

2026 Call for Encompass Health

grant applications



Purpose for the grant

Encompass Health Corporation is pleased to announce our 2026 call for grant applications. This year, we are offering research funding grant(s) totaling up to \$75,000 aimed at the investigation of the impact or effectiveness of rehabilitation services in the inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) post-acute care setting, knowledge translation or implementation science.

Application opens: June 1, 2026

Deadline for submission: October 31, 2026, 5 p.m. EST

Background and rationale

The United States healthcare community has become a science-driven and evidence-based environment, dependent on research and evidence that supports and defends the assessments and interventions used to inform practice and care guidelines. Post-acute care providers play a critical role in this community with their focus on returning individuals to an independent and productive quality of life after an acute medical episode. Encompass Health is one of the nation's largest providers of inpatient rehabilitation services, committed to providing the highest quality of patient care using today's most advanced therapeutic assessments, interventions and technologies. Encompass Health consistently outperforms its peers with a unique intensive approach to rehabilitation, delivering better outcomes by providing a higher level of care.

Funding scope

During this application period, several proposals will be considered for funding. Funds may be requested to support direct costs attributable to the study. Expenses related to the researchers' time may be limited. Encompass Health employees' salary expenses will be administered consistent with payroll policies and should not be included in the grant application. The funding is available for research only. Indirect facilities and administrative expenses will not be funded by this grant award. Funding is limited to \$75,000, which may be divided between several proposed studies and must be budgeted on the application(s) prior to conducting the research. Documentation of expenses must be submitted on the final summary report when the research is complete. Additional information will be required from funding-approved applicants to process funding, including approval from the Encompass Health Research Review Committee (if research will be conducted in an Encompass Health hospital). Encompass Health reserves the right to deny approved funding after final funding information is collected, as deemed appropriate. Any unused grant funds will be refunded to Encompass Health in conjunction with the final report. The final report will include an explanation of the unused funds.

All research for funds granted will be conducted during the defined grant protocol timelines. However, if an extension is required, a written letter of request should be submitted to Julie.burrafato@encompasshealth.com with a full explanation of the request. Grant extensions are not guaranteed and may require the grant recipient to refund the grant monies.

It is not required that this grant funding be awarded to applicants that are Encompass Health employees or for research to be conducted in an Encompass Health hospital. All levels of research will be considered if the proposed research has sufficient relevance and scientific credibility that it could be considered for publication in a peer reviewed journal or presentation at a national clinical evidence-based conference.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The overall objective of this grant is to support research efforts that investigate the impact and/or effectiveness of rehabilitation services on neurological impairments within the inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF). This grant award may also support studies that investigate implementation science or knowledge translation that studies implementing evidence into practice. Through this grant award Encompass Health is promoting efforts to expand the available research by exploring the impact and assisting in filling the gap of available research for rehabilitation services in IRFs.

Priority topics and identified gaps that may qualify for funding

This list of potential topics offers applicant's studies that may be considered the highest priority for the grant funding award:

- Impact and/or effectiveness of rehabilitation services on neurological impairments
- Efficacy of interdisciplinary assessments or interventions
- Impact of modes or intensity of therapies on patient outcomes and experience
- Impact of therapy or nursing assessments or interventions on outcomes or experience
- Impact of rehabilitation services on outcomes or experience
- Prevention or control of rehabilitation-related conditions
- Patient and caregiver education programming impact or outcomes
- Performance improvement that impacts outcome data
- Case studies or case series studies that reflect the impact to patient outcomes
- Implementation science and knowledge translation research aimed at the study of rehabilitation methods to implement research findings for neurological impairments

Selection process

The applications submitted will be evaluated based on:

1. Scientific merit and experience of principal investigator(s)
2. Relevance to the grant program objectives
3. Expected outcomes, and study feasibility

The Encompass Health Grant Selection Committee and Corporate Clinical Research Committee will conduct the final selection of the project for funding. Final selection will be complete within 30 days of the final submission deadline or October 31, 2026.

Eligibility criteria

Upon verification of eligibility by Encompass Health, applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Encompass Health Grant Selection Committee using established scoring criteria and rubric.

