

# **PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

2025 REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTENT



## New Institute Priority Overview

The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation's [vision](#) is to make it possible for all children facing childhood cancers to beat their disease and achieve their full potential so they can live happy, healthy, productive futures. Achieving that vision means taking stock not only of the progress we've made but also of the obstacles that stand before us.

To drive meaningful change, we have launched three institutional priorities: **Powering Research, Equitable Care**, and **Survivorship & Mental Health**. These priorities bring us closer to overcoming pediatric cancer and enhancing the quality of life for all children and families impacted by this disease.

PCRF is currently funding over **\$1.7 million** in research and programs in 2025. As we move forward to 2026, we remain steadfast in our commitment to changing outcomes for patients and their families through innovative research.

We are also investing in the development of more effective therapies with fewer side effects, reducing both the immediate and long-term impacts of treatment on young patients. In addition, PCRF is exploring opportunities to leverage AI and advanced technology to accelerate breakthroughs and improve care outcomes.

To ensure advancements in treatment are accessible and effective for all, PCRF is expanding support for clinical trials that focus on diverse populations. By funding trials that consider age, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic factors, we aim to improve treatment outcomes and provide equitable care for all children.

## Looking Ahead: The 2025 PCRF Grant Solicitation

PCRF is seeking translational trials or consortia through **Translational Research Grants**.

Recognizing the importance of fostering both emerging talent and seasoned expertise, PCRF is committed to supporting the next generation of researchers through the **Emerging Investigator Fellowship Grants** while honoring the achievements of legacy researchers. As part of this commitment, we are proud to launch our new **Legacy Researcher Grant**, dedicated to long-standing PCRF-funded researchers who have consistently demonstrated progress and delivered impactful outcomes in pediatric cancer research.

By supporting both innovative new studies and established researchers, PCRF is strengthening the foundation for meaningful advancements in pediatric cancer care and outcomes.

Investing in these initiatives, PCRF is paving the way for a future where every child has the opportunity to beat cancer and live a full and vibrant life. Together, we are transforming hope into tangible progress.

## **Research Grants Manual**

The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation is proud to support five types of grants, now aligned with our core priorities: Powering Research, Equitable Care, and Survivorship & Mental Health. These focus areas drive decisions on funding groundbreaking research, ensuring equitable access to treatment, and enhancing support for survivors, all with the goal of improving outcomes for children affected by cancer.

### **Grant categories**

The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation awards four types of research grants:

#### **Legacy Researcher Grant (up to \$100,000 per year, up to 2 years for translational research and up to \$150,000 per year, for three years, for basic science research)**

This grant is given to a long-standing PCRFF-funded researcher for at least five years, who has demonstrated consistent progress and outcomes in pediatric cancer research. This funding category aims to support and sustain ongoing initiatives, ensuring that momentum is maintained on critical projects with potential for cures.

#### **Translational Research Grants (up to \$100,000 per year, up to 2 years)**

This grant is given to single or multi-institutional programs that involve open, cancer clinical trials or consortia, and implement new approaches to therapy. These grants support “bench to bedside” research, whose endpoint is often the planning or initiation of a clinical trial.

#### **Emerging Investigator Fellowship Grants (up to \$75,000 for one year)**

These grants are designed to support Post-Doctoral Fellowships and Clinical Investigator training for emerging pediatric cancer researchers to pursue exciting research ideas. Applicants must have completed two years of their fellowship or not more than two years as a junior faculty instructor or assistant professor at the start of the award period. These grants encourage and cultivate the best and brightest researchers of the future.

#### **Donor Designated Grant Programs**

These grants fund projects in communities or regions local to the specific donor or fundraising activity. Outside contributing organizations, fundraisers and donors work with the Foundation to identify a specific project and/or specific doctor, focus on a specific disease type, facility or awareness program. Grants can be for any specific amount as designated by the donor or contributing organization.

