



Full Application Instructions: Open Source for the Life Sciences (OS4LS)

KEY INFORMATION

Login and Application Instructions

Applications can be submitted at the personalized link sent in your invitation email. This is a unique link to your application, so please do not forward or share.

Key Dates

Date	Milestone
June 23, 2026	Notification of invitation to submit Full Applications; Full Application portal opens
July 21, 2026	Full Applications due (2 pm PDT / 9 pm UTC)
October 2026	Earliest notification of decisions
December 1, 2026	Earliest project start date

About this call

“Open Source for the Life Sciences” (OS4LS) is the inaugural call of the Open Source for Science Fund. It is targeted at open source software that underpins **data-intensive research and AI-driven discovery in the life sciences**.

Applications are invited for work that addresses significant technical bottlenecks or delivers critical capabilities in these software projects. We seek proposals that target a clear technical challenge that serves critical needs for a research audience, a realistic plan of work aligned with the project’s own roadmap, and genuine buy-in from the core maintainer community about the proposed fundable activities.

For this Request for Applications, we seek to support domain-specific software tools across a broad range of disciplines in the life sciences. We also welcome proposals focused on foundational libraries and software dependencies as well as collaborations among related projects within the same software ecosystem.

Scope and application tracks

We're seeking proposals in these two categories:

Track 1 — Domain-specific Tools	
Open source tools for representing, analyzing, and visualizing biological data across modalities within specific disciplines in the life sciences. Software tools applying for funding in this category must have demonstrated adoption or rapidly growing traction within their target research communities. Domain-specific tools that primarily serve scientists outside the life sciences will be considered out of scope for this call. We welcome applications from various areas of the life sciences, including but not limited to the following: • Foundational biology: Molecular biology and genomics; Structural and chemical biology; Cell and developmental biology; Evolutionary biology; Immunology • Enabling technologies: Biological and Biomedical imaging; Synthetic biology; Bioinformatics; Computational biology; Predictive modeling • Translational / application areas: Neuroscience; Infectious disease; Therapeutics discovery and development	Available funding: Up to \$250,000 USD total over two years (Up to \$125,000 USD/year)
Track 2 — Foundational Libraries and Ecosystem Initiatives	
• Open source libraries that serve as core dependencies of scientific applications across multiple domains in the life sciences, OR • Collaborative proposals developing shared interoperability, integrations, or common interfaces and capabilities across a set of related tools within the same software ecosystem. Applications in this track may propose coordinated work spanning multiple software projects.	Available funding: Up to \$1,000,000 USD total over two years (Up to \$500,000 USD/year)

Use of funds

For both tracks, grants will be awarded for two years (24 months). Proposals will be evaluated for appropriateness of budget relative to the scope of work proposed. **Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of direct costs and should be included in the maximum funding for each track.**

Acceptable use of funds includes, but is not limited to:

- Salary support for staff (full-time, part-time, or contract): developers, contributors, technical writers, community managers, product managers, project managers, user experience researchers, community educators, or other roles that directly support the software project(s)
- Hackathons, sprints, outreach, or other forms of community engagement
- Operational needs such as cloud computing, storage, networking, AI/ML infrastructure (e.g., API tokens, model hosting, tooling subscriptions), or other services
- Support for work that bridges software projects or ecosystems, including coordination across software projects that are similar, dependent on one another, or frequently used together
- Travel to maintainer or community meetings where this directly supports the proposed work

SUBMITTING THE FULL APPLICATION

Login

Navigate to the application portal via the link sent in your invitation email. This is a unique link to your application, so please do not forward or share. **Please submit your application by July 21, 2026 at 2 pm PDT / 9 pm UTC. Deadline extensions will not be granted.**

Application structure

The full application consists of the following sections:

- Applicant and Key Personnel Information
- Organization Information
- Proposal Information
- Project Details
- Budget

Fields marked as  below are **pre-filled** from your Letter of Intent. You may edit them as needed, but please note: significant changes from your LOI, particularly to project scope or eligibility information may flag your application for additional review. Contact us at [info@os4science.org] if you have questions before submitting.

You will also be asked to confirm that you accept our policies before submitting your application. Please note that you'll be asked to include an [Organizational Approval and Sign-Off Form](#) (see section 2 for more information).

