

Boomer Esiason Foundation
May 2025



BEF IVF Grant Pilot Impact Summary

*From saving lives to
making miracles*

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Fertility in the CF Community

The baby boom in the cystic fibrosis (CF) community has been nothing short of miraculous—people living with CF are living longer, healthier lives and creating families of their own. However, there are significant biological and financial barriers to family building for the CF community. Most men (97-98%) living with CF are infertile due to a congenital absence of the vas deferens (CAVD) and can only have biological children through in-vitro fertilization (IVF). Women living with CF also face fertility issues due to conditions like thickened cervical mucus, irregular ovulation, and increased risk of gestational diabetes.

IVF is a fertility treatment that involves multiple steps. The first step is taking medications to increase the amount of eggs made in the ovaries, to mature those eggs, and to prepare the uterus for implantation. Then, the mature eggs are retrieved from the ovaries in a fertility clinic. These eggs are then mixed with extracted sperm to fertilize them and to create embryos. Then, these embryos are transferred back into the uterus through a catheter, where, if successful, they will attach to the uterine lining and lead to a pregnancy.

IVF can be prohibitively expensive for most people, especially for people living with CF who already struggle with CF-related medical expenses. IVF can cost tens of thousands of dollars per round and often requires multiple rounds to be successful, which go largely uncovered by insurance. For couples living with CF, these financial obstacles can be daunting.

BEF launched the BEF IVF Grant in 2023 to help ease the financial burden of IVF so that people living with CF can build the families of their dreams. This program partners with several fertility clinics across the US to cover the cost of IVF services. BEF IVF owes its success to the generous support of numerous donors, with special gratitude extended to the Caruso Family Foundation. It is their remarkable generosity that made the triumphant launch of this program possible in 2023. This program ensures that couples living with CF have the resources to surmount not only the biological challenges of starting their families, but the financial challenges as well.

Program Summary

30

Families awarded

87%

Success rate

What does the grant cover?

The grant covers the primary processes of one IVF cycle, including provider consultations once IVF cycle has commenced, in-house monitoring, egg retrieval, ICSI, biopsy of embryos for PGT, up to 2 embryo transfers, and cryopreservation.

The grant does not cover medications, outside monitoring, genetic testing, sperm extractions, donor egg, donor sperm, gestational surrogacy, preimplantation genetic testing, travel to the fertility clinic, obstetric care, and other services that may not be listed here.

Babies and Pregnancies

03

10 Babies born

4 Current pregnancies

The IVF process can take longer than average for couples living with CF due to the length of sperm extraction procedures for men with CAVD. Sperm extraction procedures must be performed by a urologist, who can have a six month wait to schedule the procedure. The sperm extraction is then followed by about six months of hormone treatment for the female partner. Typically, one round of IVF takes eleven days from injections to egg retrieval. Many couples living with CF may want to perform genetic testing of their embryos, which may take an additional two to three weeks to receive the results.

Applications Submitted vs. Accepted

30

Submitted (that meet eligibility criteria)

