



ACADEMY OF
Management

DIVISION & INTEREST GROUP
STRATEGIC PROJECT FUND

MAY 26, 2026

Announcement

Division & Interest Group Strategic Project Fund

We seek strategic project proposals that creatively and meaningfully advance AOM's Vision 2030: to advance our activities for all management scholars globally by expanding our content, services, and community.

This year, we are focused on **research methods** initiatives to help build on the momentum of the 2025 Call and to involve DIG activity that has not yet been represented. Our hope is that these projects will not only address current needs but will also inform future AOM offerings as we explore opportunities to centralize and scale key services. Future rounds of the DIG Strategic Project Fund may explore other critical areas of Vision 2030, such as membership outreach and content development.

We encourage bold, innovative proposals that have the potential to make lasting contributions to AOM and its members. *See Call for Proposals linked below for details.*

Funding Year: 2026

Funding per Project: \$2500 – \$10,000

Calls for Proposals

Research Methods Training: Methods Training Call for Proposals

Key Dates:

Research Methods Training

Project Proposal submission: 1 June - 14 Sept. 2026

Optional Info /Q&A Session (virtual): mid-late July 2026

Rolling Funding Notifications: October-December 2026

Who Can Apply: Proposals from AOM's Divisions and Interest Groups (DIGs) and members working through the DIGs will be accepted.

How to Apply: Download and complete the Project Proposal submission form and submit to governance@aom.org by 14 September 2026. Forms will be reviewed by the **Methods Committee of the Board of Governors**. Ideas that are advanced will be asked to complete a Project Proposal Form with additional details about the proposed idea.

Things to Know When Submitting a Proposal

The purpose of this document is to guide Project Champions and Teams in preparing and executing a successful proposal.

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Proposal Submission

The application process for the strategic project fund is designed to be straightforward and efficient.

(Please note some process changes have been adjusted since the initial 2025 launch of the DIG Strategic Project Fund CFP).

Methods Training Proposal Submissions

Proposals will be submitted through a single-stage, comprehensive application process*, due no later than 14 September 2026. Each submission should include:

- *Contacts:* Lead DIGs group members and names/affiliations of collaborators.
- *Summary:* A description of the project idea, its innovative potential and the project goals.

- *Target audience:* Discipline/subject matter, intended career stage (graduate and doctoral student as primary focus), and geographic regions (if applicable).
- *Originality:* The project must be original or a substantial extension/enhancement of an existing initiative.
- *DIG Sponsorship:* A brief statement by a DIG Executive Committee Member (or members if more than one DIG is involved) confirming that the DIG is a formal sponsor of the proposal.
- *Governance and implementation plan:* Clear roles and responsibilities for developing, implementing, and disseminating the project.
- *Deliverables and dissemination:* Description of expected outputs and how they will be shared with the broader AOM community.
- *Timeline and success metrics:* Key milestones and criteria for evaluating project success.
- *Budget:* Estimated funding request and justification, consistent with Strategic Project Fund guidelines.

Principles for Projects and Project Teams

The creativity and passion found in Strategic Project Fund proposals reflect a shared interest in building an Academy that provides ever-better member services—all year long and beyond our current offerings. Consistent with the member-service ideal, Project Teams are guided by the following principles in the execution of funded projects:

- Projects are for the benefit of the Academy’s membership, or service to the broader field, as approved. Funding supports costs for strategic projects undertaken by volunteers on behalf of the Academy of Management.
- Project work products generated through funded initiatives are considered AOM assets. Proposals should clearly outline plans for dissemination, reuse, and long-term accessibility of materials for the broader AOM community.
- Project teams are accountable to the Methods and Teaching Committees of the Board and to the membership, on whose behalf they are working.
- Project Teams incorporate the feedback of the Board Committee reviewers, if any, into their activities.
- Project Teams, operating under the purview of the Academy and with Academy funding, promote high quality scholarship and standards in all activities.
- Transparency and fairness are paramount in all activities where members stand to gain from, or where they may be excluded from opportunities to participate.
- Project Champion/Teams help the Academy and future members to learn from experience, by documenting the procedures for activities and reporting to Board Committees on progress and against metrics for success, if requested.

Resource Principles (Financial, Human, Technical)

The Academy responsibly manages its assets (human, technical and financial). As such, the following principles apply to the support of funded projects:

- Once the project is approved, funding will be immediately available for use.
- Submission of the third-party expenses (vendors) should follow established AOM invoicing/expense reimbursement procedures.
- Upon successful project completion, unused funds, if any, will remain available for DIG's operational use. AOM's financial policies apply in cases where the award includes additional funds designated for capacity building or other approved activity.
- All project budget funds are approved on a "not to exceed" basis. Project teams may not re-engage the process to request additional funds in the same funding year. Overdrawing the project budget is not allowed.
- Approved project budget funds not expended in the timeframe to which they were approved do not carry over automatically beyond that time period (future fiscal years).