About the applicant and the organization

Each application should designate one Lead Applicant as the Principal Investigator (PI) (or “**Applicant**” in short), who will act as the administrative contact between Renaissance Philanthropy and any additional co-PIs named on the grant. The Lead Applicant must submit the application on behalf of any co-PIs and key personnel. Grant funds will be awarded to the organization listed in Section 2, which will take responsibility for distributing funds to any other organizations through subawards or contracts. **Organizations outside the U.S. may not subcontract to U.S. organizations, so please be mindful when selecting the Organization in Section 2.**

Section 1: Applicant and Key Personnel Information

In this section you’ll be able to update information about the Applicant as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the proposal, and add information about any co-PIs and key personnel who will be working on the proposal, if successfully funded.

- Applicant **First Name and Last Name** ✓
- **Applicant Email** ✓
- Applicant **Organizational or Institutional Affiliation** ✓
- Applicant **Country of Residence** ✓
- **Previous Funding:** Have you previously received funding as a PI under the CZI EOSS program? ✓
- **Proposal Team:** List in this section the names and information of other **known** participants in this proposal at the time of application, including any co-PIs who will be jointly responsible with the Applicant for the execution of the proposal, if funded. Do not list the Applicant in this list.
 - First name and last name
 - Email
 - Organizational or Institutional Affiliation
 - Country of Residence
 - Role
 - Co-PIs: individual(s) jointly responsible with the Applicant for leading the work
 - Key personnel: individual(s) to be supported by the grant or contribute to the project(s) if funded

Section 2: Organization Information

- **Organization Name:** the organization that would receive the funding (*this may be different from the main affiliation of the applicant or any co-PI and key personnel*) ✓
- **Organization Address:**
 - Street Address
 - City

- State / Province
- Country
- **Organization Website** 
- **Organization Tax ID:** Enter your organization's tax ID. For U.S. based organizations, this should be the Employer Identification Number (EIN), as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service in the 9-digit format (XX-XXXXXXX; 10 characters total).
- **Type of organization:** academic institution, fiscal sponsor, other non-profit, industry/company, government, other 
- **Organizational/Administrative Contact:** List the name and contact information for the administrative contact to discuss additional information if needed.
 - First name, Last name, Email
- **Signing Official:** List the name and contact information for the person authorized to sign on behalf of your organization
 - First name, Last name, Email
- **Financial Contact:** List the name and contact information for the person authorized to provide banking details and accept the grant
 - First name, Last name, Email
- **Organizational Approval and Sign Off Form:** Upload as a single PDF. [This form](#) should be reviewed and signed by a person authorized to sign on behalf of your institution agreeing to the stated organizational and investigator requirements, as well as endorsing/verifying your application materials and confirming their ability to receive funding for the proposal. In the event of an award, all funds will be awarded to the organization listed here and that organization will be responsible for ensuring compliance of all of the terms, including compliance of all partners/subcontract institutions. These policies are non-negotiable so this form should only be signed if the organization is able to comply with the terms as stated. Note: digital signatures are permitted as long as the document is not encrypted or password-protected.

Section 3: Proposal information

- **Title** of the proposal (maximum 60 characters) 
- **Proposal Purpose** of the work being proposed (maximum 200 characters)
 - Briefly describe your software project(s) and the specific technical bottleneck or capability gap this proposal will address.
- **Funding track:** Track 1 (Domain Specific Tools) or Track 2 (Foundational Libraries and Ecosystem Initiatives) 
- Please note that you **may not change** funding track between LOI and Full Application unless you have been specifically notified by the Fund.
- **List of software projects to be supported (up to 5)**
 - Name of the project
 - Full URL of the code repository

- **Website** (optional)
- **Software Project information**
 - Short description (maximum 500 characters)
 - Software license
 - Main programming language
 - Canonical citation, if available
 - Code of conduct, if available (link)
 - End-user documentation website, if available (link)
 - Contributor / developer guidelines, if available (link)
 - Package entry in a package manager, if applicable (link)
 - Community engagement / Q&A forum, if available (link)
- **Software Project usage and impact metrics:** List whole numbers and add optional comments (max 200 characters), as needed.
 - Monthly users estimate
 - Number of dependent software projects and packages, if applicable
 - Scholarly citations estimate
- **Categories:** check up to three tags describing the type of software and its target scientific audience. ✓

Section 4: Project Details (part 2)

