AN ARKUS INNOVATION STUDIOS PUBLICATION

PEOPLE & POSSIBILITIES

The Arkus Signal

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WORTH PURSUING

FUNDING EDITION

30 SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE 03 / PRINT EDITION

GRANTS & RESEARCH FUNDING

Research begins with a plane ticket.

The revised SPRINT call opens a route for overseas collaborators, with an eligible São Paulo researcher at the center.



Two researchers examine a small sample at a sunlit laboratory bench.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

Research partnerships begin with an eligible lead and a shared plan. FAPESP's revised SPRINT call supports overseas collaboration through mobility, with a São Paulo investigator and one foreign institution at its center.

Inside: twelve funding stories, from patient involvement in research to staff training for work with young families. New youth reentry and practical business calls sit beside deadlines that are already close.

PARTNERSHIP DESK / ARKUS INNOVATION STUDIOS

Pursue it with Arkus.

Have a call in mind? Let's talk about the team it needs.

Arkus leads as prime
We lead the bid and coordinate the team. ↗

Arkus joins your team
Bring us in for part of the work as a subcontractor. ↗

First, we check whether the call allows that arrangement.

Email: nadia@arkusinnovationstudios.com

FOLLOW THE PARTNERSHIP

Two different starts for research.



FAPESP

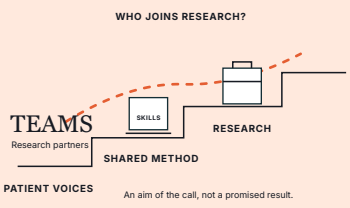
Research mobility comes first.

An eligible FAPESP lead and one foreign institution start with mobility. SAGe registrations, foreign mission funding and underlying grant conditions are required.

US$12,500 ceiling

26 Oct · hour unstated

Read the call & how to apply ↗



PATIENT-CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Bring patients into the research.

Eligible organizations prepare patients and researchers for comparative clinical research. Involve partners from the start; the initial Letter of Intent precedes any invited full application.

US$300,000 ceiling

Initial LOI: 1 Oct · 5 p.m. ET

Rules & application steps ↗

Editorial illustration. SPRINT phase one funds mobility; later awards are conditional. PCORI requires an initial inquiry before any invited application. Confirm current eligibility.

Explore the opportunities ↓

REVISED / SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL, WITH A FOREIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTION PARTNER

1 min read · Deadline in 26 days (as of 30 Sept)

A research partnership can begin with a plane ticket.

The revised SPRINT call opens a route for overseas collaborators, with an eligible São Paulo researcher at the center.

FAPESP · Chamada de Propostas SPRINT 2026, Edição 1



Two researchers examine a small sample at a sunlit laboratory bench.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

An overseas collaboration can begin with the practical problem of getting researchers into the same laboratory. FAPESP's revised SPRINT call pays for mobility, giving an eligible São Paulo principal investigator and one foreign institution a starting point. The research must fit one of seven mandatory strategic themes, and both responsible researchers need complete SAGe registrations.

Phase one offers up to US$12,500 equivalent for one year. Later phases can add US$12,500 and US$25,000, subject to approval, reciprocity and overseas cofunding; these are not an automatic US$50,000 award. The foreign side must evidence its mission funding. An underlying grant still under review needs approval before selection, with at least six months remaining at the proposed start.

Edition 1 closes on 26 October; no closing hour or time zone is published. Edition 2 follows on 22 February 2027. Prepare an exchange plan that explains what the visits make possible, who travels and how each institution contributes.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Phase 1: up to US$12,500 equivalent

One-year mobility ceiling; later phases require separate approval, reciprocity and cofunding.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

26 OCT

26 October 2026

Deadline in 26 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Eligible FAPESP-supported São Paulo researchers with one foreign institution; qualifying grants under review require approval. Mandatory strategic-theme and remaining-term rules apply.

Official call & application details ↗ | Open SAGe submission system ↗ | Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

FIRST FEATURE / PROJECTS RELEVANT TO U.S. PATIENTS AND HEALTHCARE; QUALIFYING FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS MAY LEAD

1 min read · Deadline in 1 day (as of 30 Sept)

Patients need a place in the research team.

Up to US$300,000 can help communities and researchers learn to work together. The first submission is due tomorrow.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute · Engagement Award: Capacity Building, Fall 2026 Cycle



Two people discuss questions across a community meeting table.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A patient panel is easy to announce and harder to make useful. PCORI's Capacity Building award supports the skills and relationships that let patients, caregivers and researchers shape future comparative clinical effectiveness studies together. It funds preparation for that research, not the study itself. A general health education program needs a genuine research connection.

