

## Dana Foundation August 2024 RFP for Neuroscience & Society Grants

Max budget: \$150K total

Max project period: 18 months

### Letter of Interest Guidelines

#### GivingData Intake questions

Start with questions re: 501c3 or (equivalency determination) eligibility (applicant can't go further if they are not eligible)

1. The applicant's name, title, and contact information. [\[MAPPABLE | CONTACT PAGE | REQUEST\]](#)
2. The applicant's organization and the organization's mission and values. [\[MAPPABLE | ORGANIZATION\]](#)
3. Identify the Dana Foundation program area to which you are applying (Education, NextGen, Frontiers, or Opportunistic). [\[MAPPABLE | REQUEST\]](#)
  - a) Please review the language of each of the Dana Foundation's programs before you begin your letter (see below).
  - b) Projects that might fit more than one program area should still identify a primary program for submission.
4. Project title. [\[MAPPABLE | REQUEST\]](#)
5. Budget request amount. [\[MAPPABLE | REQUEST\]](#)

#### Letter of Interest: Content

*See formatting guidelines below*

### Project Narrative

#### 1. Background (1-2 paragraphs)

What is the need, gap, or problem you are addressing and why is it important to advancing the field of neuroscience and society?

- ☒ Please be *concise* – background should simply justify your project's goals and activities.

#### 2. Goals (1 paragraph or list)

- Please frame your goals in terms of intended impact (*e.g., increased understanding, increased trust, strengthened relationships, broaden representation, increase opportunities, etc.*)
- Please aim to make your goals specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.

#### 3. Strategy (4-5 paragraphs)

This section should describe the overall progression of activities leading to deliverables

**a. Activities (2-3 paragraphs)**

- i. What activities will you undertake to make progress towards your goals? (*e.g., convene a community advisory board, host listening sessions, create internship/training program, recruit trainees, host professional development workshop series, etc.*)
- ii. Please briefly identify which specific methodologies will you utilize (*e.g., human-centered design vs focus group methods, specific pedagogies such as inquiry-based or experiential learning, embedded ethicists models, collaborative communities, etc.*). Choices should be based on the literature and best practices in the field.
- iii. Please also identify who will do the work (*project leads, partner organizations, etc.*) and who will be engaged (*e.g., researchers, scientists, community leaders, educators, graduate students, etc.*).

**b. Deliverables (1 paragraph or list)**

- i. List the products, tools, or other outcomes/deliverables you aim to produce (*e.g., event(s), curricula, website(s), institutional change(s), novel partnerships, etc.*).

**c. Evaluation (~1 paragraph)**

- i. Briefly describe your evaluation methods – How will you evaluate your progress and impact in terms of your goals? (*e.g., surveys, interviews, testimonials, focus groups, event metrics, etc.*)
  - Evaluations may be quantitative or qualitative to assess impact on participants or the field, and/or efficacy of the chosen approach towards goals

**4. Timeline**

- ☐ Please provide a short description of estimated timeline (narrative or table formatting is acceptable).

**5. Alignment (1-2 paragraphs)**

- ☐ Please address how this project is aligned with the [goal and objectives](#) of the Dana Foundation program to which you are applying.
- ☐ Please also briefly describe how the project aligns with the Dana Foundation's [values](#).

**6. Budget**

- ☐ Please briefly list the major budget items. A granular line-item budget is not necessary at this stage.
- *Please note that to maximize the impact of our grants, we generally do not fund indirect costs or operational overhead.*

## **Letter of Interest: Formatting Guidelines**

- 1) Letters should not exceed 3 pages.
- 2) Letters can be single spaced.
- 3) Font should not exceed 12-point (Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman only).
- 4) Margins should be at least 1 inch on all sides.
- 5) Upload as a single PDF file

## **Dana Foundation Programs**

### **Dana Education**

**Goal:** Strengthen neuroscience's positive role in the world by sparking interest in and education around neuroscience and the many ways it interfaces with our everyday lives.

