear on this complex disorder.