Nonprofit and for-profit organizations may apply; individuals may not. U.S. applicants need an employer identification number. A foreign lead must justify U.S. healthcare benefit and include a key U.S. organization and co-lead as subcontractor. Partners must help develop the proposal; full applications need their support letters. The US$300,000 ceiling includes direct and indirect costs over at most two years.

The required initial Letter of Intent closes on 1 October at 5 p.m. Eastern. Only invited teams submit a full application by 11 January 2027, also at 5 p.m. Capacity Building permits distinct submissions with different project leads; the separate Small Organizations track has a cross-track restriction.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Up to US$300,000 over two years

Total two-year project ceiling, including indirect costs; the wider program pool is not an individual award.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

01 OCT

1 October 2026 · 5 p.m. ET

Deadline in 1 day (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Nonprofit or for-profit organizations, not individuals. Foreign leads need justified U.S. benefit and a key U.S. organization/co-lead as subcontractor.

Official call & application details ↗ | Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

STILL OPEN / KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

1 min read · Deadline in 1 day (as of 30 Sept)

The training grant comes with time in the diary.

King County's early-childhood call is still open, but staff availability and portal access matter as much as the budget.

Public Health – Seattle & King County · 2027 Promoting First Relationships Agency Training, RFA 2026CHS1082RFA



Three service professionals exchange ideas in a community learning room.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A training grant also puts time in the calendar. King County's Promoting First Relationships support requires roughly 67 hours over 16 weeks. Agencies need staff cover while maintaining family services; US$2,000–US$20,000 supports training, not unrestricted operations.

Trainees must already be employed, have two years' birth-to-five family-service experience and spend at least half their role on ongoing direct service. Intake-only or brief referral work does not qualify. Level 3 requires Level 2 preparation. Recording equipment and participating families matter too. Submit a signed cover sheet, project description and personnel budget; Agiloft accounts can take three to five business days.

The recorded close is 1 October at 2 p.m., but issuer PST wording needs clarification. Email and portal instructions differ, so confirm the current submission route. Interview dates also differ between packet sections; neither is an entry deadline. Earlier optional events have passed. Existing applicants should check access and the controlling instructions before polishing the last paragraph.

THE OPPORTUNITY

US$2,000–US$20,000 funding levels

Agency training support by level and scope; no guaranteed award or general operating allocation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

01 OCT

1 October 2026

Deadline in 1 day (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start King County nonprofit human-service agencies; employed trainees need two years' relevant experience and at least 50% ongoing direct service. Level 3 requires Level 2.

Official call & application details ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

NEW SELECTION / GLOBAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING; NO GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTION STATED

1 min read · Deadline in 2 days (as of 30 Sept)

Build the fund that owns the problem.

A short initial proposal can open a much larger conversation about funding and managing a global-health mission.

Coefficient Giving · Request for Proposals: Launchpad Funds



Four colleagues map a funding strategy around a wooden table.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A compelling proposal can still leave a problem without an owner. Coefficient Giving's Launchpad Funds call looks for a fund or implementing organization able to take responsibility for a global-health or wellbeing mission. The case needs a funding strategy and decision-makers.

Individuals, new or existing fund teams, incubators and implementing organizations can enter; for-profit structures may be considered through due diligence. No geographic restriction is stated. Pre-seed support ranges from US$200,000 to US$10 million over up to 24 months; seed and scaling support runs from US$10 million to US$50 million or more over up to 36 months.

The expression of interest is due 2 October, without a published closing hour or time zone. Seed and scaling teams should identify a general manager; early teams can explain how they will recruit one. Future deployment of US$100 million or more is a fund ambition, not promised applicant funding. Begin with a compact proposal, team background and rough budget.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Pre-seed: US$200,000–US$10 million; seed/scaling: US$10 million–US$50 million+

Indicative ranges by stage and duration; future US$100 million-plus deployment is a fund ambition, not an applicant award.

OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

02 OCT

2 October 2026

Deadline in 2 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Individuals, fund teams, incubators and implementing organizations; for-profit structures subject to due diligence. No geographic restriction stated.

Official call & application details ↗

Open the application portal ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

ARKUS INNOVATION STUDIOS

Issue date 30 September 2026
Sources checked 30 September 2026
Editorial scenes · approved portraits

Prime or subcontractor partnerships
Email: nadia@arkusinnovationstudios.com

UPDATED / GLOBAL, WITH SOME SPONSOR PRIZES RESTRICTED BY LOCATION OR SUBJECT

1 min read · Deadline in 33 days (as of 30 Sept)

A working solution gets its opening.