- **Short Summary:** Edit as needed from LOI. Briefly describe the purpose of the proposal and the software project(s) it involves. Please note that details related to the work plan can be moved to and expanded upon in the Work Plan and Goals, Outcomes, Milestones and Deliverables section (maximum 3,000 characters). ✓
- **Expected Value:** Edit as needed from LOI. If the proposal is successfully funded, what does success look like? We're seeking to understand: what type of capabilities the proposal is unlocking for the scientific community; how upstream and downstream software will be improved by the proposal; how the proposed work supports or implements novel functionality for AI enablement and large-scale data analysis (maximum 1,500 characters). ✓
- **Landscape Analysis:** Edit as needed from LOI. Briefly describe other software tools that the audience for this proposal primarily uses (including proprietary alternatives, if they exist), and how the software project(s) in your proposal compare in terms of user base, adoption, functionality, and maturity relative to their target audience. You can add indicators of adoption and usage as needed. Please indicate if the software is used in AI applications and workflows (maximum 1,500 characters). ✓
- **Work Plan and Goals, Outcomes, Milestones and Deliverables:** To complete this section, please make a copy of the [provided template](#), complete the following sections, and upload as a single PDF.
 - Work plan (maximum of 750 words): a narrative description of the proposed work for which funding is being requested, including resources you will contribute that are not part of the requested funding. For software development work (engineering, product design, user research), explain how it fits into your existing project roadmap. For community activities (sprints, training), describe how they will be organized, the target audience, and the expected outcomes. You will summarize the goals, outcomes, and deliverables in the section below.

- **Goals, Outcomes, Milestones and Deliverables:** List the primary goals / workstreams for the proposal (up to five), including:
 - **Goal:** a short description of what this workstream aims to achieve.
 - **Outcome:** a plain-language description of the main outcome for your target audience. What changes for them once every milestone and deliverable under this goal is met?
 - **Milestones & Deliverables:** short descriptions of the key milestones or deliverables that support the goal, and the expected completion date (Year 1 or Year 2)
 - **Success indicators:** qualitative indicators or quantitative targets that will tell you whether you are making progress toward the expected outcome.
- **Optional Upload:** Up to 1 PDF file upload to include PI/co-PI short biographies, references, figures or other supporting documentation. Please keep the total page count to 4 pages.

Section 5: Budget Description

- **Amount Requested:** Enter the amount requested in USD per year as well as the budget requested for all years. The numbers should match those described in the Budget Description to follow. Please note that for track 1, the maximum amount requested is \$250,000 USD total over two years (\$125,000 USD/per year). For track 2, the maximum amount requested is \$1,000,000 total over two years (\$500,000 USD/per year). Enter as whole numbers only, no dollars, commas or cents.
- **Budget description:** Upload the description of the costs to be funded by this grant at a high level in narrative and tabular form, outlining costs for personnel (including names, if known), supplies, equipment, travel, meetings/hackathons/sprints, subcontracts, other costs, and up to 10% indirect costs (excluding equipment and subcontracts). Upload as .pdf and/or .xlsx file formats.
- **Recent financial support:** List active and recently completed grants (previous two calendar years - 2025 and 2026) as well as in-kind support the PI and any co-PIs have received to directly or indirectly support work related to this proposal, including the software project(s) listed in the proposal, including: their duration, total amount in USD (for grants), and source of funding (maximum 1500 characters).

POLICIES AND TERMS

Your proposal and associated reviews will be made accessible to current and future [funding partners](#) of the Open Source for Science Fund. All funded applications will be subject to Renaissance Philanthropy grant conditions and policies.

Confidentiality Policy

No proposals or other materials or information submitted or provided by applicants in connection with the Grant process, including any proposals, documents and communications (collectively, the “Submitted Information”) will be considered confidential information of the applicants, except as specifically provided in the terms of any then-current posted [privacy policy](#). Renaissance Philanthropy may disclose any Submitted Information to the Competition Entities and each of

their employees, contractors, consultants, independent subject matter experts, judges and other organizations without restriction, including to evaluate proposals. Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you have any doubt about the wisdom of disclosure of any confidential or proprietary information, you should consult with your legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your confidential information or intellectual property.

Release of Liability

Applicants agree to and hereby release Renaissance Philanthropy from and against all liability with respect to or in any way arising from by tax liabilities and/or use of your name, likeness, voice, or any materials you submit for participation in the Grant process, including, but not limited to, any claim based on publicity rights, defamation, invasion of privacy, copyright infringement, trademark infringement or any other intellectual property-related cause of action, or otherwise in connection with or related to the Grant.

CONTACT

For questions pertaining to this Request for Applications, please contact:

info@os4science.org

For more information about the Open Source for Science Fund, including fund participation opportunities for funders and industry partners, visit the Fund's website:

os4science.org