



## ***Airborne Award***

The ***Airborne Award*** is intended to provide additional funding to *Taking Flight* grantees to help them transition to and succeed in independent research careers in epilepsy. The award will support outstanding *Taking Flight* grantees by providing critical support during the first two years of their academic positions enabling them to conduct independent research so that they can be ready to competitively apply for larger grant awards such as an R01.

Grants can be awarded for amounts up to **\$300,000 over 24 months**. Eligible *Taking Flight* grantees will be invited to apply for the *Airborne Award* in **Fall 2026**, with funding available upon the successful completion of their *Taking Flight* Award and the grantee transitioning to an independent faculty position.

Additional eligibility details are below.

- *Taking Flight* grantees must be actively seeking and applying to independent faculty positions at research institutions within or outside the U.S. **between Fall 2025 and Fall 2026** and are expected to transition to an independent faculty position at a research institution within or outside the U.S. towards the end of their *Taking Flight* Award period, in **Summer 2027**.
- *Taking Flight* grantees who begin their faculty positions with more than nine months of funding left in their *Taking Flight* Awards will not be invited to apply for an *Airborne Award*.
- Researchers who already have faculty positions at the time of application for a *Taking Flight* Award may still apply for a *Taking Flight* Award but will not be invited to apply for an *Airborne Award*.
- *Taking Flight* grantees should demonstrate clear steps taken towards achieving the Aims of their *Taking Flight* Award through progress reports submitted every six months. Progress made towards each specific Aim must be clearly reported, including any results obtained, steps taken to address unexpected challenges, changes in the research plan, and any potential scope changes. Any new planned or submitted publications and presentations should also be reported. Progress against stated goals will be evaluated by CURE Epilepsy's research team and select advisors.
- *Taking Flight* grantees should demonstrate a commitment to academic career advancement and an independent research career in epilepsy. Goals related to professional growth opportunities in epilepsy research could include but are not limited to:



- publications in high-impact journals
- demonstrating leadership in epilepsy-related projects, e.g., building collaborations to bridge gaps in knowledge by bringing in expertise from outside the grantee's own field of training
- participation in service-related activities such as teaching, advising on graduate or undergraduate research projects, organizing seminars or conferences, participating in professional associations or committees, collaborating with patient advocacy groups etc.
- oral or poster presentations at conferences

*Taking Flight* grantees who wish to be considered for an *Airborne Award* will have several opportunities to provide relevant updates to CURE Epilepsy, starting with highlighting their achievements in their bio sketches when applying for a *Taking Flight Award* and during regular reports submitted as part of the *Taking Flight Award*. Letters of support from mentors and collaborators, which can be submitted both at the time of application to *Taking Flight* as well as during regular reporting for the *Taking Flight Award*, can also be used to highlight progress made in achieving career development goals made before and during the *Taking Flight* award. Submitted materials will be reviewed by CURE Epilepsy's research team and select advisors.

Selected *Taking Flight* grantees will be invited to submit proposals for the *Airborne Award* in the **Fall of 2026**.

**Inquiries:** Questions regarding these guidelines are welcome and should be directed to the Research Team at [Research@CUREepilepsy.org](mailto:Research@CUREepilepsy.org) or 312-255-1801, Extension 3.