



RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM 2026

MDFA 25th ANNIVERSARY AWARD

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Applications open:	9 October 2025
Applications close:	4 January 2026 11:59pm AEDT
Grant recipients announced:	May 2026

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SECTION A: INFORMATION

Background

Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA), a registered charity, is the only organisation in Australia specifically devoted to supporting and representing people with macular disease.

MDFA's mission is to reduce the impact of macular disease in Australia through four pillars of work:

- Support and care for people living with macular disease
- Community awareness and early detection
- Advocacy – being the voice of the community
- Research – growing the knowledge and evidence base to improve outcomes for people with macular disease.

Thanks to the generous support of the macular disease community from donations and bequests, MDFA is again offering grants for researchers with expertise in macular and retinal diseases to commence major projects in 2026.

MDFA Research Grants Program

Aims of MDFA's Research Grant Program

MDFA's Research Grant Program aims to:

- Support research projects that maximise outcomes that further MDFA's mission to reduce the impact of macular and retinal diseases in our community.
- Establish MDFA as a centre of excellence and leader in the knowledge of available research involving macular disease related issues (globally) for the benefit of all our stakeholders.
- Assess the medical and social impacts of macular or retinal disease on the community.
- Fund research projects in an ethical, responsible and sustainable manner which is collaborative and engages with people impacted by or interested in the field of macular or retinal disease.

Whilst the Program does not fund research directly undertaken by medical or pharmaceutical companies, the research MDFA funds is not meant to exclude research into pharmaceutical treatments, or the discovery or investigation of potential treatments that may go on to be developed by a medical or pharmaceutical company.

Objectives of MDFA's Research Grants Program

The MDFA Research Grants Program's core objective is to deepen the understanding of the implications of living with a macular or retinal disease and of the causes and management of macular and retinal diseases.

This is achieved via funding rigorous high-quality research that withstands professional and scientific scrutiny.

To ensure sustainability of the program, other objectives include funding:

- an appropriate spread of research across both clinical and social impact-focused projects.
- an appropriate blend of high quality, rigorous projects and initiatives (up to 3 years).
- projects or initiatives that:
 - broaden the level of awareness of, and interest in, macular and retinal diseases and related issues
 - can be translated into practice to improve eye health outcomes
 - foster collaboration between researchers
 - can be leveraged, not just financially but also to enhance MDFA's brand and reputation.

Areas of research

MDFA recognises there is a critical need for macular and retinal disease research with the fundamental goal of reducing the burden on people living with a macular disease and on the health system.

MDFA funds research into all types of studies that increase knowledge of risk factors, causes, detection methods, and potential treatments for macular diseases.

MDFA also funds projects with a biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, technological, or psychosocial focus.

MDFA is seeking to fund high quality, high impact research within – but not limited to – the following broad areas:

Biomedical research: e.g. genetics; risk factors; incidence/prevalence data; new treatments; treatment outcomes; early intervention and prevention; pathogenesis; epigenetics.

Low vision studies: e.g. accessibility and affordability of services and support; referral pathways; impacts on daily living, independence and psychological wellbeing; access to low vision services; evaluating and supporting early referral services; and adherence/compliance with rehabilitation.

Practices and protocols: e.g. best practice for eye health professionals; diagnosis, treatment and referral pathways; functional outcomes; models of care; optimising communication with people with a macular or retinal disease, their family and carers.

MDFA 25th Anniversary Award

The MDFA 25th Anniversary Award will provide funding for research addressing knowledge gaps **specifically related to geographic atrophy**.

This could include research into, but is not limited to:

- genes known to be linked to developing geographic atrophy; genes associated with a family history of geographic atrophy
- investigating new genes that may contribute to geographic atrophy development
- other risk factors and causes of geographic atrophy
- new treatments and treatment targets for geographic atrophy
- measuring functional outcomes of geographic atrophy.

The award will be up to a total of \$200,000 in funding over a maximum period of 3 years.

Grant applications for smaller amounts will also be considered.

All eligible applications will be assessed by external independent expert peer reviewers, MDFA's Research Grants Review Panel, made up of macular disease experts and researchers, and MDFA's Community Review Panel.

Based on the merits of submitted applications, and the available funds, MDFA may choose to award more than one grant.