The 2027 economic-prosperity window is now open for teams tackling work, housing and financial resilience.

MIT Solve · 2027 Global Economic Prosperity Challenge



Two people test a service on a tablet at a neighborhood produce market.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A working response to unstable income, financial shocks or inadequate housing has a new window. MIT Solve's 2027 Global Economic Prosperity Challenge opened on 22 September. The global call accepts technology broadly, including traditional knowledge and business models, but ordinary entries need a functioning prototype. Concept-stage proposals belong only in the Indigenous Communities Fellowship.

Selected Solver teams receive US$10,000 and enter a nine-month support program. Competitive sponsor awards have separate eligibility: advertised prizes include up to US$150,000 for AI for Humanity and US$100,000 for at least one U.S.-based team. Other pools may be shared. Neither stacked prizes nor historical average funding should become automatic revenue in the plan.

Submit by 2 November at noon Eastern Standard Time. Previously selected Solvers can return with a new solution, but cannot re-enter the same selected solution. Show who uses the solution, what evidence supports it and which barrier the network can remove.

THE OPPORTUNITY

US$10,000 Solver grant; additional competitive prizes

US$10,000 for selected Solver teams; sponsor prizes have separate eligibility and may be shared. No guaranteed stacked award.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

02 NOV

2 November 2026 · 12 p.m. ET

Deadline in 33 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Global teams with functioning prototypes or later-stage solutions. Concepts only through the Indigenous Communities Fellowship; previous Solvers must enter a new solution.

Official call & application details ↗ | Open the application portal ↗ | Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

NEW CALL / UNITED STATES

1 min read · Deadline in 33 days (as of 30 Sept)

Reentry begins before the release date.

The new youth call supports continuity between confinement and community, with a distinct nonprofit route.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention · OJJDP FY 2026 Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program



A young adult and two counselors plan next steps at a community-center table.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A release date is a poor moment to begin arranging support. OJJDP's Second Chance Act Youth Reentry call connects planning before release with relationships and services afterward. Both categories offer up to US$750,000 for 36 months; 16 awards are anticipated from a US$12,440,720 pool. The budget still depends on which category the applicant uses.

Category 2 accepts nonprofits with or without charitable status, excluding higher education, without matching funds. Eligible government and Tribal applicants use Category 1 with a 50% nonfederal match. Nonprofit applications need a draft or executed corrections-community memorandum of understanding; it must be fully executed to access award funds above US$50,000.

Two filings are mandatory: the SF-424 in Grants.gov by 2 November, 11:59 p.m. Eastern, then JustGrants by 9 November, 8:59 p.m. Registration advice starts 2 October, with 16 October the latest suggested start; neither replaces a filing. A call-specific form destination is unverified. Confirm federal accounts against official guidance.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Up to US$750,000 per award

36-month per-award ceiling; 16 awards anticipated from a US$12,440,720 pool. Category 1 requires a separate match.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

02 NOV

2 November 2026 · 11:59 p.m. ET

Deadline in 33 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Category 2 nonprofits, excluding higher education, need no match. Category 1 eligible government/Tribal applicants need 50% nonfederal match.

Official call & application details ↗ | Read the application guidance ↗ | Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

NEW SELECTION / HEALTH OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RELEVANT TO THE UNITED STATES

1 min read · Deadline in 49 days (as of 30 Sept)

Evidence is ready. The system has to catch up.

This health call asks teams to put established knowledge to work beyond the pilot stage.

Doris Duke Foundation and the Pathways for Health Research Collective · Demonstrating Health Solutions: Science in Action



A nurse, community practitioner and researcher discuss a plan at a clinic table.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

Evidence can convince while practice stays the same. Demonstrating Health Solutions: Science in Action looks for teams ready to put established knowledge to work in the conditions that shape health. This is a three-year implementation effort beyond proof of concept. Knowledge producers and users need committed roles and measurable outcomes.

No fixed award range is published; funding complements other resources rather than promising an entire project budget. A charitable lead is encouraged, and most participating funders restrict grants to qualifying public charities. State universities are eligible; for-profit funding is excluded. Individual funder rules can be narrower than the collective's invitation. Drug trials, device commercialization and early hardware prototypes fall outside scope. Complete the portal eligibility questionnaire before the 18 November preproposal deadline, 3 p.m. Eastern. Invited full proposals follow in April 2027; the exact date remains pending. The official PDF names the application portal, but its live form was not verified. Confirm access while aligning partners and financing.

