



CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2026

Digital and non-pharmacological approaches for dementia prevention, diagnosis and care in real-world settings

Submission Deadline for Letter of Intent: 8 April 2026

Dementia Research Switzerland – Synopsis Foundation announces its **2026 Research Grant competition**. This call invites applications for projects aimed at **developing and/or validating digital and non-pharmacological approaches for the prevention and diagnosis of dementia, as well as for the care of people living with dementia**.

The objective of this call is to **generate robust evidence on the effectiveness, user acceptance and feasibility** of such interventions, with a view toward their **sustainable implementation in everyday clinical and care practice**.

The topics covered in this call include:

- **Prevention strategies** to reduce the risk of dementia, delay its onset, or slow disease progression
- Innovative digital approaches to advance **timely and accurate diagnosis of neurodegenerative diseases**
- **Non-pharmacological interventions** aimed at enhancing the treatment, support, and overall quality of care for individuals living with dementia

We welcome projects evaluating innovative digital health technologies across the care pathway. Early patient and public involvement is encouraged, but it is not a prerequisite for application. Collaboration with industry partners or start-up companies is possible; however, only the non-commercial partner will receive funding from the Synopsis Foundation.

FUNDING

Within this call, two different funding opportunities are offered:

- **Pilot Grants** of maximum CHF 100'000 for one year
- **Consolidator Grants** of maximum CHF 250'000 for up to three years

Institutions may not charge indirect or overhead costs on these awards.

ELIGIBILITY

Researchers working at Swiss universities or non-commercial research institutions, who have not received funding from the Synopsis Foundation for at least one year at the time of submission, are eligible to apply. Each applicant can only submit one application in response to the 2026 call for proposals. Project proposals that have been previously rejected by the Foundation may be resubmitted once, accompanied by an explanation of the changes made to the original application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application follows a **two-step procedure**. First, researchers are invited to submit a short letter of intent. The most convincing project ideas will be selected, and the main applicant will be invited to submit a full proposal. All documents must be submitted by the main applicant using the provided templates and must be completed in English.

1st Step: Letter of Intent

In a first stage, a **letter of intent** is to be submitted that includes a **short project outline**. The **template** for the letter of intent is provided on the **Synapsis Foundation website**. The letter of intent includes:

- Information on the main applicant
- Project title
- Start date and duration of the project
- Requested funding
- Information regarding resubmission and further funding sources
- Recruitment site / collaboration partner (e.g. nursing home)
- Outline of the proposed research project (1 page only)
- Curriculum vitae, incl. top 3 publications

The letter of intent must be submitted online in pdf-format via the submission tool.

The submission deadline for the letter of intent is 8 April 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

The Scientific Advisory Board of Synapsis Foundation will review all submitted letters of intent and select the most promising project ideas based on scientific quality, originality and relevance to the call.

2nd Step: Full Proposal

If the project outline was evaluated positively, the main applicant will be invited to submit a **detailed full proposal**. The **template** for the full proposal will be **sent** to the main applicant **via e-mail**, together with the invitation. The full proposal includes:

- Scientific abstract
- Introduction to the topic
- Specific goals of the project and detailed research plan
- Detailed budget and disclosure of all other funding sources
- Curriculum vitae, incl. a list of top 5 papers from the last years

All relevant information must be compiled in a single pdf-file of maximum 10 MB and must be submitted online. The link to the submission tool will be provided via e-mail.

Submission deadline for the full proposal is 5 July 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

EVALUATION

Full proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Synapsis Foundation that is specialized on Health Service Research. The assessment of the full proposals will be supported by external reviews. The main **criteria for evaluation** are **scientific quality, originality, innovation, feasibility, experience and past performance of the main applicant**, as well as **relevance to the call**. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Final decision for funding lies with the Board of Trustees of the Synapsis Foundation.

Funding decisions will be announced by 20 December 2026.

CONTACT

If you have questions regarding any aspects of the Call for Proposals 2026, please consult our **FAQs** or contact Heide Marie Hess, Liaison Officer Research:
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