

Funding Alert

Bay Area Lyme Foundation Emerging Leader Award

Deadline: February 15, 2026

Number of awards: 2 awards

Award amount: \$150,000

Use of funds: Support new and innovative projects and aim to attract aspiring new scientific talent to the field of Lyme and other tickborne pathogen research.

Summary: Bay Area Lyme will be awarding two \$150,000 Emerging Leader Awards in 2026. The **first award is the Lyme Disease Award**, continuing the legacy of advancing diagnostics that we started over a decade ago.

The **second award**, is the **Tick-borne Pathogen Award**, sponsored by an anonymous donor, and is for a researcher focusing on non-Borrelia tick-borne pathogens/infections that occur frequently, either in combination with Lyme disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*), or as stand-alone investigations.

These grants support new and innovative projects and aim to attract aspiring new scientific talent to the field of Lyme and other tickborne pathogen research. Candidate applications must include a viable proposal for a proof-of-concept project to be funded, in part or in sum, by the grant award.

The \$150,000 ELA grants will be **offered to researchers in academia or the private sector** who are currently at the post-doctoral level through associate professor level or equivalent. Those who have not previously worked in Lyme or tickborne disease research are encouraged to apply.

While we are particularly interested in applicants who have identified a defined approach to improving diagnostics or therapeutics for Lyme and other tickborne diseases, this award is open to all areas of research needed for patients. Important criteria include demonstrated professional and scientific leadership in the biomedical sciences, as well as a strong supporting scientific rationale for the project.

[Link to complete RFP](#) Applicants must submit an [Application](#).

Eligibility:

- Affiliated with an academic or research institution in the U.S. or corporate equivalent
- Demonstrated professional and scientific leadership in biological and medical sciences
- Exhibited scientific curiosity and an established pattern of creative thinking
- A defined approach to improved diagnostics or therapies for Lyme disease