THE OPPORTUNITY

No fixed award range published

No fixed range; selected-project funding complements other resources and depends on merit, scope and participating funder rules.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

18 NOV

18 November 2026 · 3 p.m. ET

Deadline in 49 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start U.S.-relevant implementation partnerships; qualifying public charities generally required by participating funders. State universities eligible; for-profit funding excluded.

Official call & application details ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

STILL OPEN / UNITED STATES

1 min read · Deadline in 21 days (as of 30 Sept)

Give communities a say in the technology.

The US$10 million call remains open for work that helps people govern, build or challenge AI.

Humanity AI · Communities Leading on AI Open Call



Four community participants discuss ideas around a laptop and meeting table.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

Workers, artists and educators can bring something an AI demonstration lacks: a trusted place to decide how the technology should be used. Humanity AI's Communities Leading on AI call supports communities governing AI, building it around their needs or challenging harmful uses. Name a decision the community will influence.

Connect one of those approaches to education, labor and the economy, or the humanities, arts and culture. U.S.-based communities need a qualifying charitable organization or fiscal sponsor to handle the award. Literacy workshops, adoption campaigns and research alone are insufficient; for-profit seed investment falls outside scope. Open models receive priority, but are not a universal eligibility condition.

Awards range from US$75,000 to US$1 million for up to three years. The US$10 million figure is the total call pool, not an individual award. Applications close 21 October at 4:59 p.m. Pacific, also printed as 7:59 p.m. Eastern. The timetable is unchanged. Name the participants, their authority and the organization's accountability.

THE OPPORTUNITY

US$75,000–US$1 million; up to three years

Individual award range across tiers; US$10 million is the total call pool, not per-project funding.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

21 OCT

21 October 2026 · 4:59 p.m. PT

Deadline in 21 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start U.S.-based organizations/communities with qualifying charitable status or fiscal sponsorship; named issue-area and AI-approach fit required. Literacy/adoption/research alone and for-profit seed investment excluded.

Official call & application details ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

Twelve funding selections for this week. Stories distinguish current official instructions from prior records and unresolved details. Amounts remain in the funder's currency; dates are in 2026 unless stated. Murdock opens 15 October; PCORI's first required submission closes 1 October.

STILL OPEN / UNITED STATES NATIONAL REACH; REGIONAL WORK IN ILLINOIS

1 min read · Deadline in 33 days (as of 30 Sept)

Useful knowledge needs a route to older adults.

RRF backs the work of translating and sharing what can improve life after 60.

RRF Foundation for Aging · Knowledge Sharing & Awareness Raising Grants



A facilitator and three older adults review a large-format resource in a library.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

Good work can remain confined to its originator. RRF's Knowledge Sharing route supports teams turning evidence or experience into something others can use to improve life after 60. A newsletter is a format; identify the knowledge, its audience and what they can change.

Work must benefit adults aged 60+, nationally in the U.S. or regionally in Illinois. Charitable organizations and qualifying public entities generally use this route; institutional and fiscal-sponsor cases need the eligibility guidance. No formal award minimum or maximum is published. US$100,000 examples are not a ceiling. Begin with the official eligibility quiz and Letter of Inquiry; full proposals require invitation.

The program page says Monday, 2 November at 5 p.m. Central without printing the year. The weekday indicates 2026, but general and program-specific closing-time instructions differ. Confirm the operative year and time. A quiz deep link is unverified, so begin at the official page.

THE OPPORTUNITY

No formal minimum or maximum published

No formal minimum or maximum; historical US$100,000 examples are not a ceiling or award commitment.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

02 NOV

2 November 2026

Deadline in 33 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Work intentionally benefiting adults aged 60+, nationally in the U.S. or regionally in Illinois. Generally charitable organizations and qualifying public entities; exceptions need eligibility guidance.

Official information ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

OPENING SOON / FIVE-STATE NORTHWEST; SPECIFIED EXCEPTIONS

1 min read · Deadline in 42 days (as of 30 Sept)

A larger project needs a durable organization.

The Northwest grant window opens on 15 October, with organizational readiness built into the rules.

M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust · Strategic Project Grants, Fall 2026 Letter of Inquiry Window



Four nonprofit staff members consider a workshop space and its equipment.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A new program, staff position or essential equipment can change an organization's capacity to serve. Murdock's Strategic Project Grants support that substantial next step. The minimum request is US$100,000 and minimum project size US$200,000. These are entry thresholds, not an award ceiling; equipment applicants must cover at least half the purchase cost.

