



The E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation
FOR THE BLIND, INC.

Updated: 6/15/2018

Request for Applications

The E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc. (EMZ Foundation) was founded in New York City in 1907 by Electa Matilda Ziegler (1841-1932), the mother of a blind son. The EMZ Foundation announces the availability of funds to support promising young investigators performing innovative vision research. The EMZ Foundation is particularly interested in supporting basic or translational research that enhances our understanding of normal visual function, or dysfunction as the result of innate or acquired visual disorders.

Many of our grantees have gone on to make unique discoveries in the areas of macular degeneration, gene therapy, stem cell research, development, optic nerve regeneration and the neuroscience of visual pathways. Appropriate candidates are basic scientists or clinician scientists of exceptional insight and ability, with strong potential for making significant contributions to understanding the root causes of and developing cures for blindness. Projects of a purely clinical nature are not appropriate.

Funds Available: Applicants may request up to \$80,000 in direct costs per year for three years of support up to a total of \$240,000. Indirect costs are not allowed.

Eligibility: Principal Investigators must have an independent, primary (tenure track) faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor (or its equivalent) or higher. This seed grant program is specifically appropriate for early career junior faculty who have not yet successfully competed for significant outside federal research support. The EMZ Foundation seeks to support innovative, high-risk/high-reward vision research in its early stages. Investigators who have or have had NIH R01 support (or its equivalent), or are working outside of the U.S., are not eligible for this award.

Application Review and Award: Letters of intent (LOI) meeting the technical requirements will be reviewed on scientific merit and relevance to vision research by the EMZ Foundation scientific advisory board. Selected investigators from LOIs will be invited to submit a full grant proposal.

Full grant proposals meeting the technical requirements will be reviewed on the basis of merit by the EMZ Foundation scientific advisory committee. Final funding decisions will be based on the availability of funding, scientific merit, relevance and the suitability of the research with respect to the goals of the EMZ Foundation.

Application Guidelines: Applications are to be submitted on-line through [ProposalCentral \(http://proposalcentral.altum.com\)](http://proposalcentral.altum.com). Full grant proposals are limited to a 6-page research plan. Application instructions, review considerations, a list of currently funded projects, can all be found at <http://www.emzfoundation.com>.

Letter of Intent Due Date: August 15, 2018, 11:59 PM EST

Full Application Due Date: October 3, 2018, 11:59 PM EST

Please direct questions to: mcleary@swisher.com

For more information about the E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc., and a description of previously funded projects, please visit <http://www.emzfoundation.com>.



**The E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc.
Guidelines for 2018 E. Matilda Ziegler Award Application**

Log on to <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>

- Click on Manage Proposal Tab
- The “grant application” will be listed. Click “Edit” to access your proposal.

Proposals should address an important and innovative topic in vision research. The application should be written in the style, format and length of a postdoctoral (F32) NIH/NRSA grant, and directed toward scientific reviewers who have a diverse background in the field of vision research. Remember to be clear and provide sufficient background information so that the reviewers can easily understand the motivation, approach and innovation inherent in the proposed research. Like an (F32) NIH/NRSA grant, the application should have a Specific Aims section no longer than 1 page, and a Research Strategy section that should not exceed 6 pages using 1/2-inch margins. Applications will be judged using typical NIH grant criteria.

In addition to the application page, please include the following with your application:

1. **Biosketch template:** NIH Biosketch format which includes current funding.
2. **Other support, current funding:** the funding agency, dates applicable, title, amount, and one or two sentences describing the content of the funded application/award.
3. **Bibliography (References)**
4. **Specific Aims:** One page maximum. Brief summary of the background of the proposal and a detailed description of the specific aims of the project.
5. **Signed signature pages**

Notes on Budget. We recommend that the funds be used for salary support of research assistants, students or postdoctoral fellows; equipment; consumables directly relevant to the research project. We discourage using grant funds for PI salary support and monies should not be applied to consultations, administrative costs, infrastructure, renovations, etc. The foundation does not award institutional allowances or indirect costs.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: October 3, 2018



The E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc. – FAQ's for Applications

How do you access the Application?

1. Log on to <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>
2. Click on "Manage Proposal" tab
3. **The Grant Application will be listed.**
4. Click "Edit" to access your proposal.

Application/ Research Project should be no more than 6 pages consisting of:

- Your full proposal
- Literature references do not count toward the 6-page limit. They are a separate attachment.

In addition, you will complete and upload each individual file:

- Biosketch template which includes current funding section. (You don't need **NIH biosketches for co-investigators or post docs**)
- **Other support (current funding)**
- **References**
- **Signed signature page**
- **Specific aims**

Deadline for submission: October 3, 2018