



AWP Giving Circle Grant Program Overview



Executive Summary

Since the creation of the Giving Circle in 2007, by executive board members of the Alliance, 91 UT programs have received more than \$825,000 from the collective effort of the circle's members. Grounded in its mission to change lives and instill leadership, the Alliance Giving Circle desires to enhance what it has started and support more initiatives of instruction, research, outreach, and fundraising of UT students, faculty, and alumni.

Every gift counts. All Alliance general members are able to contribute, in any amount, to the Giving Circle. When pooled together, these gifts cause a ripple effect throughout the university that will forever shape our community and state. Grants range up to \$25,000 and are awarded to the most innovative and deserving applicants annually.



Impact

In 2025 the Alliance awarded over \$41,859 in grants across the UT System to innovative programs that help advance the university's mission to serve all Tennesseans and beyond through education, discovery and outreach that enables strong economic, social and environmental well-being.



Innovate

Support

Enhance

Educate

Wellness

\$5,000 to UTC – BrainBridge: Supports hands-on student training with advanced brain imaging to study brain health, recovery, and development.

\$7,690 to UTC – Observatory Displays: Funds interactive astronomy exhibits at the Clarence T. Jones Observatory to enhance public science education.

\$7,800 to UTIA – Spay-Neuter Training: Provides specialized training for East Tennessee veterinarians to improve animal welfare through high-quality spay-neuter techniques.

\$10,194 to UTHSC – Mobile Services Expansion: Purchases diagnostic equipment to expand hearing and communication screenings for preschoolers in rural communities.

\$11,175 to UTHSC – Lab Kits: Creates reusable classroom kits linking Yellow Fever history to modern genetics, microscopy, and data analysis lessons.

Eligible Applicants

Faculty, staff, departments, and university-recognized student organizations from any University of Tennessee campus or unit are eligible to apply. Additionally, organizations with a formal relationship with the following entities may also apply:

- University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service
- University of Tennessee Space Institute
- University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
- University of Tennessee Alumni Association

The Alliance Executive Board is dedicated to supporting transformative ideas by awarding grants to the most innovative and deserving applicants. We seek proposals that challenge conventional approaches and inspire new solutions to pressing needs. With funding ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000, we aim to empower visionary projects and programs that demonstrate creativity, impact, and potential for meaningful change. Whether an ongoing initiative or a groundbreaking one-time event, eligible proposals should exemplify forward-thinking strategies that advance our mission and leave a lasting legacy.

Prohibited uses of funding includes any of the following activities or expenditures:

- General operating expenses or overhead, including faculty salaries
- Grants to benefit only one individual
- Endowment funding
- Interim or bridge funding

Timeline

Faculty members are required to submit their grant application to the UT Research Foundation's Office of Sponsored Programs via Cayuse SP by Friday, February 20, 2026.

The Office of Sponsored Programs will review to ensure application criteria has been met and will submit the proposal to the Alliance by 5:00 P.M. EST on Friday, February 27, 2026.

AWP to Publish Request for Proposals	Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Deadline for Faculty Submissions in Cayuse SP	Friday, February 20, 2026
Final Deadline for All Applications	Friday, February 27, 2026
AWP to Notify All Applicants of Funding Status	Monday, March 30, 2026
Grant Recipients to Pre-Record Impact Statements	April 6-10, 2026
AWP Annual Women & Philanthropy Symposium	Friday, April 17, 2026



Grant Recipients

The AWP will publicly announce all grant recipients at their annual Women & Philanthropy Symposium on Friday, April 17, 2026 at the Lighthouse Knoxville.

If your project/program is selected for funding you will be invited to record a short (2 minute) impact statement describing your project the week of April 6-10 to be shared in compilation with other winners at the Symposium. Representatives from all winning programs will also be invited to attend the Symposium to be recognized for their work.



Funding Process

To ensure transparency and accountability, the Alliance will distribute funds in two phases to align with the project's goals. The first half of your grant funding will be transferred to your designated UT restricted account after you submit your mid-project progress report. The remaining funds will be transferred into your account after you submit your final project at the end of your program/project.

- Grant recipients will be asked to fill out an acceptance form by June 30, 2026
- Mid-Project Progress Report will be due on or before December 14, 2026
- Final Progress Report (on or before May 31, 2027)

In some cases, it will make sense for us to deviate from this schedule, but a report will be required *prior* to the distribution of funds. Funding extensions may be considered for projects demonstrating significant progress and continued impact, subject to the approval of the Alliance Executive Board



Application Check-List

- Review 2026 AWP Grant Program Overview
- Complete 2026 AWP Grant Application Coversheet

- Attach Grant Proposal (two-page maximum)
- Attach Detailed Grant Proposal Budget
- Submit Completed Application to Cayuse SP



Contact Information

For any inquiries about the AWP Giving Circle Grants program, please contact:

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