30

Awarded

100%

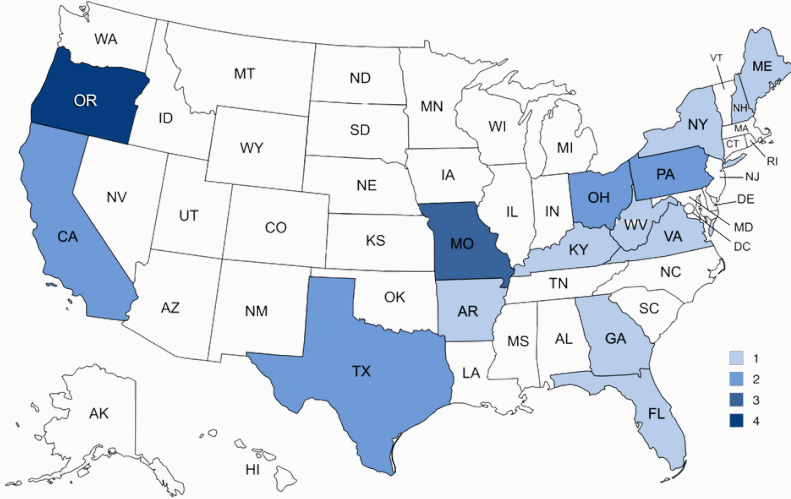
Award rate



- **Eligibility requirements:**

- I (or my partner) am an adult with cystic fibrosis
- I (or my partner) have a diagnosis of infertility
- I am US citizen or legal permanent resident of the US
- I (or my partner) am employed full-time
- I (and my partner) am 25 years old or older
- I (and my partner) am under 55 years old
- I do not have biological children (adult with CF must not have biological children)
- I have health insurance coverage
- I do not have insurance coverage for IVF
- I have annual household income less than \$250,000
- I am willing to initiate IVF treatments within 4 months if awarded grant
- I am able to receive IVF treatments at Boston IVF or one of Kindbody's 28 locations

Program Data



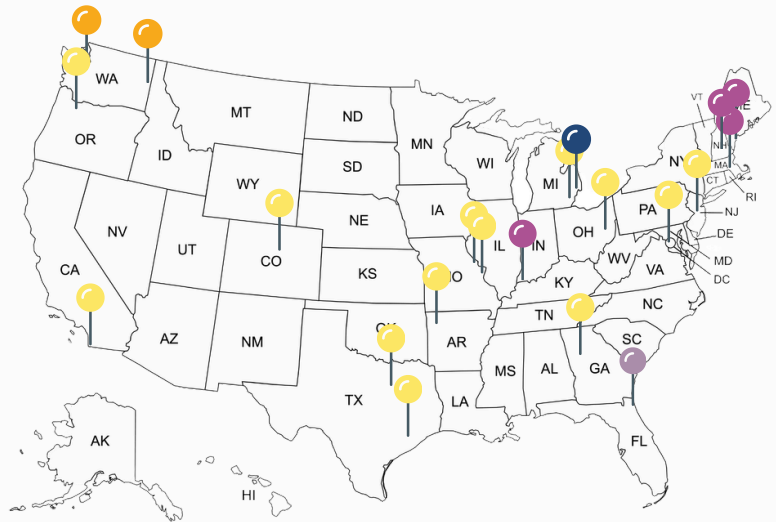
States Represented

Oregon (4), Missouri (3), California (2), Ohio (2), Pennsylvania (2), Texas (2), Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming

Created with mapchart.net

Clinic Locations

- Kindbody
 - Portland, OR, Denver, CO, St. Louis, MO, Columbus, OH, Princeton, NJ, Houston, TX, Newport Beach, CA, Rogers, AR, Washington DC, Dallas, TX, O’Fallon, MO, Atlanta, GA, Detroit, MI
- Boston IVF
 - Waltham, MA, South Portland, ME, Bedford, NH, Newburgh, IN
- Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine
 - Jacksonville, FL
- Reproductive Medicine Associates of Michigan
 - Troy, MI
- Seattle Reproductive Medicine
 - Seattle, WA, Spokane, WA



As of February 2025, Kindbody has closed its doors on three locations utilized by our awardees -- Detroit, Columbus, and Vancouver, Washington. Fortunately, we have seamlessly transitioned affected awardees to other local clinics and we are hopeful to establish long-term partnerships with these new clinics.