MDFA reserves the right to award grants of lower value than requested by the applicant pending revision of the research proposal and budget.

Eligibility for the MDFA 25th Anniversary Award

All proposed research projects must meet strict eligibility standards in order to be assessed and ultimately, if successful, to receive grant funding.

Researchers working in any field of research relevant to **geographic atrophy** are eligible to apply for the MDFA 25th Anniversary Award, provided they meet the following criteria:

- The Primary Investigator must be:
 - an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident at the time of submission
 - based in Australia at an Australian institution. Co-Investigators may be based in overseas institutions but are not eligible to draw funds from the grant.
- Research applicants can only be named as the Primary Investigator on a single application for an MDFA grant.
- Primary Investigators must **not already hold** another active MDFA grant.
- Research institutions may submit more than one application.
- The administering institution must be registered as an Administering Institution with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and/or the Australian Research Council (ARC).
- The application must be complete and adhere to all eligibility criteria, instructions and guidelines including word limits and formatting.

If applicants are unsure of any eligibility requirements, please contact MDFA for clarification **prior to** submitting an application. Please email research@mdfoundation.com.au.

- If the applicant (or members of the investigator team) is in receipt of research grant funding from other sources or intends to submit grant applications to other funding entities for the same or similar research, this must be disclosed to MDFA at the time of application.

In the event funding is secured from another source, MDFA reserves the right to withdraw the application for funding.

Submitting a grant application

All attachments listed in this document are to be submitted along with the completed application form.

All grant applications submitted will undergo rigorous peer review by Australian and/or international experts.

Applications will also be assessed by trained members of the macular disease community including people living with geographic atrophy, their family members, carers and others with lived experience of vision loss.

Final approval of successful applicants rests with the MDFA Board upon recommendation by MDFA's Research Grants Review Panel.

MDFA 25th Anniversary Award – Assessment criteria

Scientific quality of the research proposal (60% weighting)

Applications may be assessed by, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- clarity, strength and relevance of the research hypothesis, research questions, aims and objectives
- the project plan is informed and supported by the existing literature/evidence-base
- strengths, weaknesses and appropriateness of the project's design to deliver on the aims of the research
- relevance and significance of the proposed outcomes and outcomes measures
- clarity and feasibility of the research plan
- appropriateness of the researchers and research environment to successfully support and deliver the research project.

Significance of proposed research (10% weighting)

Applications may be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the following

- potential of the likely outcomes or findings of this research to increase knowledge about geographic atrophy
- potential of the outcomes or findings to contribute to MDFA's objectives of reducing the impact of geographic atrophy, or related issue being investigated
- potential for this research to be extended into further research projects or translated into clinical and/or public health practice or policy, or advances in treatments
- alignment with the research areas identified by MDFA as eligible for funding
- likely interest from other researchers, conference organisers, journals, community groups, and policy makers in the outcomes of this research.

Innovation of proposed research (10% weighting)

Applications may be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the following questions:

- Is the proposed research novel or creative?
- Are the techniques cutting edge?
- Will the research contribute to and inform current knowledge and other researchers, or transform practices or approaches within this field of research?
- How well does the proposal describe the new ideas, procedures, technologies, programs or health policy settings?

Applicant's capability, relative to opportunity (10% weighting)

Applications may be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the following:

- Evidence that the investigator/s have the appropriate research skills and experience to successfully deliver the proposed project and achieve the aims of the research, including previous grant awards.

- The national and international standing of the applicant(s) based upon their research achievements, including but not limited to:
 - research outputs relevant to the proposed field of research (e.g. publications, impact or outcome of previous research achievements etc)
 - contribution to their research field (e.g. invitations to speak at professional/research conferences and meetings, editorial appointments, relevant committee positions etc)
 - other research-related achievements (e.g. influence on clinical/health policy or practice or provision of advice to health authorities and government, impacts on health via broad dissemination of research outcomes e.g. via mainstream media, the community or industry involvement)
 - providing a mentoring environment to support early/emerging researchers.

Track records will be assessed on the previous five years, except where there is a career disruption, and considered relative to opportunity.

Consumer involvement (10% weighting)

Applications may be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the following aspects:

- How people with geographic atrophy have been either considered or consulted in the design of the research project.
- How consumers living with geographic atrophy will be involved throughout the project.

