Grant Application Guidelines

A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program
includes the following granting organizations:

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research, Arms Wide Open Childhood Cancer Foundation, Infinite Love for Kids Fighting Cancer and Kids Join the Fight and

Applications may be accessed and submitted online through Proposal Central:
https://proposalcentral.com/

2026 GRANT CYCLE DATES

CYCLE COMPONENT	DATE
Letter of Intent Opens	August 4, 2025
Letter of Intent Closes	September 12, 2025, 3:30 PM EDT
Full Application Opens (by invitation only)	November 6, 2025
Full Application Closes	January 6, 2026, 3:30 PM EST
Earliest Award Notification	April 1, 2026
Project Period Start Date	July 1, 2026

GRANT MECHANISMS

A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program offers the following:

Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant (Page 2)

Independent Investigator Grant (Page 9)

Consortium Grant (Page 15)

Outside the Box Grant (Page 21)

Fellow, Independent Investigator and Consortium Grant Renewal (Page 27)

FOR QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CONTACT:

Leigh Anna Lang, Grant Manager
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
Email: leighanna@rallyfoundation.org | Phone: 404-847-1270

POSTDOCTORAL AND CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOW GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

I. Eligibility

- Applicants conducting pediatric cancer research as a clinical fellow in pediatric hematology/oncology and/or postdoctoral research fellow.
- Applicants must hold at least an M.D., D.O., Pharm.D. or Ph.D. degree and be conducting research after the first year of their fellowship.
- Applicants in the last year of their fellowship are only eligible for a one-year grant. They may re-apply for an Independent Investigator Grant as a young investigator in the following grant cycle. To determine whether to apply for a Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant or an Independent Investigator Grant, consider your anticipated position as of the start of the project period.
- Applicants do not need to be U.S. citizens or located at a U.S. institution.
- The applicant's institution may be a hospital, university or private lab.

II. Priority Areas

The application must address at least one of the following priority areas related to cancer in children, adolescents and/or young adults up to age 24 (see Section V. Grants for age ranges):

- Innovative approaches to research that could lead to advanced studies, better delivery of treatment or clinical trials.
- Basic science studies that are likely to lead to a new discovery.
- Under-studied cancer types.
- Quality of life, survivorship and palliative care studies.
- Personalized, targeted, alternative or integrative research proposals.
- Data utilization through data standardization, collection, storage, analysis and sharing.

The following will not be reviewed:

- Proposals that have no direct relevance to pediatric cancer nor fall within the scope of A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program.
- Proposals for infrastructure programs.
- Incomplete applications and/or applications received after the application deadline.

III. Award Information

Award Amount

Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grants up to $50,000 per year for one or two years of support will be awarded. Please note that not all applicants that request two years of funding are

awarded two years of support. Awards are determined by a competitive peer-review process and scores received. One-year grants will receive two installments, and two-year grants will receive four installments, one every six months. Grants awarded one year of funding will have the option to apply for a second year of support with a bypass of the Letter of Intent and the submission of a Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant Renewal. Grant Renewal applications will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

The Collaborative Organizations have an interest in funding postdoctoral and clinical research fellows. A portion of available funds are reserved for Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grants contingent on scores received.

Applicant

Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grants should be requested by the postdoctoral or clinical research fellow as the applicant/principal investigator. The postdoctoral or clinical research fellow should put together the proposal with the guidance of a scientific mentor who is clearly identified in the proposal as the primary mentor with a letter of support.

The postdoctoral or clinical research fellow should have only one primary mentor; however, listing co-investigators or co-mentors is acceptable. If the primary mentor should change during the Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant award period, written documentation should be submitted with this new information to the Collaborative Organizations.

Funding will be given at the clinical fellow or postdoctoral research fellow level. Salary support for applicants above that level of experience/training should consider an Independent Investigator Grant or Consortium Grant.

IV. Request for Continued Funding

Applicants may request additional funding for a project previously funded by the Collaborative Organizations. After two years of consecutive funding for a specific project, the applicant will be required to submit a new Letter of Intent that will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

V. Grants

The awarded funds must be used for the specific purpose for which they are granted unless written permission is received from the Collaborative Organizations.

