

Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center (HHRRC)

Grant Proposal Guidelines 2026

Call for Proposals

The HHRRC seeks proposals for the 2026 HHRRC Grants. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center (HHRRC) was created in February 2015 and is supported by the Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF). The HHRRC seeks to utilize the assets of the AAFS to promote the application of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles to global humanitarian and/or human rights projects requiring special forensic assistance. The HHRRC also provides support to AAFS members engaged in human rights and/or humanitarian forensic applications and encourages AAFS members to increase their involvement in such matters. The HHRRC provides monetary awards each year to support research projects and on-the-ground efforts applying forensic science to human rights and humanitarian actions.

Eligibility

Proposals for HHRRC support should be made or sponsored by AAFS members, or by non-members who seek the involvement of AAFS specialists/experts. Proposals may originate from organizations such as medicolegal institutes, forensic services within police units, humanitarian organizations, or universities involved in teaching forensic science/forensic medicine but must have an AAFS member associated with the proposed work. Please contact Chair Dawnie Steadman at osteo@utk.edu if you need assistance connecting with an appropriate AAFS member for your project.

Proposals for support can include, but are not limited to, support for training, research applied to humanitarian and/or human rights projects, training materials and equipment, and advisory services as well as the exchange of expertise, including that provided by AAFS members. Proposals led and generated from within the country to which the proposal relates are especially welcome.

Budget

Support for travel and per diem expenses, where required, will not exceed the amounts recognized by the United States government for the cities involved. No requests for salary will be considered, reflecting the humanitarian and voluntary spirit of the HHRRC. Similarly, institutional overhead is not allowed. No requests for individual fellowships to study abroad will be considered. It is highly recommended that a section of the budget includes funds to attend the 2027 AAFS conference to present the work at the HHRRC Poster Symposium. In general, proposals will not be funded for more than \$10,000 USD.

Awards

All proposals shall be reviewed by the HHRRC leadership. Proposals approved by the HHRRC will be prioritized for funding. Approved proposals may be supported with resources in the form of funds and/or equipment. **Please submit completed proposals to HHRRC Chair Dr. Dawnie Steadman at osteo@utk.edu by November 3, 2025.**

HHRRC Grant Proposal

1. Cover Page

Please complete the supplied cover page (or provide the requested information in a different format if preferred or if access to PDF is limited). See the template on Page 4.

2. Project Narrative (Maximum 5 pages)

The following components should describe the nature of the proposed work, including methods, location(s) of work, connections to AAFS and HHRRC members and missions, respectively, and the impact on the larger project for which this proposal will assist.

- **Description**
Please provide a description of your proposed project to include topics covered and an overview of how the project will approach the topics covered.
- **Background and/or work to date**
Please provide preparations accomplished to date or a brief literature review as relevant.
- **Statement of Need**
What is needed to resolve the problem and what can your project contribute to that need?
- **Methods or Approach**
How will your project help to resolve the problem? If the project is methods-driven, provide a summary of specific methods that will be utilized (e.g., types of remote sensing, ethnographic methods, laboratory techniques). Include where each part of the project will take place.
- **Explanation of relationship to goals of the AAFS HHRRC**
How does this work fit the goals of the HHRRC (see call for proposals on Page 1)
- **Explanation of connection to AAFS**
Who are the AAFS members involved and what are their roles? How do these roles articulate with any local or regional partners who are non-members?
- **Impact Statement**
How will this project impact the humanitarian or human rights action defined by the proposal (e.g., communities served, laboratories supported) and/or forensic science research?

3. Budget and Budget Justification (limit 3 pages)

Provide an itemized budget within a Word document table or Excel spreadsheet.

A budget justification is a brief description of each budget item or category (e.g., travel) that provides clear evidence of how the requested cost is determined (e.g., a website for the source of casts, lab or field equipment, software). If at all possible, funding for travel to the AAFS conference should be budgeted in order to disseminate the results of the project.

Travel: See the United States government CONUS rates for allowable travel and per diem expenses within the United States (<https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>). Federal rates for international travel (from the United States) are here: https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp.

An example of a travel template is below.

<i>Per diem rates can be determined here for United States travel and here for International travel.</i>			
	Price	Qty (Trips, Days/Nights)	Total
Airfare			
Lodging			
Per Diem			
TOTAL TRAVEL			

4. Appendices

Required: Curriculum vitae (CV) of PI and any primary partners (five-page limit for each CV)

Optional: Workshop syllabi or agendas, maps, supporting graphs, etc. (No more than five pages of optional supporting materials)

5. Submission

Submit proposals to Dr. Dawnie Steadman, HHRRRC Chair, at osteo@utk.edu. Deadline is **November 3, 2025**.

Cover Page

Project Title:

Principle Investigator (PI) Name(s):

PI Affiliation:

Co-PIs and/or Partner Organization(s):

AAFS member: Yes No

Amount Requested in Budget (in USD):

Funding requested for (check all that apply):

Training:	Yes	No
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Research:	Yes	No
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Training materials and equipment:	Yes	No
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Advisory services:	Yes	No
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Is an Internal Review Board (IRB) or other institutional approval required?	Yes	No
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If yes, has approval been obtained?	Yes	No
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Objective of the Proposal (50 word limit)