

## ACD Research Funding Policy

At ACD, we are committed to supporting innovative, high-impact research that aligns with our mission. To ensure responsible stewardship of resources and to foster effective outcomes, ACD has adopted the following policies for all research grants and contracts:

### 1. No Overhead or Indirect Costs

ACD does **not** allow for overhead or indirect costs in any of the grants or contracts it funds. All awarded funds must be directed solely toward direct project expenses that are essential for the execution of the proposed research.

### 2. Research Proposal Review Committee

All research proposals submitted to ACD are subject to rigorous evaluation by our **Research Review Committee**. This committee is composed of subject matter experts who assess proposals for scientific merit, feasibility, potential impact, and alignment with ACD's strategic priorities. All funding decisions are made by the ACD Board after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Research Review Committee.

### 3. Milestone-Based Funding for Larger Contracts

For all research contracts exceeding **\$30,000**, ACD employs a **tranche funding model**:

- Funding is distributed in stages based on predefined project milestones.
- Each tranche is contingent upon successful completion of the previous phase and a satisfactory progress review.
- Contracts include **exit clauses**, allowing ACD to modify, pause, or terminate funding if the research fails to meet agreed-upon objectives or if outcomes no longer support continuation.

This structured approach ensures accountability and encourages meaningful progress toward research goals.

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