Note: we expect the level of consumer involvement to vary depending on the nature of the research.

Community Review – Assessment criteria

Please provide a plain language summary of the research project and describe in a consumer-friendly way, how your research will address each of the assessment criteria below.

Magnitude of the problem (25% weighting)

Describe the magnitude and significance of the problem being addressed by the research, including – but not limited to – the following aspects (as relevant):

- the prevalence and/or incidence of geographic atrophy
- the causes and consequences of geographic atrophy
- risk of developing geographic atrophy
- early detection and prevention of geographic atrophy
- how geographic atrophy is currently diagnosed
- how geographic atrophy is currently treated
- impact of geographic atrophy on physical, mental and social wellbeing, and quality of life.

Expected benefit to people with geographic atrophy (25% weighting)

Explain how the findings of the research are expected to benefit people with geographic atrophy in one or more of the following areas:

- adding to the current knowledge and understanding of the condition
- preventing the development of the condition
- developing or improving access to diagnosis and testing for the condition

- developing or improving treatments or access to treatment for the condition
- addressing an area of unmet need in existing health services, including access to support and low vision services
- improving quality of life.

Pathway for realising the benefits (25% weighting)

Clearly describe the plan and timelines for reaching the end goal/aims/outcomes of the current research proposal to ensure there are tangible outcomes for people with geographic atrophy and/or the broader macular disease community.

If further research is anticipated to maximise the value and impact of this research, clearly describe the future steps and expected timelines.

Potential for applying/translating the findings (25% weighting)

Describe how your research will be applied, implemented and/or ultimately translated in the real world over the short-, medium- and/or long-term to directly or indirectly positively impact the lives of people with geographic atrophy, including identifying any barriers that need to be addressed and how you propose to address them.

Further information about the application process

For further information, please contact:

Research Grants Program, Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Email: research@mdfoundation.com.au

Successful grant applications

If a grant is awarded to a successful applicant:

1. Applicants must be willing to enter into the Research Funding Agreement, a reference copy of which can be obtained by contacting research@mdfoundation.com.au.
2. The grant is an agreement between MDFA and the administering institution that specifies financial support for specific researchers to undertake a defined research project.
3. The administering institution must accept responsibility for the indirect costs of the research and for grant administration. MDFA will not fund indirect research costs, institutional overheads or any institutional administrative charges.
4. The grant recipient must comply with all the regulations and requirements of their host institution. It is not the responsibility of MDFA to provide materials, equipment, supervision, overhead recovery, or any other resources needed to conduct the research.
5. The successful applicant must commence the research no later than **31 January 2027**.
6. Funding cannot commence until all relevant ethical and other approvals have been obtained and evidence provided to MDFA. If these approvals have not been obtained by 31 January 2027, MDFA reserves the right to withdraw the offer of funding.
7. MDFA reserves the right to withhold all or part of the grant (as described in the funding contract).
8. The grant funding commitment may be drawn down on a basis to be agreed between MDFA and the administering institution and will be contingent upon the applicant meeting certain agreed research deliverables.
9. The research must conform to relevant standards of ethics, safety and privacy. Applicants must provide evidence of adherence to these standards if requested to do so by MDFA.
10. Progress reports (half yearly and a final report due 2 months after project completion) must be completed by the Primary Investigator upon commencement of funding. MDFA will provide a template for the written report. MDFA reserves the right to withhold funding if progress reports are not received by the due date or if progress or research activities deviate significantly from those set out in the funding agreement.
11. The Primary Investigator may be asked to present their research to representatives of MDFA, the MDFA Research Committee, and/or the MDFA community.
12. Grant recipients must advise MDFA in advance of any public dissemination of the research, including publications and conference presentations, or in any other form or medium. Any presentations and publications must disclose and acknowledge the research grant funding provided by MDFA in accordance with ethical practices.
13. MDFA may, from time to time and where appropriate, request the grant recipient assist with publicity, advocacy or to provide other assistance at special events. The recipient should make all reasonable efforts to assist.

How to apply

Applications open on **9 October 2025** and close on **4 January 2026 at 11:59 pm (AEDT)**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants are encouraged to contact MDFA prior to submitting your application to seek clarification of any questions relating to the grant application.