The Collaborative Organizations will fund cancer research for the following populations: childhood (0-14), adolescent (15-19) and young adult (20-24).

We will not fund grants for the construction of buildings, remodeling of laboratories or purchase of land. We will not fund human embryonic stem cell research. We do not pay indirect costs. If there are any questions about the definition of indirect costs as applicable to the Collaborative Organizations, contact the Grant Manager.

Applications will be reviewed through the Medical Advisory Board peer-review process.

VI. Post-Award Requirements

Each Collaborative Organization has pledged to regularly report to its supporters on how their donations are being used. The goodwill felt by these donors generates continued income for future grant funding. Therefore, all award recipients must adhere to the following requirements:

A. Reports

Interim Report

Prior to the authorization of any funding installment after the first funding installment of a grant award, the principal investigator must complete an interim report using the web form in Proposal Central stating the specific aims, studies and results, significance, plans and a layman's summary. A written statement on the value of the grant to their research is also required. In addition, principal investigators must submit a financial report utilizing the provided financial report template.

Final Report

No later than 60 days following the end of the award period, principal investigators must provide a final progress report using the web form in Proposal Central stating the specific aims, studies and results, significance and a layman's summary. A written statement on the value of the grant to their research is also required. In addition, principal investigators must submit a final financial report utilizing the provided financial report template.

B. Publications

Each Collaborative Organization requires principal investigators to cite the organization as a funding source in peer-reviewed publications and presentations arising from this award program. Principal investigators should also acknowledge the Collaborative Organization in non-peer-reviewed presentations and articles about their research in student newspapers, alumni newsletters, institutional magazines, etc.

C. Miscellaneous Information – Action Required

Funding a proposal authorizes each Collaborative Organization to use the applicant's name in soliciting contributions to fund its cancer research and educational programs.

Funding a proposal also authorizes each Collaborative Organization to link to the applicant institution's website. We understand that your web master must approve all web links, and we agree to contact you if the application for your institution is funded so that we can make appropriate arrangements to link to your site.

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research (Rally) serves as the administrator for A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program and its partner organizations: Arms Wide Open Childhood Cancer Foundation, Infinite Love for Kids Fighting Cancer and Kids Join the Fight.

If the applicant is funded by one or more of the Collaborative Organizations, it is imperative that their institution properly document and recognize each individual organization.

VII. Proposal Central Guidance

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- After logging in, update or complete the Professional Profile (fourth tab from the left) before starting an application.
- To start the application, select the Grant Opportunities tab (sixth tab from the left). A list of opportunities will be displayed. Find the A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program grant you wish to apply for (Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant) and click the "Apply Now" link (second to last column) to start your application.
- For any difficulties logging in or creating an application, contact Proposal Central Customer Support at 1-800-875-2562 or +1 703-964-5840 or email at pcsupport@altum.com.

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Arial font size 11-point should be used for all documents. Applications that are incomplete, typed in a smaller font size or not adhering to the page limits will be rejected administratively. Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages. For text boxes, Proposal Central character limits include spaces.

VIII. Guidelines for Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission

Electronic Submission Deadline – September 12, 2025 at 3:30 PM EDT

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IX. Guidelines for Full Application Submission

Electronic Submission Deadline – January 6, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST

Full applications will be available in Proposal Central to invited applicants in November 2025. All templates and requirements will be available in Proposal Central upon approval of a LOI.

A. Layman's Summary (2,000 characters)

This will help each Collaborative Organization's Board of Directors evaluate the recommendations of the Medical Advisory Board. Provide a one-half page layman's summary in *plain language*, suitable for a general audience. Refer to the NIH guidelines for plain language summaries: https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/clear-communication/plain-language/plain-language-getting-started-or-brushing.

B. Scientific Summary (2,000 characters)

A separate one-half page summary of the research objectives and rationale.

C. Other Support

Provide the applicants recently completed (within three years), current and pending support, including all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all their research endeavors.

D. Human Subjects

Certification for protection of human subjects should be obtained for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Copies of relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including an I.R.B. approval letter or proof of pending submission of I.R.B. as soon as possible. Please refer to NIH guidelines for human subjects' regulations: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/humansubjects.htm.

