

American Heart Association – Grant-Funded Data Use Policy

Effective: January 1, 2024

Applies to: All externally funded projects utilizing data from the *Get With The Guidelines*® (GWTG) program.

1. Overview

The American Heart Association (AHA) supports the advancement of scientific discovery through responsible and collaborative use of data from the *Get With The Guidelines*® (GWTG) program. This policy outlines requirements, approval processes, and associated fees for external investigators and institutions requesting access to GWTG data for grant-funded or externally supported projects.

2. Request Process

All requests to use GWTG data for externally funded projects must be initiated through ProposalCentral using the appropriate GWTG submission form.

- Federal and foundation grants: Minimum of 2 months' notice prior to submission.
- Grants naming AHA as a collaborator: Minimum of 3 months' notice prior to submission.
- Research aims must be clearly defined in the request.

AHA staff will review the submission to confirm eligibility, appropriate use of data, and cost estimates. Approved projects will receive a letter of support.

3. Review and Approval

All projects must undergo review and approval through the relevant disease-specific System of Care Advisory Group (SOCAG), Research and Publications Workgroups (R&P Workgroup) and the Quality Oversight Committee. SOCAGs include:

- Atrial Fibrillation (AFIB)
- Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)
- Heart Failure (HF)
- Resuscitation
- Stroke

R&P Workgroups include:

- Cardiogenic Shock (CS)
- Target: Aortic Stenosis (TAS)
- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)
- Cardio-Kidney Metabolic Health (CKMH)

Following approval, the proposal will be forwarded for final approval and signature by the AHA's Chief Science and Medical Officer.

4. Contract and Data Licensing

Prior to data access, investigators must execute the following agreements:

- Data Use Agreement (DUA)
- Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)

All agreements require review and approval by AHA's Legal and Finance departments before execution.

Data Use Fees

Data use fees represent licensing costs for access to and use of GWTG data for a single manuscript or analytic project. Additional manuscripts derived from the same dataset will incur additional licensing fees.

- Standard data use fee: 10% of the total awarded grant amount.
- Maximum fee per year: \$50,000 for projects with total awards above \$500,000.
- Project management services: Additional fees may apply if AHA staff are required to identify, recruit, or manage sites.
- Superuser access: \$20,000 for up to 20 sites, plus \$1,000 per additional site.
- Data science/statistical support: Cost estimates will be provided if AHA or its approved vendors perform analysis.

Note: Customized cost calculations may apply depending on project scope.

5. Research Program Management

Each approved project will be assigned a GWTG volunteer liaison who will:

- Assist in forming the writing group and developing the Statistical Analysis Plan (SAP).
- Facilitate coordination among authors and reviewers.
- Ensure compliance with AHA research and publication policies.

Assuming timely approvals, the expected timeline from SAP development to results summary distribution is 3–4 months.

6. Contact

For additional information or to initiate a grant-funded data request, please contact:

AHA Quality Research Program

Email: qualityresearch@heart.org

Website: [Quality Programs Research Using National-Level Data | American Heart Association](#)