Applications must be submitted electronically via email to: research@mdfoundation.com.au.

Please adhere to the following:

1. Applicants must use the application forms and attachment documents provided by MDFA.
2. The application form must be completed in accordance with the instructions provided in **Section B** of this document. Please adhere to the specified formatting guidelines as well as word and page limits.
3. Applications must be submitted as a **Word** document; the total file size of the application and attachments should not exceed 5MB.
4. Electronic files should be named with the lead applicant's last name, followed by their first name, name of grant, and date of submission. See examples below:

MDFA 25th Anniversary Award (MDFA25AA): e.g. Smith_John_MDFA25AA_YYMMDD

5. All attachments, **except for Attachment D** ('Nomination of possible assessors form'), should be included along with the completed application form in a single file.

Attachment D (see Section B Part 6 of this document) should be saved as a separate files using the same file naming convention and included in the same email as the remainder of the application.

6. Once submitted electronically, the application will be considered final, and no further changes will be accepted.
7. MDFA reserves the right to reject incomplete applications.
8. MDFA will email an acknowledgment of receipt of application within two working days. If acknowledgement of receipt is not received within five working days, the applicant should contact MDFA.
9. Successful applicants will be contacted directly in May 2026. Decisions of the MDFA Board are final and will not be subject to appeal. Successful applicants may be contacted for an interview.
10. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing via email.

Please note that unsuccessful applicants **will not receive feedback** from the peer review process, grant review panel assessment, MDFA Research Committee or MDFA Board.

SECTION B: INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

Notes for applicants:

1. Please provide sufficient information and justification in your application to enable the MDFA Grant Review Panel, peer and community reviewers to make a competitive assessment.
2. When completing the application, applicants should use language that is accessible to a non-expert in the field throughout.
3. Where possible, please avoid using acronyms or abbreviations, and provide succinct and clear definitions or explanations of any technical terms throughout the application.

PART 1: Applicant and Institution information

This part requests information about the Primary Investigator and Co-Investigators applying for the grant, including their qualifications, current and previous appointments, and details of the proposed host Institution.

If the proposed host Institution is not registered as an Administering Institution with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and/or the Australian Research Council (ARC), please contact MDFA to discuss eligibility.

Evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent residency

The primary investigator must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident at the time of the grant application. Evidence to support residency status must be provided on request and will be required from successful candidates prior to any offer of funding.

Research environment

Please describe the host Institution's research environment, and how it will support their research. A description of the relevant facilities available for the project should be included. Address how the research environment will benefit the applicant's capacity to conduct macular disease-related research.

PART 2: Primary investigators' qualifications

Previous research output

Please include details of your peer-reviewed publications, patents and/or commercialisation activity (if appropriate) in the past 5 years. Please list most recent publications first.

Previous and current grant awards

Please provide full details of current and previous research grant awards for the Principal Investigator. Please list any MDFA grants and/or other funding awarded in the last 5 years.

Please list source of funding, project title, duration and amount of funding. Please list most recent grant awards first, and ensure that full details are provided, including years and amounts awarded.

Evidence of your impact and contributions to the field

Please provide detailed information about the applicant's relevant experience and contribution to the macular disease and/or retinal disease field.

Benefits of your previous research to people with geographic atrophy

Please provide detailed information about the applicant's relevant experience and contribution to people with geographic atrophy.

Describe your research vision for the next 5 years

Please describe your vision for the future of geographic atrophy research. For example, areas where research studies and knowledge are lacking.

Outcomes of previous MDFA research funding (if relevant)

If relevant, please describe the outputs and outcomes from any research previously funded by MDFA.

Career interruptions that have impacted your track record (if applicable)

Provide details of any career interruptions that may have affected the primary investigator's track record. MDFA appraises track records in light of opportunity, broadly in accordance with the principles of the NHMRC.

Primary Investigator capability statement

Please provide a statement with evidence to support the Primary Investigator's relevant capability and expertise required to successfully complete the research plan.

PART 3: Research Project details

This section includes the project title and project summary, ethical and safety considerations.

Copies of any human, animal or bio-safety ethics approvals from an appropriate institutional ethics committee should be attached, if available (labelled with applicant's name and surname as Attachment A).