- Grant application and supporting documentation must be submitted by October 31, 2026.
 - They may be emailed by October 31, 2026, at 5 p.m. EST to TherapyGrants@encompasshealth.com
- Research proposed must be conducted in the United States or Puerto Rico.
- Principal investigators must be based in the United States or Puerto Rico.
- A well-defined research protocol is required.
- IRB approval is required through entities as defined by the research protocol. Encompass Health does not have an IRB but IRBs can be from an academic partner or a private provider. If the research is IRB exempt please provide documentation.
- Human subject policies and informed consents obtained from patients must be developed in accordance with CITI requirements.
- A HIPAA Authorization or HIPAA Waiver must be included.
- Encompass Health will not consider organizations that discriminate by race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation or national origin.
- Research is expected to be completed in no more than 12 months after awarding the grant.

Submitting grant application

Grant applications will consist of a letter of introduction and grant application as defined in this document. The final research protocol will be approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the applicant's choice, which may be obtained after the award is granted. Approval from the Encompass Health Clinical Research Review Committee will be required if the research will be conducted at any Encompass Health hospital(s), which includes all documentation as defined by Encompass Health's research policies.

The following documents are required to be considered for the Encompass Health Grant:

1. A letter of introduction including:
 - An introduction to the investigators, including research experience
 - Affiliated organizations or universities
 - Primary research objectives
 - A summary of the technical and operational feasibility for the proposed project to meet the grant program objectives and expected outcomes
2. The completed grant application form submitted via email
3. An example of the human subject's consent form (as applicable)
4. A one-page summary CV of the principal investigator(s) and co-investigators (as applicable) highlighting their research and grant writing experience
5. Any additional relevant documents including IRB application/approval, etc.

The following content is required on the grant application for the Encompass Health Grant Selection Committee to select the top candidate:

- Brief description of institution's mandate, structure, staff, current activities, research experience
- Clear statement of the intent of the research and research question(s) to be answered
- Clear statement of background and relevance to the defined purpose of the grant
- Clear description of human subjects, as applicable
- Brief description of the catchment area for human subjects
- Describe how participants will be recruited and enrolled in the study
- Describe where the data will be collected
- Description of the data to be collected
- Define the plan for data analysis
- Timelines for critical success points
- Proposed budget breakdown
- Status of and plan for IRB approval

Selection criteria

Grant applications will be scored by members of the Encompass Health Grant Selection Committee using the defined selection criteria to nominate the most qualified application.

Relevance to the defined purpose of the grant

- The extent to which the proposed research falls within the scope of the defined purpose.
- The extent to which the research objectives, expected outcomes and protocol meets the purpose of the grant.
- Potential impact to the base of evidence in the field of rehabilitation services in the inpatient rehabilitation setting.
- Impact to the translation of knowledge, implementation science or evidence-informed decision making at Encompass Health hospitals.

Scientific merit

- The research protocol is of sound design and methodology.
- The research is likely to contribute to literature in rehabilitation services or the field of inpatient rehabilitation.

- The defined research protocol is most likely to answer the defined research questions and aims.

Feasibility

- Plan to obtain IRB approval suggests successful completion of the project
- Plan to collect and analyze data suggest successful completion of the project.
- Investigator and team knowledge, expertise and experience in the field of research
- Ability of the principal investigator to manage the project based on track record within established timelines
- Methodology and research protocol supports successful completion of the project
- Feasibility to recruit and select adequate and appropriate human subjects supports successful completion of the study
- Timelines and milestones support timely completion of the project
- Budget and funding will support completion of the defined research

Follow-up requirements

After the award is granted, annual interim summary reports are required to be submitted to TherapyGrants@encompasshealth.com or emailed to Cheryl.miller@encompasshealth.com, which include the following:

- Status of meeting established timelines
 - IRB approval
 - Encompass Health Research Review Committee approval (if appropriate)
 - Human subject recruitment
 - Data collection
 - Data analysis
 - Data interpretation
 - Outcomes
- Report on expenses
- Report of barriers

When the research is complete, a final summary report will be submitted to Encompass Health to TherapyGrants@encompasshealth.com or email to Cheryl.miller@encompasshealth.com. The final report will include:

- Final outcomes of the research
 - Data analysis
 - Data interpretation
 - Outcomes
 - Publishing and communication plan
- Report on expenses
- Discussion of bias
- Discussion of outcomes included plan to publish in a peer reviewed journal
- Discussion of future research opportunities