Applicants generally need three complete operating financial years and an eligible charitable, public, Tribal or faith structure. The primary region covers Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, with regional-impact rules and specified exceptions, including some faith-based British Columbia work. Fiscally sponsored projects and ordinary operating support do not fit. Complete the eligibility quiz first.

The Letter of Inquiry window opens 15 October and closes 11 November at 5 p.m. Pacific. Only approved opening submissions proceed to the full application period, 27 January through 1 March 2027, closing at 5 p.m. Pacific. Prepare the project budget, remaining financing and evidence of organizational stability. Show how the new capacity will last.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Requests from US$100,000; projects from US$200,000

Minimum request/project thresholds, not award ceilings. Equipment applicants cover at least half the purchase cost; full-project funding is not guaranteed.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

11 NOV

11 November 2026 · 5 p.m. PT

Deadline in 42 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Established eligible charitable/public/Tribal/faith organizations with three operating financial years and qualifying Northwest location or impact; specified regional exceptions apply. Fiscally sponsored projects excluded.

Official information ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

STILL OPEN / WASHINGTON STATE, UNITED STATES

1 min read · Deadline in 16 days (as of 30 Sept)

Ten thousand dollars has to reach 35 businesses.

WSMA's collaboration grant remains open, with a specific service floor and a budget test for the lead.

Washington State Microenterprise Association · 2026–2027 Statewide Collaborative Projects Grant



Four business-support partners work through a plan with notebooks and papers.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A small grant demands a delivery plan. WSMA's US$10,000 collaboration awards must reach at least 35 distinct Washington microbusinesses, with an hour of in-depth support each. This funds assistance, not business cash grants. Businesses served have five or fewer employees and financing needs below US$50,000; 15 awards are anticipated.

Teams need two to five partners, required Evergreen BizLink profiles and a lead with two years' relevant experience. Academic institutions cannot receive grant funding, though other-resource or consultancy participation is possible. The request cannot exceed 20% of the lead's relevant actual annual budget. Payment is 80% after contracting and 20% after the approved final report; budget for that cash flow.

Applications close 16 October at an issuer-labeled 5 p.m. PST, requiring confirmation during daylight time. Final-report weekday wording also conflicts with the printed date, 16 June 2027. Earlier information sessions were optional; their passing did not close the call. Assign outreach, delivery and counting, then test the service and budget requirements.

THE OPPORTUNITY

US$10,000 per grant; 15 anticipated awards

Service-project award, not business cash grants. Payment is 80%/20% after contract/final-report approval; request limited by actual lead budget.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

16 OCT

16 October 2026

Deadline in 16 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Washington collaborations of two to five partners; experienced lead and required BizLink profiles. Academic institutions cannot receive funding; other-resource or consultancy participation may be possible.

Official information ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

STILL OPEN / UNITED STATES

1 min read · Deadline in 29 days (as of 30 Sept)

Prevention needs a coalition and two filings.

The school and community call remains open for coordinated work with young people and families.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention · OJJDP FY 2026 Community and Schools Youth Drug Prevention Program



Young adults participate in a creative workshop in a bright community room.
AI-generated illustration; not a photograph of this project.

A school cannot carry a prevention strategy alone. OJJDP's Community and Schools Youth Drug Prevention program links schools, coalitions and law enforcement around education, early intervention, mentoring, family engagement and referrals. Describe how partners identify young people who need help and provide it.

Eligible governments, federally recognized Tribes and nonprofits with or without charitable status may apply; higher-education institutions are excluded. No matching funds are required. Sixteen awards of up to US$750,000 are anticipated from a US$12 million pool, for 36 months starting January 2027. The pool is not available to each applicant. Build the budget around delivery capacity.

File the SF-424 in Grants.gov by 29 October, 11:59 p.m. Eastern, then the full JustGrants application by 5 November, 8:59 p.m. Registration advice starts 29 September, with 15 October the latest recommended start; neither replaces a filing. A call-specific form destination is unverified. Check federal accounts and coalition responsibilities against official guidance.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Up to US$750,000 per award; US$12 million program pool

36-month individual award ceiling; 16 awards anticipated from a US$12 million program pool. No matching funds required.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

29 OCT

29 October 2026 · 11:59 p.m. ET

Deadline in 29 days (as of 30 Sept)

Before you start Eligible governments, federally recognized Tribes and nonprofits with or without charitable status; higher-education institutions excluded. No match required.

