

# THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION

## CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS 2023

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is pleased to announce its annual request for research proposals. We will entertain any research proposal concerned with any aspect of chestnut biology that addresses our core mission - to return the iconic American chestnut to its native range. Previously funded proposals and their associated reports may be found on our [External Grants page](#).

### **PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:**

**Funding and Overhead:** TACF's policy is not to fund overhead charges (i.e., indirect costs).

Payment of faculty salary is not permitted; however, student salaries are allowed. Demonstration of matching funds is strongly encouraged. TACF does not ordinarily fund projects in excess of \$10,000, with exceptions made for priority research areas. Funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis.

**Restrictions:** If principal investigator (PI) is a current recipient of other funding from TACF via pass-through funds, the PI is ineligible to apply for funds through this program; this does not apply to current, active grants through the External Grants program. Applicant must be in good standing with TACF, e.g. submitted past grant reports. Do not submit a proposal if it has not been reviewed/approved by your university sponsored projects office.

**Priority Research Areas:** TACF is particularly interested in the following research areas, but will not limit proposals to these topics. The Committee will entertain proposals up to \$50,000 should they address the following priority topics:

1. *Investigations on the existence and/or function of gene products encoded by the native "germin" genes of dentata is an area of interest.*
2. *Investigations into host x pathogen interactions of Cryphonectria parasitica or Phytophthora cinnamomi in species of Castanea.*
3. *Studies which compare the ecological functionality of backcross and transgenic American chestnuts to wild type American chestnut.*
4. *The development of methods to optimize vegetative propagation of American chestnut. Examples include optimizing protocols for rooted cuttings and/or grafting.*
5. *Studies which address local adaptation and abiotic stress tolerance in wildtype, transgenic, and backcross hybrid populations of American chestnut.*
6. *Development of methods to increase the efficiency of embryogenesis and/or induction of shoot apical meristems to enable genetic transformation and gene editing in American chestnut.*

**Duration:** Grants are to cover the twelve months following acceptance of the grant. Multiyear proposals will only have the first year funded. Requests for funding of subsequent years will require resubmission (using a nearly identical proposal, with a full report on the research project required before any other requests are considered). Funding for subsequent years' funding is not guaranteed. TACF will entertain proposals for the same project for a maximum of five (5) years.

**Membership:** Principal Investigators (PIs) are required to hold at least a [regular membership](#) in The American Chestnut Foundation at the time of application.

**Deadline and Submission:** Proposals must be sent via e-mail attachment to TACF's External Grants Committee ([externalgrants@acf.org](mailto:externalgrants@acf.org)) by **5:00pm, Tuesday, September 5, 2023**.

**Award Date:** Proposals will be evaluated by the TACF External Grants Committee, TACF Research Advisory Committee, TACF Science and Technology Committee, and TACF Staff. Based on those evaluations, recommendations are made to the TACF Science and Technology Committee on or about **Friday, October 27, 2023**. Awards are announced shortly thereafter.

**Reporting:** TACF requires two reports at the end of the grant period<sup>1\*</sup>: 1) a final financial report and 2) a final narrative report, both of which are due 90 days after the grant period completion. The final narrative report should be formatted such that it is suitable for publication in *Chestnut*, the magazine of TACF.

**Publications:** Any publications resulting from the project should list TACF as a source of support and a reprint (PDF) should be sent to TACF. As stated above, it is expected that the grantee will prepare a final report in the form of a summary of research findings written for a general audience to be published in *Chestnut*.

**Conflicts of Interest or Commitment:** All applicants are to document any known potential Conflict of Interest or Commitment (COI/COC) as part of their proposal. For more information, please see TACF's Conflict of Interest Policy as well as TACF's External Grants Policies and Protocols, both posted on the External Grants page of TACF's website: <https://www.acf.org/our-work/external-grants/>

**PROPOSAL FORMAT:** Proposals should be concisely written with the following information provided. Please include each item as a separate heading.

- a. Project Title
- b. Summary (not more than 100 words)
- c. Principal Investigator(s) and Institutional Affiliation(s)
- d. Duration of project
- e. Total amount requested. Please list sources and amount of matching funding for the same project.
- f. Short and long-term goals of the project
- g. Narrative (no more than five (5) pages)
- h. Timeline, showing start and completion dates for each goal
- i. How results will be measured and reported
- j. Breakdown of how and when funds will be spent
- k. Brief Curriculum Vitae (CV) for each Principal Investigator, including recent publications and grants received. Please restrict each CV to two (2) pages.
- l. A Conflict of Interest or Commitment (COI or COC) statement. If a COI or COC is known, please document them here. If there is no known COI or COC, please certify as such with a statement in this section.

**QUESTIONS:** Contact the External Grants Committee at [externalgrants@acf.org](mailto:externalgrants@acf.org).

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\* In certain cases, the affiliate organization of an applicant will not allow the acceptance of a small grant that requires reporting in the absence of overhead funding. In these cases, TACF is willing to work with the applicant to modify this requirement. Applicants facing such an issue with their organizational policy should make this known in their application materials.