Funding Preclusions

The following activities are precluded from funding:

- Payments to members for service.
- Contributions to, or sponsorships of other organizations.
- Activities that can/should be carried out as regular business of the DIGS (events and activities at the annual meeting, awards, catering, regular travel, program time).
- AOM membership or registration fees for current or former AOM members.
- Membership and registration fees paid to other organizations.

Financial Procedures

Specific financial procedures will accompany the notification of funded projects.

Overarching Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

When evaluating proposals, Board Committees will strive to support projects that creatively and meaningfully advance AOM's Vision 2030 enhancing our activities for all management scholars globally by expanding our content, services, and community.

Step 1. Screen for Completeness and Funding Limit

Before evaluating the specifics of a proposal, Board Committees will FIRST screen the proposal to ensure that it is complete and does not exceed the funding limit per proposal (10k).

Step 2. Screen for Alignment

When screening proposals for alignment with the aims of the fund, the committee will consider the following:

1. The project is specific and clear, and it addresses one or more of the areas of focus outlined in the call for proposals.

Research Methods Training 2026 Call for Proposals

Step 3. Evaluate for Potential Support

Proposals that pass Steps 1 and 2 are evaluated in accordance with the review timeline. Board Committees will provide more favourable evaluations of projects with these attributes:

1. New and innovative, adding value for AOM Members beyond traditional services and the annual meeting.
2. Supported by data indicating a need for the project.
3. Can be completed (in phases or fully) within the designated timeframe.
4. Submitted by a Project Team that indicates capacity to complete the project.
5. Carried out by a Project Team that reflects appropriate constituencies given the project.
6. Involves members from more than one division or interest group, or other units of the AOM, as Team Members and/or as Collaborators.
7. The action steps, metrics, budget/resource requests are realistic.
8. The proposal contains no funding preclusions or other funding concerns.
9. The human, technical, and other requests of the HQ are considered and vetted by HQ.
10. The project adheres to the Fund's principles for project champion/teams and resources.
 - Project Team incorporates Board Committee feedback, if applicable.
 - Project and Project Team promote high quality scholarship/standards
 - Transparency and project fairness are achievable
 - Progress is measurable and documentable for learning by others
 - Project does not obligate the DIG/AOM into the future



ACADEMY OF
Management

Research Methods Training

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2026

Abstract

The Methods Committee of the Academy of Management's Board of Governors invites Divisions and Interest Groups (DIGs) to submit proposals for innovative methods training initiatives. This call represents a strategic shift toward division-driven approaches to address evolving methodological needs within the academic management community. Responding to the 2024 Methods Training survey and 2023 Member Value Proposition survey, the initiative seeks proposals that go beyond conventional offerings to serve specialized needs and emerging methodological approaches. Priority areas include cross-divisional collaborations, cutting-edge methods training, support for underserved communities, and various delivery modalities beyond traditional conference workshops. This initiative aims to create sustainable, scalable solutions for enhancing the Academy's methods training portfolio while fostering bottom-up innovation within the global management research community. Proposals that generate reusable content (e.g., recorded modules, structured toolkits, knowledge clips, curated resources) that can serve members beyond the initial offering will receive priority consideration. This call is administered under the AOM Division & Interest Group Strategic Project Fund and supports the Academy's Vision 2030 objective of expanding high-quality, scalable member services.

Background

The landscape of management research continues to evolve rapidly, bringing new methodological challenges and opportunities. Our members consistently express a growing need for sophisticated methodological training that goes beyond basic research tools to address emerging analytical approaches, domain-specific applications, and the unique needs of diverse scholarly communities. Membership feedback, particularly through the 2024 Methods Training survey, has highlighted both the critical importance of methods training and gaps in current offerings.

The Methods Committee (MC) of the Board of Governors (BOG) has been charged with enhancing the Academy's methods training portfolio. In doing so, we recognize that our Divisions and Interest Groups possess unique insights into the specific methodological needs of their scholarly communities. Rather than duplicating existing resources or providing generic methodological training readily available

elsewhere, we aim to support innovative approaches that address specialized needs, emerging methods, and underserved populations within our global community.