Official information ↗

Talk to Arkus about this opportunity ↗

An opening is a beginning.

A useful funding calendar distinguishes when to prepare, when to enter and when the proposal must be complete.

A funding notice compresses a large decision into a small rectangle: purpose, amount, deadline, apply. Before an organization can decide whether to enter, it needs to know what the money can change and what must already be in place. This week's calls make those questions practical: a partner, a working prototype or an agency training plan can determine the answer.

An intake opening, a preliminary inquiry and a final submission are different events. Marking all three as deadlines makes a calendar orderly while leaving the work disordered. PCORI's required initial inquiry comes before its invited full application. Murdock's opening gives teams a window to enter. Neither becomes optional because a later date is farther away.

The amount needs the same care. A ceiling is not a typical award. A sponsor prize is not money every selected team receives. SPRINT's travel support does not become a whole research budget because travel makes the project possible. Ask what the offer pays for and who carries the remaining cost.

Partnership changes the calculation. A collaborator can bring expertise, access, delivery capacity or independent funding. That is more useful than a name on a diagram. Make the contribution legible: which institution does which work, which side pays and who takes responsibility when an experiment or timetable changes.

Start with a smaller, clearer decision. Write down the public problem, proposed change, evidence that the team can deliver and first required action. A missing answer is a research task; a disqualifying answer is a reason to stop. A well-chosen call opens a door. The calendar is part of the route through it, not the route itself.

PREPARE BEFORE ENTRY	COMPLETE THE EARLY GATE	FINISH THE PROPOSAL
An intake opening	**A required inquiry**	**A final submission**
Murdock opens its next intake on 15 October.	PCORI requires the initial Letter of Intent first.	SPRINT proposals close on 26 October.

Official calls: M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust↗; additional calls are identified in the stories. Distinctions drawn from the calls in this issue.

OPINION / THE EDITOR'S VIEW

Before the application opens.

Put an opening and a closing date in separate fields, then list every required early gate before the final proposal. That sounds like calendar housekeeping until an invitation depends on an inquiry sent weeks earlier. PCORI's first filing is a commitment now; Murdock's opening is a moment to be ready. Give the first useful action an owner: confirm eligibility, agree the partner contribution or gather the intake information. For a rolling call, choose a preparation reminder instead of inventing a cutoff. If the issuer's time zone or submission route conflicts, the reminder should say what needs resolving. A calendar earns its place when somebody knows what its next alert asks them to do.

The remarkably small idea lab.

Three choices. Find the next useful action. Choose one answer per row; each points toward a different kind of preparation work.

A promising call arrives. Start where?	An intake opens next month. Prepare what?	The headline amount looks generous. Ask what?
◯ Verify its first required filing.	◯ Check the eligibility assumption.	◯ Is it a ceiling or pool?
◯ Ask who benefits and participates.	◯ Agree the partner contribution.	◯ Who carries the remaining cost?
◯ Assign the first action an owner.	◯ Gather the opening submission.	◯ Can the team deliver within it?