E. Vertebrate Animals

Certification for protection for the care and treatment of laboratory animals is required for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Relevant documentation must accompany the proposal, including an I.A.C.U.C. approval letter or proof of pending protocols.

F. Budget

Complete the Budget Period Detail by providing project costs for each budget period (year). The budget should only reflect project costs specifically supported by the Collaborative Organizations, up to $50,000 per year. This may represent only a portion of the larger project's costs. We will not pay indirect costs. A detailed budget justification of direct costs limited to 5,000 characters should be provided in the Budget Summary section of the proposal.

G. Biographical Sketch

The postdoctoral or clinical research fellow, primary scientific mentor and co-investigator, as applicable, should include a biographical sketch formatted to the Revised October 2021 NIH template.

H. Research Plan (limited to seven pages)

Keep these questions in mind as you organize the Specific Aims and Research Strategy below:

- What do you intend to do?
- Why is the work important?
- What has already been done?
- How are you going to do the work?

1. Specific Aims

State concisely the goals and specific objectives of the proposed research and the clinical impact that the results of the proposed experiments will have on the advancement of the pediatric cancer

research field. State the hypotheses to be tested and relevance to the funding priorities listed in Section II of these Guidelines.

Only proposals which are directly related to a Section II priority area and funding pediatric cancer research and education programs will be considered.

2. Research Strategy

a. Significance

Describe the importance of the problem and the progress in the field that the proposed studies will address. Explain research to date that has led to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the need that the project is to fill. State the significance of your proposed project with respect to the pediatric cancer research by relating the specific aims to the goals and long-term objectives.

b. Innovation

Provide a detailed explanation of the innovations that are included in the proposal. Explain how the application seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies and instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used and elaborate on any advantages over existing methods.

c. Experimental Approach and Research Design

Describe the experimental approach to the research question and state the procedures and methods to be used in achieving the specific aims. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Specify any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised. Reviewers will weigh heavily the feasibility of carrying out the project in the projected time span, analyzing any potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and specific aims.

d. Career Plan

Applicants should describe a long-term career plan and elaborate on how the successful completion of the proposed research fellowship would benefit their career goals in the pediatric cancer field.

I. Relevant References (limited to one page)

List all references in "Nature" format. Limit the references to relevant and current literature. It is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

J. Letters of Support

Include letters of support from the scientific mentor and the department head along with any appropriate letters of support from individuals serving as collaborators or consultants confirming their role(s) in the project.

K. Application E-Signatures

The applicant and the institution's signing official must log into Proposal Central to e-sign the application. This e-signature is required for the submission of the application and must be completed before the deadline.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR
GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

I. Eligibility

- Applicants with all academic ranks, Instructor to Professor, and research scientists holding at least an M.D., D.O., Pharm.D. and/or Ph.D. degree may apply.
- On the application Face Page, the applicant will identify themselves as a Young Investigator or an Independent Investigator. Rally defines young investigators as principal investigators no more than five years post fellowship and independent investigators as principal investigators more than five years post fellowship. To determine whether to apply for a Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant or an Independent Investigator Grant, consider your anticipated position as of the start of the project period.
- Applicants do not need to be U.S. citizens or located at a U.S. institution.
- The applicant's institution may be a hospital, university or private lab.

II. Priority Areas

The application must address at least one of the following priority areas related to cancer in children, adolescents and/or young adults up to age 24 (see Section V. Grants for age ranges):

- Innovative approaches to research that could lead to advanced studies, better delivery of treatment or clinical trials.
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- Data utilization through data standardization, collection, storage, analysis and sharing.

The following will not be reviewed:

- Grants that have no direct relevance to pediatric cancer nor fall within the scope of A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program.
- Proposals for infrastructure programs.
- Incomplete applications and/or applications received after the deadline.

III. Award Information

Award Amount

Independent Investigator Grants up to $50,000 per year for one or two years of support will be awarded. Please note that not all applicants that request two years of funding are awarded two years of support. Awards are determined by a competitive peer-review process and scores received.

One-year grants will receive two installments, and two-year grants will receive four installments, one every six months. Grants awarded one year of funding will have the option to apply for a second year of support with a bypass of the Letter of Intent and the submission of an Independent Investigator Grant Renewal. Grant Renewal applications will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

The Collaborative Organizations have an interest in funding young investigators. A portion of available funds are reserved for young investigators contingent on scores received.

