



Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society Foundation Special Request for Proposals

The NATA Research & Education Foundation provides funding for research grants focused on improving health and safety outcomes for football athletes. In collaboration with the [Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society \(PFATS\) Foundation](#), dedicated funds have been allocated to support this initiative.

The program aims to fund short-term projects that can be completed within one to two years. Proposed projects should focus on achieving “quick wins” by developing feasible, data-driven solutions that demonstrate early success or clear practical utility.

Applicants must apply through the NATA Research & Education Foundation’s professional grant program. A total of up to \$20,000 in funding will be awarded.

Priority will be given to proposals that fall within one or more of the following focus areas:

- **Injury Prevention and Management**
Including head and neck injuries, concussions, soft tissue injuries (e.g., hamstring strains), and heat illness.
- **Player Monitoring and Performance Health**
Incorporating diagnostic tools, intervention strategies, and technologies aimed at improving return-to-play decisions, injury recovery, and overall athlete readiness.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Health Outcomes**
Including cardiac health, heat illness protocols, and other critical health threats.
- **Continuity of Care and System-Level Issues**
Addressing challenges such as transfer portal transitions, medical documentation, and coordination of care.
- **Administrative and Policy Considerations**
Exploring how factors like insurance, salary cap, and organizational structure impact player safety and availability.

Eligibility requirements

Any health care professional, researcher, or educator may apply for this grant. However, either the Primary Investigator, or Co-Primary Investigator must be a BOC certified athletic trainer, a member of the NATA, and hold an NPI number. The grant applicant must be the individual whose research project is to be supported by the requested funding.

Other Key Requirements:

Investigators will be expected to attend, either via zoom or written report, the NFL Health and Safety Summit and present a mid-term update on progress and preliminary findings.

Pre-Proposal requirements

Applications for pre-proposals may be submitted August 1 – September 1. If invited, full proposals are due on February 15th. Additional details about submission requirements can be found on the NATA Foundation website:

<https://www.natafoundation.org/research/grant-opportunities/>