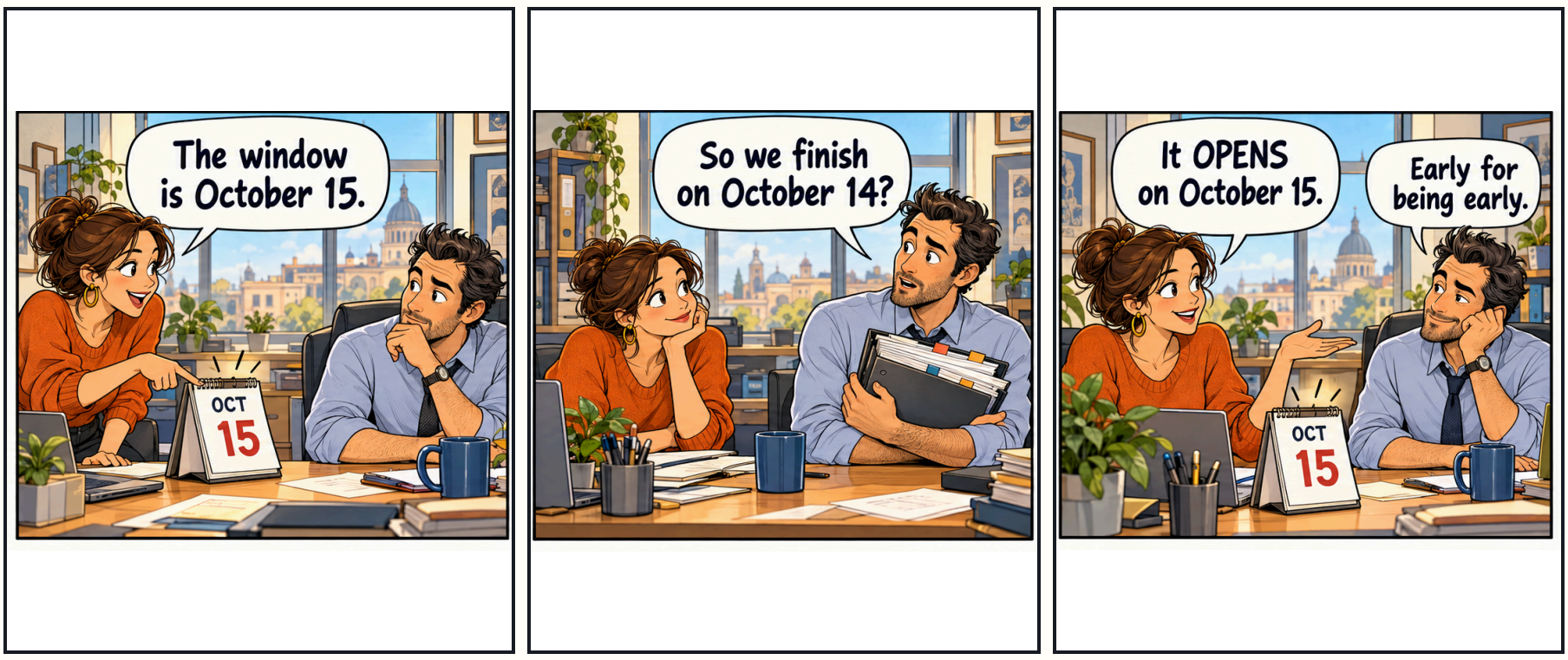
Mostly first answers: verify. Second: involve people. Third: plan delivery. Mixed: include all three.

Editorial prompt, not an eligibility decision. Answers stay here.

Between the lines.

Three scenes, each sparked by an opportunity in this week's editions.

The Opening Act



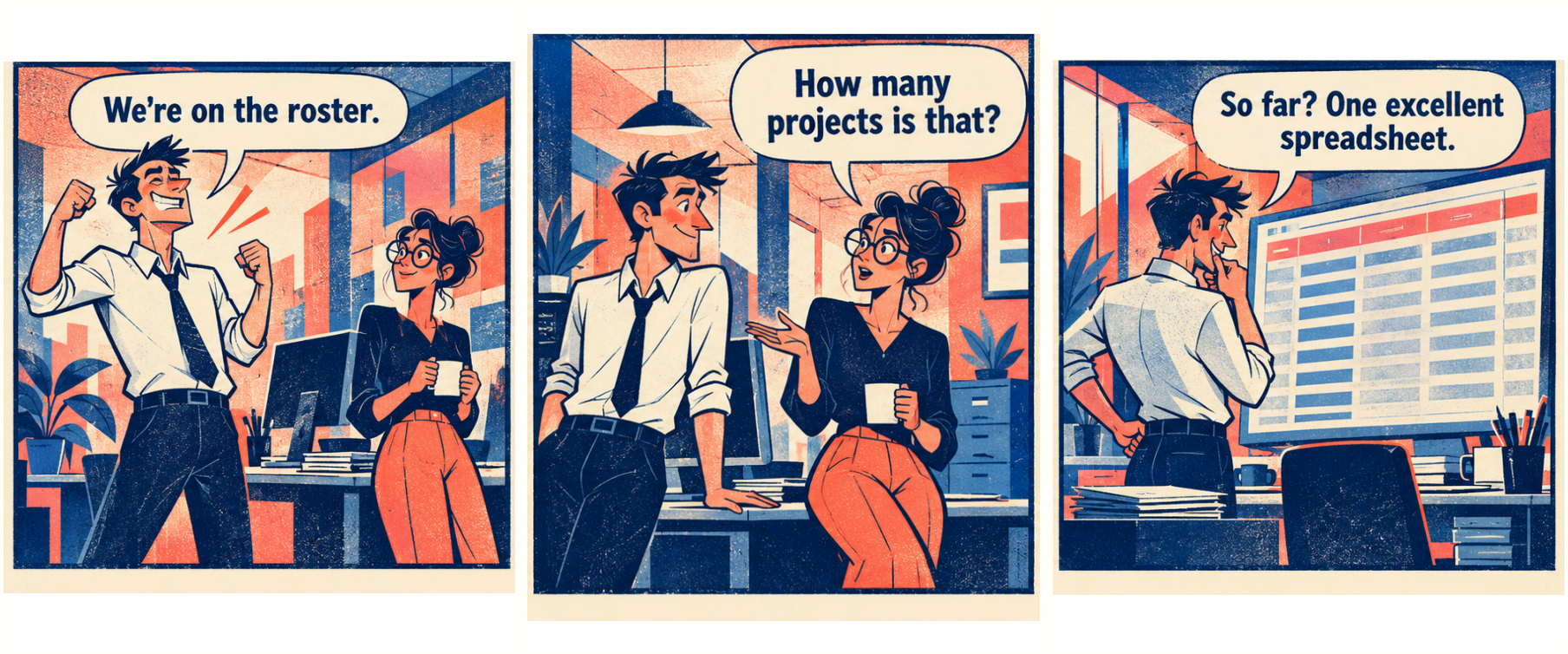
Murdock's next inquiry window opens 15 October; the closing date is a separate event. Official opportunity details ↗