IV. Request for Continued Funding

Applicants may request additional funding for a project previously funded by the Collaborative Organizations. After two years of consecutive funding for a specific project, the applicant will be required to submit a new Letter of Intent that will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

V. Grants

The awarded funds must be used for the specific purpose for which they are granted unless written permission is received from one of the Collaborative Organizations.

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C. Miscellaneous Information – Action Required

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B. Scientific Summary (2,000 characters)

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C. Other Support

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D. Human Subjects

Certification for protection of human subjects should be obtained for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Copies of relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including I.R.B. approval letter or proof of pending submission of I.R.B. as soon as possible. Please refer to NIH guidelines for human subjects' regulations: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/humansubjects.htm.

E. Vertebrate Animals

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should accompany the proposal, including an I.A.C.U.C. approval letter or proof of pending protocols.

F. Budget

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G. Biographical Sketch

The principal investigator and co-investigators, as applicable, should include a biographical sketch formatted to the Revised October 2021 NIH template.

H. Research Plan (limited to six pages)

Keep these questions in mind as you organize the Specific Aims and Research Strategy below:

- What do you intend to do?
- Why is the work important?
- What has already been done?
- How are you going to do the work?

1. Specific Aims

State concisely the goals and specific objectives of the proposed research and the clinical impact that the results of the proposed experiments will have on the advancement of the pediatric cancer research field. State the hypotheses to be tested and relevance to the funding priorities listed in Section II of these Guidelines.

Only proposals which are directly related to a Section II priority area and funding pediatric cancer research and education programs will be considered.

2. Research Strategy

a. Significance

Describe the importance of the problem and the progress in the field that the proposed studies will address. Explain research to date that has led to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the need that the project is to fill. State the significance of your proposed project with respect to pediatric cancer research by relating the specific aims to the goals and long-term objectives.

b. Innovation

Provide a detailed explanation for the innovations that are included in the proposal. Explain how the application seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies and instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used and elaborate on any advantages over existing methods.

c. Experimental Approach and Research Design

Describe the experimental approach to the research question and state the procedures and methods to be used in achieving the specific aims. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Specify any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised. Reviewers will weigh heavily the feasibility of carrying out the project in the projected time span, analyzing any potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and specific aims.

I. Relevant References (limited to one page)

List all references in "Nature" format. Limit the references to relevant and current literature. It is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

J. Letters of Support

Young investigators are required to include a letter of support from the department head. Include any appropriate support letters here from all individuals serving as collaborators or consultants confirming their role(s) in the project.

K. Application E-Signatures

The applicant and their institution's Signing Official must log into Proposal Central to e-sign the application. This e-signature is required for the submission of the application and must be completed before the deadline.

CONSORTIUM
GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

I. Eligibility

- Applicants with all academic ranks, Instructor to Professor, and research scientists holding at least an M.D., D.O., Pharm.D. and/or Ph.D. degree may apply.
- Consortiums are three or more institutions collaborating on a grant-supported research project. The success of the project depends on the unique contributions of each collaborating institution. A letter of support for each collaborative institution should be submitted detailing their unique contribution to the project.
- Applicants do not need to be U.S. citizens or located at an U.S. institution.
- The applicant's institution may be a hospital, university or private lab.

II. Priority Areas

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III. Award Information

Award Amount

Consortium Grants up to $100,000 per year for one or two years of support will be awarded to the lead institution responsible for reporting back to the Collaborative Organizations. Please note that not all applicants that request two years of funding are awarded two years of support. Awards are determined by a competitive peer-review process and scores received. One-year grants will receive two installments, and two-year grants will receive four installments, one every six months. Grants

awarded one year of funding will have the option to apply for a second year of support with a bypass of the Letter of Intent and the submission of a Consortium Grant Renewal. Grant Renewal applications will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

IV. Request for Continued Funding

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Full applications will be available in Proposal Central to invited applicants in November 2025. All templates and requirements will be available in Proposal Central upon approval of a LOI.