Funds will only be released to the successful administering Institution when copies of appropriate ethics approvals have been provided to MDFA.

Conflict of Interest

Please disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest that the applicant may have in relation to this research in the application.

Possible conflicts of interest include – but are not limited to – collaborations (past or current), working in the same institution and having a close personal relationship. Please declare any individuals named on, or associated with, this research project who may directly benefit from this project being funded by MDFA.

Possible conflicts also includes financial interests, directorships, board memberships or other relevant affiliations, or support received from or being sought from any commercial industry that may benefit from this work, or from any of their agencies or subsidiaries.

Please email MDFA if you have any questions regarding conflicts of interest at research@mdfoundation.com.au

PART 4: Research plan

Please include a research plan of no more than eight pages (excluding references) by inserting text into the appropriate boxes in the Microsoft Word application form, in regular 11-point Arial.

Please include References in 10-point font or less.

Background and magnitude of the problem being addressed

Provide the context and background to the proposed research project (200 words maximum). Indicate how the research subject and approach fit with existing knowledge and other research currently being undertaken.

Provide a clear statement of the magnitude of the problem (e.g. incidence, consequences, impact on people with geographic atrophy, their family, carers, community) to be addressed by the research.

Please include references, and any relevant images, or figures as a separate page (excluded from word count).

Hypothesis and aims of the project

Provide a clear statement of the aims of the proposed research, research question and the hypothesis to be tested.

Research approach, methods and stage of project

Please describe the approach to the research, including its design, sampling, techniques, protocols, data analysis procedures (including statistical tests and power calculations, if appropriate). Describe the ways in which the proposed research is innovative. Also describe the procedural checks/auditing that will be used to ensure compliance with the study protocol.

Outcomes measures and potential significance of findings

Describe the expected outcomes of the research, including expected outcomes for people with geographic atrophy, why they were chosen and how they will be measured.

Provide a clear statement of how the research will be applied in the real world over the short, medium and/or long-term, including anticipation of the barriers that need to be addressed.

Is the project likely to lead to the development of patents and/or the commercialisation of any technology? How will the results of the research be disseminated?

Project milestones

Milestones for the research should be identified with dates so that progress of the project can be measured. Presentation in the form of a table or Gantt chart is preferred.

Alignment of research project with MDFA's strategy and funding areas

The Macular Disease Foundation Australia aims to reduce the impact of macular disease in Australia. Describe how the proposed research project aligns with MDFA's strategic plan and funding areas (see link below and page 4 above).

See www.mdfoundation.com.au/about-mdfa/our-work/strategic-priorities/

References

References are not included in the page count for this section (eight pages). References can be in Ariel 10-point font or smaller.

PART 5: Community perspective

Include a community perspective by inserting text into the appropriate boxes in the Microsoft Word application form, in regular **Arial12-point font**.

Responses to the Community Perspective criteria must be written in consumer-friendly language and include sufficient information so that the whole Part 5 section can be read without reference to information submitted in the rest of the application.

This ensures the Community Review Form can be understood by a non-researcher, can be read as a stand-alone document, and is anonymous to eliminate potential conflicts of interest.

Project title

Insert the title of the project.

Plain language summary of the research project

This reflects the Project Summary from Part 3. The plain language summary should be appropriate for non-experts, community members and/or the media.

Where possible, please avoid using acronyms or abbreviations, and provide succinct and clear definitions or explanations of any technical terms throughout the application.

Background to the project and magnitude of the problem

Provide the context and background to the proposed research project. Indicate how the research subject and approach fit with existing knowledge and other research currently being undertaken.

Provide a clear statement of the magnitude of the problem (e.g. incidence, consequences, impact on people with geographic atrophy, their family, carers, community) to be addressed by the research. Include references, and any relevant images, or figures as a separate page (excluded from word count).

How will this research benefit people with geographic atrophy

Describe the ways in which the proposed research is innovative, including the relevance and significance of the project and the expected outcomes for people with geographic atrophy.

Consumer participation in this research

Please describe how you have either considered or consulted with people with geographic atrophy in the design of your project and how consumers will be involved throughout the project. Note: we expect the level of consumer involvement to vary depending on the nature of the research.

