

# AIA Upjohn Research Initiative 2025

## Call for submissions

[Submit an entry >](#)

The AIA Upjohn Research Initiative supports applied research projects that enhance the value of design and professional practice knowledge.

This AIA program funds up to six research grants of \$15,000–\$30,000 annually for projects completed in a 6- to 18-month period. The funds must be fully matched with hard dollars, with a maximum of 10% allocated for overhead. Grant recipients' research findings and outcomes are published online by AIA.

Academic institutions, firms, practice, and other research and non-profit organizations are all eligible for grants.

### 2025 grants

Research should be relevant and applicable to practicing architects. Upjohn Research grant funding will be allocated to projects related to the priorities outlined in [AIA's Strategic Plan](#) and the [Framework for Design Excellence](#). Projects must address one or more of these areas:

- **Regenerative design** (e.g., holistic approach; restoration; ecological resilience; net positive contributions—including people, communities, and environment; adaptation; circular economy)
- **Housing innovation** (e.g., climate justice approach; community centered; housing equity; affordability; adaptability; all-electric; passive energy design; energy burden relief; energy retrofits; resilience; equitable financing models; construction delivery methods; restorative community models; accessory dwellings; housing policy)
- **Disaster risk reduction** (e.g., strategies to mitigate risk; risk identification/assessment; community preparedness for resilience; community resilience in disaster recovery)

### Submission dates

Submission deadline:

October 15, 2025 by 5pm PT

Notifications to applicants:

by December 31, 2025

Verification of matching funds and agreement: by January 23, 2026

Submission fee: None

### Submission details

Project submissions are completed online.

- Project title
- Abstract (include project concept and brief description of methodology)
- Budget
- Summary of projected outcomes
- Clients and knowledge communities served
- Approach to collaboration/partnership
- Images (optional)
- Principal investigator(s) with institutional affiliation(s) and contact information
- Contact information for three references

**NOTE: Please omit any identifying information from the title, descriptive text, budget, and the optional images before submitting for the blind review process. Failure to do so may compromise your submission.**

### Criteria & selection

The jury panel is comprised of seven professionals from the AIA Board Knowledge Committee and the AIA College of Fellows.

The jury evaluates each submission and selects the grant awardees based on:

- Demonstration that the research enhances the value of design and/or professional practice knowledge (30%)
- Innovation (25%)
- Evidence of collaboration/partnership (20%)
- Validity of research method (15%)
- Strength of projected outcomes related to alignment with theme (10%)



Questions? Email [upjohnresearch@aia.org](mailto:upjohnresearch@aia.org)  
or visit AIA's [Upjohn Research page](#)

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