A. Layman's Summary (2,000 characters)

This will help each Collaborative Organizations' Board of Directors evaluate the recommendations of the Medical Advisory Board. Please provide a one-half page layman's summary in *plain language*, suitable for a general audience. Please refer to the NIH guidelines for plain language summaries: https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/clear-communication/plain-language/plain-language-getting-started-or-brushing.

B. Scientific Summary (2,000 characters)

A separate one-half page summary of the research objectives and rationale.

C. Other Support

Provide the applicants recently completed (within three years), current and pending support, including all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all their research endeavors.

D. Human Subjects

Certification for protection of human subjects should be obtained for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Copies of relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including I.R.B. approval letter or proof of pending submission of I.R.B. as soon as possible. Please refer to NIH guidelines for human subjects' regulations: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/humansubjects.htm.

E. Vertebrate Animals

Certification for protection for the care and treatment of laboratory animals should be obtained for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Copies of relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including an I.A.C.U.C. approval letter or proof of pending protocols.

F. Budget

Complete the Budget Period Detail by providing project costs for each budget period (year). The budget should only reflect project costs specifically supported by the Collaborative Organizations, up to $100,000 per year. This may represent only a portion of the larger project's costs. We will not pay indirect costs. A detailed budget justification of direct costs limited to 5,000 characters should be provided in the Budget Summary section of the proposal.

G. Biographical Sketch

The principal investigator and co-investigators should include a biographical sketch formatted to the Revised October 2021 NIH template.

H. Research Plan (limited to six pages)

Keep these questions in mind as you organize the Specific Aims and Research Strategy below:

- What do you intend to do?
- Why is the work important?
- What has already been done?
- How are you going to do the work?

1. Specific Aims

State concisely the goals and specific objectives of the proposed research and the clinical impact that the results of the proposed experiments will have on the advancement of the pediatric cancer research field. State the hypotheses to be tested and relevance to the funding priorities listed in Section II of these Guidelines.

Only proposals which are directly related to a Section II priority area and funding pediatric cancer research and education programs will be considered.

2. Research Strategy

a. Significance

Describe the importance of the problem and the progress in the field that the proposed studies will address. Explain research to date that has led to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the need that the project is to fill. State the significance of your proposed project with respect to pediatric cancer research by relating the specific aims to the goals and long-term objectives.

b. Innovation

Provide a detailed explanation for the innovations that are included in the proposal. Explain how the application seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies and instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used and elaborate on any advantages over existing methods.

c. Experimental Approach and Research Design

Describe the experimental approach to the research question and state the procedures and methods to be used in achieving the specific aims. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Specify any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised. Reviewers will weigh heavily the feasibility of carrying out the project in the projected time span, analyzing any potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and specific aims.

I. Relevant References (limited to one page)

List all references in "Nature" format. Limit the references to relevant and current literature. It is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

J. Letters of Support

A letter of support for each collaborative institution should be submitted detailing their unique contribution to the project along with any appropriate support letters from all individuals serving as collaborators or consultants confirming their role(s) in the project.

K. Application E-Signatures

The applicant and their institution's Signing Official must log into Proposal Central to e-sign the application. This e-signature is required for the submission of the application and must be completed before the deadline.

OUTSIDE THE BOX
GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

The Collaborative invites applications for innovative research strategies that directly address pediatric, adolescent or young adult cancers through a novel idea built around one of the Focus Areas and the Priority Area outlined in Section II. These grants are designed to provide seed funding for a new idea that may not have preliminary data but for which a strong case can be made for the potential impact for children, adolescents and young adults battling cancer.

I. Eligibility

- Applicants conducting pediatric cancer research as a clinical fellow in pediatric hematology/oncology and/or postdoctoral research fellow. Applicants must hold at least an M.D., D.O., Pharm.D. or Ph.D. degree and be conducting research after the first year of their fellowship.
- Applicants with all academic ranks, Instructor to Professor, and research scientists holding at least an M.D., D.O., Pharm.D. and/or Ph.D. degree may apply.

  On the application Face Page, the applicant will identify themselves as a Young Investigator or an Independent Investigator. Rally defines young investigators as principal investigators no more than five years post fellowship and independent investigators as principal investigators more than five years post fellowship.
- Applicants do not need to be U.S. citizens or located at a U.S. institution.
- The applicant's institution may be a hospital, university or private lab.