Potential translation or application of this research

Please provide details of how this research could be translated or applied in practice.

Provide a clear statement of the steps that will be required to reach the stated end benefits of the research. The steps should include those in the current proposal and – if necessary – beyond, including anticipated timeframes for each step.

Provide a clear statement of how the research will be applied in the real world over the short, medium and/or long-term, including identifying any barriers that need to be addressed and how the researchers propose to address them.

PART 6: Budget

Provide an overall project budget, as well as a budget breakdown for each year of the project (as relevant).

The budget does not form part of the research plan hence it is not included in the eight-page limit.

Please provide a detailed project budget, covering:

- **Personnel:** total cost of the personnel involved (based on employment level, hourly rate/salary and percentage of time on project).
- **Consumables:** itemise consumables into categories such as laboratory reagents, antibodies, postage, printing, survey production costs, software etc.
- **Equipment:** list equipment that is unique to the proposed research project and is essential for the project to succeed. The grant will not fund the purchase of computers unless they are of a specialised nature required for the operation of laboratory equipment for this specific project.
- **Travel:** (specify whether for data collection, collaboration and/or dissemination). Please note that travel costs are funded only in exceptional circumstances and when required as part of the project activities.
- **Other:** additional research costs including research materials.

Notes:

1. Research funds provided by MDFA must be expended within Australia, unless otherwise approved (in exceptional circumstances) in writing by MDFA.
2. **MDFA will not fund indirect research costs, institutional overheads, institutional infrastructure or any institutional administrative charges.**
3. The combined cash and in-kind contribution to the project from the administering Institution must be included.
4. The Grant is **exclusive of GST**. In the budget table, show the cost of individual items excluding GST. Include GST in the final row of the table as indicated.

5. Only include items that are essential to the proposed project.
6. Cash contributions from the Institution are those that are incurred directly to contribute to the proposed project.
7. In-kind contributions are made without the direct expenditure of cash on the project; they include goods, services, materials or time. Examples include time for existing staff and access to laboratories and other facilities.
8. Ensure that all figures are calculated accurately.
9. Use the headings provided in the budget tables in the application form. Add or delete rows as required.

Budget justification

The budget justification should not exceed one page. Please indicate why the budget (and any more costly items) is/are necessary and what the specific item/s cost.

For travel budget items, explain the necessity for, and timing of, travel, as well as the travel destination.

Other information about budget

Provide details of any other relevant information not covered above. Please include any funding sources that have been or are currently being pursued for this or a similar project. If this project or a similar project has any additional source of funding, explain how it will relate to this Grant.

Duplicate funding for research is not permissible and MDFA reserves the right to withdraw funding in the event that other funding is secured for the research.

Provide details of procedures to ensure financial accountability.

Financial accountability

Describe procedures to ensure financial accountability for the proposed research.

Attachments checklist

Note: Templates for Attachments C and D will be emailed together with the relevant application grant form, and this guidance document.

Attachment	Requirement	Filename
Attachment A	Ethics clearances	<p>To be provided by applicant</p> <p>Please attach copies of human, animal or bio-safety ethics clearances, if available.</p>
Attachment B	Host institution letter	<p>To be provided by applicant</p> <p>A letter from the proposed host Institution is required to confirm that the institutional support described in this application will be provided if the Grant is awarded.</p>
Attachment C	Certifications	<p>MDFA template form provided</p> <p>Please ensure that all relevant signatures have been obtained.</p>
Attachment D	Nomination of possible assessors and 'request not to assess' form	<p>MDFA template form provided</p> <p>Please nominate two or more potential peer reviewers/assessors. These reviewers will not necessarily be asked to assess the application.</p> <p>Possible reviewers must not have a conflict of interest with the grant applicant, co-investigators or the proposed research. See Conflict of Interest guidance on page 12.</p> <p>Requests to exclude potential reviewers can also be made on this form. Reasons for requesting that an individual not assess the application could include concerns that the person may be unreasonably biased, personal conflict or hostility, a direct competitor or having a potential conflict of interest.</p> <p>The information provided to MDFA will be considered confidential and will not be shared externally.</p> <p>Finally, please sign the consent to share your application with Observers who may attend the grant decision meeting, provided no conflict of interest exists.</p>