*The Dana Education program supports education both inside and outside the classroom to capture people's interest and strengthen their knowledge of neuroscience and its relevance to their everyday lives. We seek to support projects that go beyond teaching basic neuroscience to explore the field's connections to society and its intersections with ethics, law, policy, humanities, the arts, education, and other disciplines through comprehensive, sustained programming that extends past singular events.*

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Support sustained informal education that aims to strengthen knowledge of neuroscience and its connections to society and empower people of all ages to use that knowledge in their everyday lives.
- 2) Engage K-12 students in learning about neuroscience and its relevance to society through structured education opportunities (formal and non-formal) that capture their interest and inspire continued study.
- 3) Facilitate greater understanding and informed decision-making among professionals by supporting new education approaches on neuroscience topics related to their practice.

### **Dana NextGen**

**Goal:** Strengthen neuroscience's positive role in the world through development of the next generation of experts who responsibly apply neuroscience knowledge towards human

flourishing by supporting innovative training opportunities, workforce development, and collaboration across disciplines.

*The Dana NextGen program aims to catalyze a new generation of interdisciplinary experts who transform neuroscience and neurotechnology research and development by centering consideration of societal needs throughout the process. We seek to support projects that provide neuroscience and society training opportunities and workforce development at the early career stage, inclusive of undergraduate students through pre-tenure faculty or equivalent, with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary collaboration between neuroscience and non-science disciplines. NextGen trainees will be demographically and intellectually diverse, bridging the divide between neuroscience and the publics it's meant to serve. We welcome projects that go beyond traditional pedagogy and focus on experiential learning to broaden a trainee's education such that they are equipped with the necessary resources and collaborators to answer the complex problems raised by advances in neuroscience.*

**Objectives:**

- 1) Integrate societal concerns into neuroscience training at early career stages through experiential learning and innovative curricula.
- 2) Support workforce development in academic and non-academic career tracks to grow a new generation of experts in neuroscience and society who will shepherd neuroscience's positive role in the world.
- 3) Encourage rigorous, collaborative, and cross-disciplinary work between neuroscience and non-science disciplines (e.g., ethics, law, humanities, arts, social sciences, policy, journalism, education, and public engagement) that promotes collaboration to solve complex problems that cannot be answered by science alone.

**Dana Frontiers**

**Goal:** Strengthen neuroscience's positive role in the world by increasing collaborative engagement with diverse publics to deepen trust and inform policy.

*The Dana Frontiers program supports multidirectional community engagement to collaboratively identify and address key issues at the intersection of neuroscience and society. We seek to support projects that improve the quality of relationships between communities of people, including patient groups, technology end-users, industry, researchers, clinicians, regulators, ethicists, professionals, policymakers, and more. Frontiers-supported projects also test novel approaches to ensure these different perspectives and voices shape neuroscience research and relevant policies. By supporting neuroscience community engagement, the Frontiers program ultimately aims to build capacity for communities and organizations to collaboratively respond to societal challenges and opportunities related to neuroscience. The Frontiers program's grant portfolio includes the development of new tools or resources for trust-*

*building and deep listening with communities, support for individual leaders in civic neuroscience, and seeding new opportunities for community collaboration across sectors and identities.*

**Objectives:**

- 1) Develop engagement resources to cultivate trust and improve the quality of relationships between neuroscience practitioners, policymakers, and communities of people.
- 2) Pilot innovative multidirectional engagement opportunities to embed community perspectives in research, policy, and decision-making.

**Dana Opportunistic**

Our grants are organized around the three program areas listed above (Dana Education, NextGen, and Frontiers), with a focus on strengthening neuroscience's positive role in the world. However, we recognize that we don't have all the answers and it's our job to keep looking. If you have a project idea that you believe would strengthen neuroscience's positive role in the world in alignment with our mission, vision, and values (see <https://dana.org/about-dana/>), but your idea does not align with one of our three primary program areas (Dana Education, NextGen, and Frontiers), please submit it under the Dana Opportunistic program.