Program Data

- Gender of Person with CF
 - Men: **24**
 - Women: **6**
- Average age of Person with CF
 - **34** years
- Diagnosis (at birth v. late diagnosis)
 - **4** diagnosed as adults (older than 25)

Median Salary of
person with CF

\$60,000

Median Salary
of partner

\$57,000

Median Combined
Salary



\$110,316

Careers

Paramedic, naval engineer, physician, musician, pharmacy technician, special education teacher, second-grade teacher, high school math teacher, biomed tech, funeral assistant, customer service manager, forklift merchandiser, sales manager, IT specialist, green chili farmer, quality control manager, mattress firm technician, general manager, eligibility consultant, carpenter, manager, log truck driver, officer, waste connections, teacher/coach, web developer

Reasons for Infertility

- Male Factor Infertility: 23
- Unknown/unexplained: 4
- Thickened Cervical Mucus: 1
- Scarring of Fallopian Tubes: 1
- Thickened Cervical Mucus, low sperm motility: 1

Impact

Success Rates

87%

success rate for couples supported by the BEF IVF Grant Program

A Note on IUI

Men with CF lack the ducts that transport sperm from the testes to the ejaculate. As a result, their semen contains no sperm, making intrauterine insemination (IUI), a common form of assisted reproductive technology, ineffective since it relies on the presence of motile sperm in the ejaculate. However, in vitro fertilization combined with intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) allows men with CF to have biological children by surgically retrieving sperm directly from the testes or epididymis through procedures like testicular sperm extraction (TESE) or percutaneous epididymal sperm aspiration (PESA). The retrieved sperm is then injected directly into an egg, bypassing the need for natural sperm transport, leading to fertilization and the possibility of a successful pregnancy.

Prior to applying for a BEF IVF Grant, two applicant families had attempted multiple rounds of intrauterine insemination with donor sperm, which is significantly less expensive than IVF (approximately \$500-\$1000 per round). These IUI procedures failed, and these families were both recommended to try IVF, which was financially out of reach.

Upon being awarded the grant, both of these families achieved pregnancy via IVF, which also allowed them to use their own sperm and conceive a biologically related child.

Testimonials

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"Our baby is the most important thing in the world for us and we will always be thankful for BEF and all the donors that made this dream come true. **We are headed into a future that seemed impossible because of your generosity!**"

"We're halfway through this day, and all [my partner] and I can talk about is this amazing chance we've gotten for IVF. So, I'd be remiss if I didn't send you an email today thanking you and all of BEF from bottom of our hearts for giving us this chance. We love a holiday that reminds us to be thankful and we really try to reflect every Thanksgiving on the year. **I don't think we can put into words what this has meant for us. It is simultaneously feeling like a weight off of our shoulders, a second chance, hope, a euphoria for life: I don't know. It's possible there are no English or otherwise words to describe it.** This Thanksgiving we are grateful for you guys. And no matter what happens we will forever be grateful."

"He is absolutely beautiful and we are both so in love. I can't even express to you the magic it is to watch [my husband] become a dad. As I'm sure you've experienced with your husband. It's so incredible to witness. Thank you guys so much for everything you have done to help get our boy here. **[My husband] caught him and put him on my chest and that moment was absolutely indescribable and will stay with us until the end of time.**"

Areas for Expansion

Clinics and Applicants

The BEF IVF Program is planning to expand its partnerships with fertility clinics across the nation.

Currently, only couples without existing biological children are eligible to participate in the BEF IVF Grant Program. In the future, we hope to expand the program so that couples with one biological child may be eligible to participate in the program to have a second child.

Research

The Boomer Esiason Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that all people living with CF have the resources, knowledge, and confidence to live their fullest lives. In addition to financial support for IVF services, BEF is committed to advancing research in the field of CF-related fertility. BEF is proud to fund the work of Dr. Kazmerski and her team at the University of Pittsburgh as they research the experiences of men living with CF who undergo ART to build their families. Dr. Kazmerski and her team's research will inform the development of interventions to support and enhance the family-building experiences of the CF community. BEF is also proud to support Dr. Velez (Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center), Dr. Trimble (Oregon Health & Science University), and Dr. Weiss (University of Pennsylvania) in their research of the most effective ART methods for couples where the male lives with CF. This research is investigating how sperm extraction methods, the type of male-factor infertility, and CF-specific factors impact the success rates of ART for couples where the male lives with CF.