THE CASE OF THE TWO DATES



Energy Trust's Business and Leadership listing and the previously read packet disagree. The conflict remains unresolved. Official opportunity details ↗

The Roster



A place on a consultant roster provides access to possible assignments. It does not guarantee work. Official opportunity details ↗

ARKUS INNOVATION STUDIOS

Issue date 30 September 2026
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Prime or subcontractor partnerships
Email: nadia@arkusinnovationstudios.com

Watch the illustrated guide.

WATCH THE STORY / 24 SECONDS

THE ARKUS SIGNAL

FUNDING / 30 SEP 2026

Two calls. Two different missions.



FAPESP SPRINT

Up to US$12,500

One year of research mobility.
26 October · hour/zone unstated.



PCORI CAPACITY BUILDING

Up to US$300,000

Two years · direct and indirect costs.
Required LOI: 1 October · 5 p.m. ET

AI-generated scenes. Editorial illustrations, not photographs of these projects.

A visual guide to the current lead and the distinction that changes the next action. Captions are included; no sound is required.

ABOUT ARKUS

MEET THE FULL TEAM ↗

Evidence before the commitment.

Research, design and operating judgment for the next practical decision.



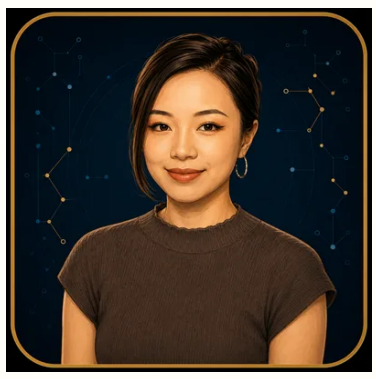
Chandler Lewis
Founder · Managing Director



Walter Benadof
Partner · Global Markets and Investments



Nadia Lerouge
Deputy Managing Director



Cloud (Yiyun) Qiu
Partner · Design and Innovation Strategy



Aarav Ghai
Research Analyst

Arkus Innovation Studios is a commercial advisory and venture studio for founders, investors and enterprise teams deciding what to build, improve or investigate. We turn broad questions into a defined piece of work, examine the available evidence and help the team make a practical next decision.

Our work includes **Startup Diagnostics**, **Portfolio Diagnostics**, **AI Workflow Sprints** and enterprise assessments. The Innovation Compass gives assessment work its structure. The Teixeira Framework organizes four possible recommendations: Accelerate, Incubate, Develop or Watch. A recommendation is useful when its reasoning, assumptions and next test are clear enough for the team to use. We combine research, operating experience, design and commercial judgment.

Discuss a collaboration with Nadia
nadia@arkusinnovationstudios.com ↗

That can mean checking a market claim, examining a technology's limits, testing an AI workflow or organizing the evidence needed for a proposal. We define responsibilities before beginning and keep the proposed outcome connected to the question the client needs answered. Arkus is the commercial studio; 360 Social Impact Studios and Enough Ventures are separate organizations with different legal structures.

If an opportunity in this issue connects with your work, send the public call, a brief description of your idea or capabilities and the role you have in mind. Where eligibility and agreed responsibilities permit, Arkus can discuss leading or joining the work. Contact Nadia Lerouge through the invitation below to begin that conversation.