



## **Advancing the Science of Palliative Care Research across the Lifespan (ASCENT) Consortium Request for Applications**

### **Investigator in Residence Program**

#### **Program Description**

The ASCENT Investigator in Residence Program seeks to expand the hospice and palliative care research workforce by increasing investigator participation, broadening institutional and disciplinary reach, and strengthening capacity for future funding. This one-year program will provide early-stage investigators focused on serious illness care across any phase of the lifespan with career development and networking opportunities. Each Investigator in Residence will be assigned to an ASCENT Core. Investigators in Residence will engage in Core activities, including knowledge generation, developmental projects, and Core meetings. A full list of ASCENT Cores is available on the [ASCENT website](#).

Investigators in Residence will receive guidance in refining a current or future research project, and they will be funded to attend the annual, in-person ASCENT Scientific Meeting.

The overall goal of this program is to increase the number of hospice and palliative care investigators, expand the range of institutions and geographic regions where hospice and palliative care research is performed, expand the range of disciplines that perform hospice and palliative care research, and develop scientific and leadership capabilities leading to future successful grant proposals, both through ASCENT and extramurally.

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for the Investigator in Residence Program, applicants must:

1. Hold a clinical, research, or health-professional doctorate degree (MD, PhD, DO, DSW, DPH, PharmD, ND, or equivalent)
2. Have a full-time faculty, research scientist, or equivalent position at a college, university, medical or nursing school, health care system/setting or other fiscally responsible organization within the United States
3. Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States

#### **Selection Criteria**

Individuals will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Clear articulation in the application of how acceptance into the program will advance the candidate's career in hospice and palliative care research.
2. Clear articulation in the application of how the individual will advance hospice and palliative care research in the applicant's institution, geographic region, or discipline beyond what currently exists.
3. The investigator is from an institution or geographic region with few hospice and palliative care investigators, or works within a discipline that is less represented in hospice and palliative care research.



## Grantee Requirements

Each participant in the ASCENT Investigator in Residence Program, as a condition of agreeing to participate in the program, must agree to the following:

- Attend (in person) the Annual ASCENT Scientific meeting in the Washington, D.C. metro area during their program year. **For this application period, the meeting will be June 29-30, 2026, in Bethesda, Maryland.** \*Travel expenses will be reimbursed by the ASCENT Consortium.
- Participate virtually in monthly Core meetings
- Attend ASCENT-wide activities, such as Grand Rounds and Webinars
- Actively engage in at least one ongoing scholarly project within the Core such as authorship of a peer-reviewed manuscript, generation of a technical report, conduct of a workshop or special meeting, or contribute to other substantial Core products
- Respond in a timely manner to requests to participate in ASCENT Consortium evaluation activities when requested during and following the completion of their program year

## How to Apply

Online application forms and complete instructions for the ASCENT Investigator in Residence Program are available on the [ASCENT website](#).

Applicants will be asked to provide:

1. Biosketch in NIH's currently [approved format](#). For more information on the application system used to create the NIH Common Form (i.e., SciENcv) please see [HERE](#).
2. ORCID ID – your unique Persistent Identifier (PID). For more information, please see [HERE](#).
3. Ranked preference for assigned Core
4. Summary (500 word maximum) on:
  - a. Why being an ASCENT Investigator in Residence will enhance the applicant's career trajectory in hospice and palliative care research
  - b. How hospice and palliative care research is limited in the applicant's institution or geographic region or discipline, and how the applicant's participation will help expand hospice and palliative care research in the applicant's institution, geographic region, or discipline.

Application timeline:

1. Applications will be opened March 2, 2026.
2. Applications must be submitted electronically via the [ASCENT online application system](#) by close of business (5pm PT) on the specified deadline date (March 26, 2026).
3. Recipients will be announced in April 2026.

## Contact

Please email [ascentadmin@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:ascentadmin@cuanschutz.edu) with any questions.



## FAQs

### 1. Is there salary support for Investigators in Residence?

No, there is no salary support but Investigators will be funded to attend the ASCENT Annual Scientific Meeting.

### 2. Can you apply if you have applied for a Research Scholar or Pilot and Exploratory Studies Award?

For the 2026 application year, individuals who have applied for a Research Scholar or Pilot and Exploratory award **are** eligible, as notifications will not have been distributed for those awards prior to the application deadline for the Investigator in Residence Program. If an applicant is selected as an Investigator in Residence and their Research Scholar or Pilot and Exploratory Studies Award is subsequently funded, the individual will relinquish the Investigator in Residence.

### 3. What is considered a discipline less represented in hospice and palliative care research?

Based on a landscape of currently funded NIH research in hospice and palliative care, for the 2026 application year, disciplines **other than** medicine (MD, DO), nursing, and health services research PhD without other disciplinary focus are considered as less represented compared to their role in hospice and palliative care.

### 4. What is considered an institution or geographic region with few hospice and palliative care investigators?

The applicant must present evidence or argument regarding this point. Please include as part of your application why you believe your institution or geographic region qualifies as one with few hospice and palliative care investigators.

### 5. What is meant by a fiscally responsible organization?

Any organization (including for-profit organizations) that has a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) and processes for following federal guidelines/regulations for using research funds meet eligibility criteria for this grant. The UEI Number has replaced the DUNS Number as the primary means of entity identification for federal awards government-wide.

### 6. Is a research doctorate required to apply?

No, a research doctoral is not required. Individuals with practice doctorates (e.g., DNP, OTD, DPT, MD, DO) are eligible to apply. However, applicants must show how they plan in their career to engage in the generation of new knowledge in palliative care through generalizable research. Quality improvement alone is not considered as generalizable research.