PCRFF will *not accept grant application without an approved Letter of Intent (LOI)*. Please refer to the guidelines contained in this document for the specific guidelines.

**Grant Review Criteria** The probability of an advance in prevention, diagnosis or treatment for the near-term

- The novelty of the concept and strategy
- The clarity of presentation
- The overall plan for bringing the research findings to clinical application

- Experience, background, and qualifications of the investigators
- Adequacy of resources and environment (facilities, patients, etc.)

### **Collaborations**

PCRF awards are intended to leverage the power of collaboration through multi-institutional, interdisciplinary approaches that address the greatest barriers to improving outcomes for infants, children, and adolescents suffering from cancer. As one institution or researcher cannot possess the necessary expertise in all steps of a particular project, collaborations among a team of investigators, consortia, and/or partnerships with industry are strongly encouraged and will be reviewed favorably.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- PCRF only funds non-profit institutions and they must be located in the US.
- PCRF does not fund for-profit organizations.
- PCRF does not have citizenship requirements for our investigators. However, the Principal Investigator needs to be employed by a non-profit U.S. institution that has an affiliation with a hospital.
- Legacy Researcher Grant and Translational Research Grant require the applicant to be a PhD and/or MD.
- Emerging Investigator applicants must have completed two years of their fellowship, or not more than two years as a junior faculty instructor or assistant professor at the start of the award period.

### **Resubmission Policy**

Applicants may resubmit an application that advanced to the full proposal stage in a previous RFA cycle but was not selected for funding. The LOI must be marked as a resubmission within the ProposalCentral site. If invited to submit a full application, applicants will be asked to include a cover letter that addresses reviewer comments and outlines specific revisions. Resubmissions will compete with new proposals for funding consideration.

### **Letter of Intent**

PCRF requires the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Researchers not previously funded by the foundation are typically funded at the Emerging Investigator Fellowship level. PCRF will only fund one grant, per award type.

Selected researchers will be invited to submit a grant application via Proposal Central. Please refer to the deadlines on the PCRF website for the specific timeline for submission.

### **Page limitation**

The Letter of Intent (LOI) should be no more than two pages in length (not including references and biosketch- limit to 3-page total).

### **Institutional information and criteria**

Provide the name of the Institution, Principal Investigator and their title. An institution may only submit one LOI per award type. Multiple LOIs should not be submitted by the same researcher.

## **Grant application**

Indicate which funding opportunity you are applying for:

- Legacy Researcher Grant, received PCRF funding for at least five years (up to \$100,000 per year, up to 2 years for translational research and up to \$150,000 per year, for three years, for basic science research)
- Translational Research Grant (up to \$100,000 per year, for up to two years)
- Emerging Investigator Fellowship (up to \$75,000 per year for one year)

## **Research project**

Provide both a Scientific and Lay Abstract. Define Area of research within Keywords.

Provide a summary of your research proposal, including any preliminary data that supports the hypothesis being tested or the objective.

Address the following questions by stating each question below followed by your answer (LOIs that do not follow this requirement will not be considered):

- How does this proposal fit the institute priorities and objectives of PCRF?
- What need/issue are you addressing?
- Why is your approach novel?
- What outcomes do you hope to achieve?
- What is your proposed timeframe and evidence of the project's ability to produce an impact on patients?
- Why are you and your institution the best equipped to carry out this activity?

Include Principal Investigator's biosketch with submission.

## **Budget**

State the amount of funding you are requesting. Refer to funding guidelines listed in grant categories above.

## **Deadline to submit**

PCRF will accept LOI between February 1, 2025 and April 1, 2025 at 5 PM (PST). All LOIs must be submitted via ProposalCentral. No extension will be granted to this deadline

## **Questions and additional information**

If you have any additional questions or need more information after review this manual, please feel free to contact us. Questions related to the grants process should be sent to [rkerchner@pcrf-kids.org](mailto:rkerchner@pcrf-kids.org).