This call for proposals represents a strategic shift toward a more experimental, division-driven approach to methods training. We seek to leverage the deep expertise within our DIGs to develop targeted, high-impact methodological resources that complement and extend current offerings. By fostering bottom-up innovation in methods training, we aim to create sustainable, scalable solutions that serve our diverse membership's evolving needs. Funding is provided through the AOM Division & Interest Group Strategic Project Fund to support content development and related implementation needs (e.g., production, technology, or dissemination), with particular emphasis on initiatives that can be scaled or reused across the AOM community.

Call for Proposals

The MC therefore invites proposals from Divisions and Interest Groups (DIGs) for your most impactful ideas for advancing methods training within the Academy. As we continue to explore new ways to serve our members, we encourage proposals for DIGs-led projects that experiment with services and content designed to support methods training not only within a division but across AOM's global community.

This initiative aims to enhance AOM's methods training value proposition for current and prospective members, motivated by findings from the 2023 Member Value Proposition survey and the 2024 Methods Training survey, which highlighted a strong desire for expanded access to methods training resources. The goal is to better serve our members by broadening access to a variety of methods offerings both through the Divisions and Interest Groups.

We aim to create sustainable, scalable solutions that extend beyond one-time events. Proposals should clearly describe how content may be reused, accessed after delivery, or disseminated more broadly within the AOM community. Funded initiatives may also be expected, where appropriate, to align with AOM-designated hosting platforms or delivery infrastructure to support long-term integration and member access.

Proposal Focus Areas

We especially encourage proposals for new forms of methods training and education but will also consider proposals that aim to expand and deepen the impact of existing service offerings. We see this as an opportunity to explore and experiment in a bottom-up manner to glean what kind of proposals create the most value for our members. We therefore encourage a wide variety of proposals, including but not limited to:

- Proposals with wide cross-divisional appeal and that are an opportunity for collaboration between the DIGs.
- Proposals that focus on exposing members to new, cutting-edge methods and approaches as well as proposals that focus on applying already established methods in emerging new domain.

- Proposals that address the needs of currently underserved communities and member groups, including geographically underrepresented regions, such as
 - Regional community or co-sponsored in-person conference participation with methods training application that might address developing regions or early career populations.
 - Scholar development where gaps exist, such as virtual mentorship for scholars from underserved regions.
- Proposals can be offered in a variety of modalities, including online as well hybrid and in-person delivery. We are especially interested in proposals that move beyond the Annual Meeting and established training PDWs. Examples might include:
 - Half-day or short form training programs.
 - Expanded training in research software via webinars or other channels that enhance early career scholars' methodological skills.
 - “Flipped classroom” style training programs where participants prepare foundational concepts and procedures through pre-recorded lectures or readings at home, allowing shared time to be used for hands-on practice, problem-solving, and direct instructor guidance. Such formats might combine pre-conference asynchronous training with in-person training at the Annual Meeting.
 - Non-journal content development innovation (e.g., webinar series, panel series, podcast series, etc.).
 - New outlets and communication channels for sharing or amplifying research methods best practices (e.g., website, webinars, podcasts).
- Proposals addressing existing training needs identified in the recent AOM member survey and previously shared with the DIGs leadership, including:
 - Quantitative methods (e.g., longitudinal/panel data analysis, machine learning, the use of Large Language Models/generative AI, etc.).
 - Qualitative methods training (e.g., qualitative coding, visual & observational methods, etc.)
 - Mixed methods training integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches.
 - Training in other methods-related issues not mentioned above, as long as this training demonstrates filling an unserved need and does not duplicate resources that are already easily available.

While division-specific training needs are welcome, proposals should demonstrate openness to broader AOM participation and cross-division accessibility where feasible.

Proposals should specify the intended hosting and dissemination approach, including whether recordings or reusable materials will be developed. Funded initiatives may be expected, where appropriate, to align with AOM-designated hosting platforms or delivery infrastructure to support long-term integration and member access.

Proposal requirements

Proposals will be submitted through a single-stage, comprehensive application process*, due no later than 14 September 2026. Each submission should include:

- *Contacts:* Lead DIGs group members and names/affiliations of collaborators.
- *Summary:* A description of the project idea, its innovative potential and the project goals.
- *Target audience:* Discipline/subject matter, intended career stage (graduate and doctoral student as primary focus), and geographic regions (if applicable).
- *Originality:* The project must be original or a substantial extension/enhancement of an existing initiative.
- *DIG Sponsorship:* A brief statement by a DIG Executive Committee Member (or members if more than one DIG is involved) confirming that the DIG is a formal sponsor of the proposal.
- *Governance and implementation plan:* Clear roles and responsibilities for developing, implementing, and disseminating the project.
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- *Budget:* Estimated funding request and justification, consistent with Strategic Project Fund guidelines.

