



Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation

Women's Health in Midlife

Request for Proposals (RFP)

July 2025

1. Background/Introduction

Innovative, evidence-based, and patient-centered clinical care for women's health in midlife has been underfunded and overlooked for decades. Women suffer from both health conditions unique to them and conditions disproportionately impacting them, such as autoimmune and neurodegenerative diseases. Collectively, women endure more years of lowered quality of life relative to men.

Over 1 million women in the U.S. transition into menopause each year. However, much is unknown about the effects of this transition on women's health and how to safely and successfully manage their symptoms. A lack of research and effective clinical care leaves women suffering from disruptive symptoms accompanying menopause, such as hot flashes, brain fog, and mood changes, and puts women at a higher risk of developing some chronic conditions.

The Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation remains committed to addressing the health needs of women throughout their lives. In 2020, the Foundation celebrated the opening of the NewYork-Presbyterian Alexandra Cohen Hospital for Women and Newborns. Continuing to support women through all stages of life, the Foundation will track the progress of grants while selectively seeking new investment opportunities to combat the complex health challenges that women face as they age.

As an organization, the Foundation is committed to inspiring philanthropy and community service by creating awareness, offering guidance, and leading by example to show the world what giving can do. The Foundation's grants support nonprofit organizations based in the United States that either help people in need or solve complex problems. For more information on the Foundation, please visit our website at steveandalex.org.

2. Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Foundation is requesting proposals for a 'Clinical Center of Excellence' (CCE) to effectively treat women suffering from perimenopause, menopause, and other health conditions commonly present for women in midlife. The Center must have the capacity to treat patients in-person (via a physical brick-and-mortar location(s)) and remotely (via telehealth tools). The Center should strive to be a flagship of evidence-based, patient-centered clinical care, leading-edge health innovation, and effective training of current (and future) health providers.

The RFP process starts with applicants submitting a Letter of Intent to Apply – see details below.

3. Letter of Intent to Apply

Organizations who are interested in submitting a proposal should email GrantInquiries@steveandalex.org indicating their intent to apply **no later than August 15, 2025**. The Letter of Intent to Apply should **not** exceed one (1) page. Please include information on these five (5) questions:

- Name of Applying Organization
- Organization's Employment Identification Number (EIN)
- Primary point of contact for the grant proposal (Name, title, affiliation, email address, phone number)
- Secondary point of contact for the grant proposal (Name, title, affiliation, email address, phone number)
- Scope of your proposal (list any/all that apply):
 - Clinical services
 - Research projects
 - Capital expenditures (e.g., renovation or new construction)

4. Areas of Interest for Proposals

Upon receipt of a Letter of Intent to Apply, the Foundation will provide proposal templates for the applicant to complete. Proposals should include, but are not limited to, information on the following topics:

- 1. Organizational design and leadership:** How will the CCE be designed or operationally organized? If part of a larger institution, how will it integrate into the wider organization? Who will lead the project?
- 2. Staffing:** Who will provide direct patient care? Please provide names and bios of the planned clinical staff. What medical disciplines will comprise the team? How will the CCE continue to recruit and retain skilled personnel?
- 3. Training:** How will the CCE provide initial and continued training to clinical staff on innovations and leading research in the field?
- 4. Clinical approach:** How will the CCE approach patient care with respect to perimenopause, menopause, neurodegenerative disease, and other health conditions commonly present for women in midlife? Brief description of the diagnostic and treatment strategies that the CCE will employ for this patient population.
- 5. Integration and Collaboration:** How will the Center integrate with other departments, facilities or disciplines within the institution? Will the Center collaborate with other external institutions or practitioners?
- 6. Translational and clinical research:** How will the CCE incorporate new and innovative technologies into clinical care? Does the Center plan to undertake any clinical research / trials? If so, additional detail will be required.
- 7. Capital costs (if relevant):** Does the CCE require funding for capital renovation or construction? If so, additional details, timelines, designs, and construction plans will be required.
- 8. Patient demand:** How will the CCE manage demand for services from the patient community? What is the anticipated patient load per year?
- 9. Patient affordability:** Outline of the patient cost and reimbursement structure. How will services be provided for patient with limited or no health insurance?
- 10. Potential for scale:** If successful, how will the CCE scale-up to provide services beyond the current catchment area? How could training programs or curricula be expanded to clinicians outside your organization or medical schools?

11. Financial plan or budget: Financial plan for the CCE including all sources of funds and budgeted expenses over time.

Please note, the Foundation is open to innovative proposals to further the goal of expanding treatment options for patients. A multitude of organizational/operational designs (e.g. translational research center, clinical trials network, etc.) or innovative features could satisfy the goals of this proposal, so the Foundation looks forward to any new or creative ideas.

5. Eligibility and Multiple Submissions

Applicants are eligible to apply if they are:

- **501(c)(3) charitable organization:** The organization must be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charity having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3); and
- **Project activities exclusively based in the United States:** The funding request must be for activities and operations exclusively based in the United States.

Please note that all invitations to apply are subject to Foundation discretion.

6. Anticipated Timeline

The planned timeline for submission and decision is outlined below:

Stage	Date
Letter of Intent from Applicants due	August 15, 2025
Full Proposal from Applicants due	October 15, 2025
Foundation decision	Early 2026
If accepted, formulation of contractual agreement	Early/Mid 2026

Please note, these dates are subject to change.

7. Time and Place of Submission of Proposals

Proposals must be submitted through the Foundation's grant management portal. Credentials to access the portal will be provided after submission of the Letter of Intent to Apply.

If planning to submit a proposal, please email your Letter of Intent to Apply by August 15, 2025, to GrantInquiries@steveandalex.org.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Consistency with Request for Proposal requirements
- Programmatic and scientific assessment
- Operational feasibility assessment
- Budget and value for investment
- Historical performance in related projects
- Alignment with Foundation's strategic vision

Please note, these criteria are subject to change.

9. Budget

- Grants will support discrete, time-bound projects
- No specific dollar limit is defined

10. Additional Information

For questions regarding the Request for Proposal, please email: GrantInquiries@steveandalex.org. Please include the RFP title in the subject line of the email.