

EvansMDS Young Investigator Award 2026

Request for Applications

Grant Size: up to \$150,000 per year for up to three years

Submit via [Proposal Central](#)

Submission Deadline: **January 31, 2026**

EvansMDS Young Investigator Award

Founded in 1984, The Edward P. Evans Foundation is a non-profit charitable trust dedicated to funding research on Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) through its EvansMDS initiative. The mission of EvansMDS is to fuel the discovery of new knowledge that will lead to the development of better MDS therapies and ultimately, disease cures. Since its inception, the EvansMDS initiative has committed over \$160M to MDS research.

The Edward P. Evans Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of our *EvansMDS Young Investigator Award* (“EYIA”) program for 2026 to help develop the next generation of research leaders who will blaze a path toward finding these cures. We are targeting support for promising candidates committed to the study of the biology, pathogenesis, and treatment of MDS as they make their transition to independence. Recognizing that securing independent funding is often challenging during this period of career development, our goal is to facilitate this transition and promote the entry of new investigators into the MDS field.

We are offering up to \$150,000 per year for up to three years to defray the costs of salary and supplies. *Second year funding* is conditional upon compliance with grant terms and satisfactory progress toward independence during year one (for example, submitting applications or interviewing for independent positions). *Third year funding* is conditional upon compliance with grant terms and the Young Investigator’s acquisition of a written offer of an independent investigator position that is on the tenure track (or similar) from a 501(c)(3) or equivalent research institution. Documentation of this offer must be provided to the Foundation prior to the initiation of third year funding within three years of the start of the award. *Because of the timing of this requirement, applicants are advised to discuss their career plans with their current mentors prior to application. Funding will not be contiguous unless the awardee receives their appointment by the end of Year Two.*

Competitive applicants for this award are late-stage postdoctoral fellows with an established publication record of high impact research who will be initiating their search for an independent position within the first year of EYIA funding.

Young Investigators successfully securing their first independent appointment will be eligible to submit Letters of Intent that are automatically accepted for full application to the EvansMDS Discovery Research Grant (DRG) program as early as their final year of EYIA funding and in each of the first two years following the final year of the EYIA grant. These DRG applications will be given special consideration during the evaluation process.

EvansMDS places no restrictions on grantees’ applications and receipt of funding from other sources during the period of EYIA grant funding.

A list of previous EYIA awardees is available [here](#).

Candidate Investigators – The candidate should be an early career (typically within nine years of completing their last graduate degree) physician or scientist (MD, PhD, or MD/PhD), currently in a non-tenure track (or equivalent) position with a university, hospital or other recognized 501(c)(3) or equivalent non-profit institution in the United States. Awardees who obtain a Tenure-track (or equivalent) position at institutions outside of the United States may be able to transfer the award following an inquiry into whether the institution satisfies a US “equivalency determination.” Since the equivalency determination can be a lengthy process, this may affect funding timelines. Eligible candidates include outstanding researchers conducting innovative research under the guidance of an established Mentor (as described below). Candidates must demonstrate how this funding, for the limited period of the award, will help to advance their project, idea, or research laboratory to the point of securing an independent investigator position. The Edward P. Evans Foundation values diversity and inclusiveness in its EvansMDS Young Investigator program and encourages submissions from groups under-represented in science.

Eligible candidates generally should not hold the title of Assistant Professor and may not hold the title of Associate Professor or Professor. Individuals who are presently, or have in the past, been the principal investigator on any government or privately funded research grant (with the exception of an NIH training grant or federal or foundation career development awards) are not eligible for an EYIA grant.

The Foundation welcomes direct engagement regarding the suitability of any promising candidates for which these guidelines may require further discussion or clarification.

Candidate Mentors - Candidate Mentors should be nationally recognized active investigators working at the cutting edge of basic, translational, or clinical research in MDS.

Application Instructions:

Applicants for an EvansMDS Young Investigator Award should submit an application in collaboration with their Mentor through [Proposal Central](#). The application will consist of the following items, which will be evaluated by a review panel comprised of MDS experts:

1. **Introduction and career narrative** (up to 2 pages; required PDF upload). Provide brief background and specific aims. The career narrative should include professional milestones that are expected to be achieved at the end of each year of funding.
2. **Plain language research summary** (enter in text box; 1500 character limit). A description of the research proposal and how it will advance the MDS field, in plain language suitable for an eighth-grade reader. Avoid the use of jargon. *If the proposal is accepted, the plain language summary will be published on the EvansMDS web site.*
3. **Graphical abstract** (1/2 page; required PDF upload). The graphic should visually convey the impact of the research project if successfully completed. *If the proposal is accepted, the graphical abstract will be published on the EvansMDS web site*
4. **Research plan** (2 pages; required PDF upload). Describe the experimental strategy that will be used to achieve the proposed specific aims. Include research milestones or deliverables that are expected to be achieved at the end of each year.
5. **References** (optional PDF upload; no page limit)
6. **Budget** (enter where prompted) high-level projected use of funds (e.g., salary, supplies, travel). *Note the following restrictions:*
 - a. Request for salary support cannot exceed 75% of the current NIH salary cap. Minimum of 10% effort for the Applicant.
 - b. Indirect expenses may be included up to 8% of the direct costs (e.g, \$11,111 of a \$150,000 annual grant payment).
7. **NIH Biosketch** (5 page limit; required PDF upload) for the Mentor
8. **NIH Biosketch** (5 page limit; required PDF upload) for the Applicant
9. **Mentor Letter** (2 page limit) recommending the Applicant for this award, describing a mentorship plan that would enable the Applicant to obtain an independent investigator position, and describing the Mentor's track record of launching other trainees to independence. The Applicant will enter contact information for the Mentor in Proposal Central which will trigger a request for the Mentor to submit the letter independently through [Proposal Central](#). It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the recommendation letter is received by the submission deadline.
10. **Two Additional Letters of Recommendation for the Candidate Investigator** (2 pages each), at least one of which must be from an institution other than the Applicant's current institution. Again, the Applicant will enter contact information for Recommenders but the letters

must be submitted independently through [Proposal Central](#). It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the additional recommendation letters are received by the submission deadline.

Dates:

- **December 1, 2025:** EYIA submission portal opens
- **January 31, 2026:** deadline for EYIA application submission
- **Late March, 2026:** notification of awards
- **July 1, 2026:** funding begins

Additional EYIA Requirements:

EYIA awardees are invited to the EvansMDS Summit, held annually in late fall. EYIA awardees are expected to present results from their project in the 2nd and/or 3rd year of the award. Unexcused absence from the annual EvansMDS Summit may result in loss or suspension of research funding.