****Research Methods DIG Strategic Project Fund Proposal Submission Form***

Allowable Expenses:

In alignment with AOM Strategic Project Fund policies, honoraria or compensation for AOM members serving as trainers, speakers, or instructors are not permitted. Funding may be used for production support, technology platforms, external services, accessibility enhancements, or other implementation-related expenses consistent with AOM financial policies. Activities that constitute routine DIG operations, annual meeting programming, or sponsorship of external organizations are not eligible for funding.

Please also view the AOM Division and Interest Group Strategic Project Fund Award Information Packet.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with AOM Strategic Project Fund principles, with particular emphasis on:

1. Demonstrated need within the AOM community.
2. Innovation and rigor of the pedagogical approach.
3. Implementation feasibility and team capability.
4. Cross-division appeal and potential for collaboration,
5. Value creation for AOM membership.
6. Quality of proposed delivery and dissemination approach.
7. Sustainability and scalability beyond the initial funding period.

Timeline

Key Dates:

Project Proposal submission:	1 June - 14 Sept. 2026
Optional Info /Q&A Session (virtual):	mid-late July 2026
Rolling Funding Notifications:	October-December 2026

Proposals will be submitted through a single-stage, comprehensive application process, due no later than 14 September 2026.

All funded program activity must be implemented before 31 Dec. 31, 2027, and provide post-program feedback from participants. A short summary report of learnings from the project shall be submitted within 30 days of project completion, and no later than March 31, 2028.

Funded initiatives should be prepared to share lessons learned and implementation insights with the Methods Committee to support cross-DIG learning and portfolio coherence.

Ownership and Dissemination of Outputs

Consistent with AOM Strategic Project Fund guidelines, work products generated through funded initiatives are considered AOM assets. Proposals should clearly outline plans for dissemination, reuse, and long-term accessibility of materials for the broader AOM community.

Frequently Asked Questions

Proposal Submission and Funding Timeline

When does the fund open, and what is the deadline for proposals?

This round of Strategic Project Funding invites Methods Training proposals starting in early June 2026. The deadline for receiving Methods Training Project submissions is 14 Sept. 2026. The Call for Research Methods Projects will be announced by the Board Committee on a rolling basis from Oct-Dec. 2026.

What is the period in which the project must be completed (e.g., funds expended)?

- For Methods Training: All funded programs must be implemented before 31 December 2027 and provide post-program feedback.

Finances

What are the Project Funding Preclusions?

The following activities are precluded from funding:

- Payments to members for service¹.
- Contributions to or sponsorships of other organizations.
- AOM membership or registration fees for current or former AOM members.
- Membership and registration fees paid to other organizations.
- Activities held during and/or in conjunction with the AOM Annual Meeting.

Is travel precluded from funding?

Not necessarily. However, any travel that is funded must comply with the AOM travel policy for volunteers. Proposals that involve visa applications must be handled by Project Team members. Please see the [travel policy](#).

How do I manage expenses and the project budget?

Specific financial procedures will accompany notification of funded projects.

Collaborators & Owners

Can the proposal involve external collaborators?

¹ The Academy has a long-standing tradition of not paying members for service. This tradition was upheld and reinforced in a policy statement codified by the Board of Governors in 2013.

“The Academy of Management is a nonprofit association whose existence and operations depend on volunteerism from its members and contributions from their institutions. As such, we do not provide honoraria or pay any members for service to the association. In addition, we do not initiate or participate in projects that pay members through other non-AOM financial sources.”

All efforts by members and others agreeing to participate in projects supported by the Strategic Project Fund are voluntary.

Yes. External collaborators must be approved in the original proposal, and their roles and responsibilities must be clarified in the proposal form. Collaborators may not use the AOM trademark without permission and accrue no trademark ownership rights as a result of the project. The AOM Trademark policy provides further guidance (accessible for DIG officers via [this Community library](#)).

Who owns the work products of funded projects?

The AOM is the owner of work products generated through funded proposals. In the case of surveys, all data generated through AOM-funded surveys belongs to AOM.

Surveys

Can I access member data for a survey project?

Consistent with GDPR regulations and the AOM's Release of Data policy, no personally identifiable data or email addresses will be released to Project Teams or third parties for funded surveys.

Who owns the data generated through survey projects?

All data generated through AOM-funded surveys belongs to AOM.

Questions?

Please contact us at governance@aom.org