



# Ralph W. and Grace M. Showalter Research Trust

<https://www.purdue.edu/research/oevprp/funding-and-grant-writing/funding/showalter.php>

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The Ralph W. and Grace M. Showalter Trust grants program was established in 1975 to support research **related to human health** in the priority areas of:

- Environmental research, including air and water pollution research
- Research in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology
- Research in the area of disease prevention, diagnosis, progression, treatment and control
- Research in the area of new technologies for food production, preservation, distribution and safety
- Research in the area of medical and biophysical instrumentation, including the analysis of large data sets



The stated mission of the Showalter Trust is to provide for medical and scientific research at Indiana University School of Medicine and Purdue University.

Although the Trust identifies broad areas of research as priority areas, the external Showalter Selection Committee **assigns higher priority to projects with direct relevance to human health.** \*\*

The benefactor's will prohibits the use of funds to support research in psychiatry, sociology, or social studies.

Limited to tenure-track and research faculty who hold the rank of assistant professor based on the West Lafayette and Indianapolis campus.

**Pre-proposals are due by 5:00 pm ET on October 28, 2024.**

The Showalter Research Trust Internal Selection Committee reviews and selects the most meritorious pre-proposals for development into full proposals, which will be due on January 27, 2025.

These full proposals are then reviewed and ranked by the internal selection committee plus selected ad hoc reviewers. This ranked list of invited and reviewed full proposals are sent to the external Showalter Selection Committee for a second level of review. This external second level of review will determine the final awarded list.

The announcement of final award decisions should occur in **late May or early June.**

## What are the reviewers looking for?

First, the proposal must fit clearly within one or more of the five priority areas.

*“Although the Trust identifies broad areas of research as priority areas, the external Showalter Selection Committee assigns higher priority to projects with direct relevance to human health.”*

- Our experience is that this recommendation isn't simply a priority, it is a necessity.

Priority is given to projects that have a high potential to compete for or leverage federal funding and to create programs with a life span longer than the Showalter award. Though they have funded projects without a clear federal funding agency target described in the proposal, a careful selection of one or two published or anticipated PA/RFAs can be very helpful. (\*but be strategic about these FOAs)

## What are the reviewers looking for?

Be very clear about your aims, goals and anticipated outcomes. Do not assume the reviewers will understand how your proposal will improve human health. I recommend that you start and end with a statement or two directly addressing relevance to human health. Use active verbs to describe your aims/studies. “We need to understand x better” is not a sufficient goal.

Collaborators or consultants are allowed, and, in some cases, encouraged, where a gap in expertise or data access will be obvious. Letters of support and/or commitment of effort can be vital. Ensure that the type of support and enthusiasm is stated clearly in the letter(s).

The pre-proposal is limited to two pages of narrative. Use this judiciously in describing the relevance to human health and well-being. The details are not usually as important as the overall intent.

## **Budget:**

The awardees are limited to a budget of \$75,000 including indirect costs calculated at 20% of total direct costs. The default period of award is 13 months (usually July 1 to July 31 of the following year)

The budget can include up to one month of effort for faculty salary; additional postdoc, graduate, and undergraduate salary support is allowed. Capital equipment must include a 75% cost share.

List supplies in general categories and provide justification.

Animals: number and per diem rates should be stated and justified.

Human Subjects: provide details and justification sufficient for reviewers to make informed decisions.

Budget for travel is allowed but discouraged by the Showalter committee.

The deadline for preproposal submission is **5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 28, 2024**. Only one application is allowed per principal investigator.

Use the pre-proposal application template (link available on website)  
Single-spaced, not to exceed two (2) pages in length  
**One-inch margins on all sides**

Font: Arial 11

The following are required, but not included in the 2-page limit:

References

Standard NIH Biosketch (do **not** use a modified NSF CV)

List of current and pending support for the PI and each Co-PI

Outline budget and brief justification (**please do not involve pre-award**)

You may include a brief response to a previous critique (not included within the 2 page application).



If invited, the full proposal will be due by **5:00 pm on January 27, 2025.**

Full Scientific Proposal (single-spaced, not to exceed 6 pages):

- Specific Aims
- Significance
- Research Plan (can include preliminary data)
- Future Directions
- Cited Literature (not included in 6 pages)

Appendices:

- One page status report for past Showalter awardees
- Letter of support from department/school head
- Letter of support from senior investigator, if applicant is research assistant professor
- Letters of support from key collaborators

Additionally, an abstract (30-line limit), fully developed budget and budget justification, and NIH-style biosketches and current and pending report are required.

The preproposals are reviewed by a committee primarily composed of the Purdue Associate Deans for Research.

In a typical year, we receive 30-35 preproposals to review internally. Of these, 15-20 are invited to submit a full proposal.

The full proposals are reviewed and ranked by a committee of the ADRs and an equal number of Purdue faculty selected for their field expertise. Most, if not all, of these *ad hoc* faculty are previous or current Showalter awardees.

Usually 10-11 of the proposals submitted to the external Showalter Committee will be funded.

Questions?