II. Focus and Priority Areas

The application must address one Focus Area and the Priority Area related to cancer in children (0-14), adolescents (15-19) and/or young adults (20-24):

Focus Areas:

- Leverage the use of artificial intelligence to advance the diagnosis, treatment or understanding of cancer in children, adolescents and young adults with a demonstrated potential for clinical translation.
- Advance efficiency, coordination and overall quality of cancer care to improve outcomes for children, adolescents and young adults as well as their families. Priority will be given to research that:
    - Incorporates patient- and family-centered approaches to improve the experience and delivery of care across settings (inpatient, outpatient and virtual);
    - Leverages health information technology, artificial intelligence or decision-support tools to enhance care coordination, resource utilization or treatment planning;
    - Aims to improve clinical trials by addressing challenges unique to pediatric populations to increase accessibility, speed and scientific impact; or
    - Aims to improve pediatric clinical trials by streamlining regulatory approvals.

Priority Area:

- A novel idea for innovative research that could lead to advanced studies, better delivery of treatment or clinical translation.

The following will not be reviewed:

- Grants that have no direct relevance to pediatric cancer nor fall within the scope of A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program.
- Proposals for infrastructure programs.
- Incomplete applications and/or applications received after the deadline.

III. Award Information

Outside the Box Grants award up to $50,000 for one year of support. One-year grants will receive two installments, one every six months.

IV. Request for Continued Funding

Applicants may request additional funding for a project previously funded under the Outside the Box Grant mechanism. After the one-year award period, the applicant will be required to submit a new full application under one of the following grant mechanisms: Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant, Independent Investigator Grant or Consortium Grant. The new application will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

V. Grants

The awarded funds must be used for the specific purpose for which they are granted unless written permission is received from the funding organizations.

We will not fund grants for the construction of buildings, remodeling of laboratories or purchase of land. We will not fund human embryonic stem cell research. We do not pay indirect costs. If there are any additional questions about the definition of indirect costs, contact the Grant Manager.

Applications will be reviewed through the Medical Advisory Board peer-review process.

VI. Post-Award Requirements

Each funding organization has pledged to regularly report to its supporters how their donations are being used. The goodwill felt by these donors generates continued income for future grant funding.

Therefore, all award recipients must adhere to the following requirements:

A. Reports

Interim Report

Prior to the authorization of any funding installment after the first funding installment of a grant award, the principal investigator must complete an interim report using the web form in Proposal Central stating the specific aims, studies and results, significance, plans and a layman's summary.

A written statement on the value of the grant to their research is also required. In addition, principal investigators must submit a financial report utilizing the provided financial report template.

Final Report

No later than 60 days following the end of the award period, principal investigators must provide a final progress report using the web form in Proposal Central stating the specific aims, studies and results, significance and a layman's summary. A written statement on the value of the grant to their research is also required. In addition, principal investigators must submit a final financial report utilizing the provided financial report template.

B. Publications

Each funding organization requires principal investigators to cite the organization as a funding source in peer-reviewed publications and presentations arising from this award program. Principal investigators should also acknowledge the funding organization in non-peer-reviewed presentations and articles about their research in student newspapers, alumni newsletters, institutional magazines, etc.

C. Miscellaneous Information – Action Required

Funding a proposal authorizes each Collaborative Organization to use the applicant's name in soliciting contributions to fund its cancer research and educational programs.

Funding of a proposal also authorizes each Collaborative Organization to link to the applicant institution's website. We understand that your web master must approve all links, and we agree to contact you if the application for your institution is funded so that we can make appropriate arrangements to link to your site.

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research (Rally) serves as the grant administrator for A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program and its partner organizations: Arms Wide Open Childhood Cancer Foundation, Infinite Love for Kids Fighting Cancer and Kids Join the Fight.

If you are funded by one or more of the Collaborative Organizations, it is imperative that your institution properly document and recognize each individual organization.

VII. Proposal Central Guidance

- Applicants must submit proposals electronically through Proposal Central, an electronic grant submission system provided by Altum, Inc: https://proposalcentral.com/.
- If the applicant is a new user in Proposal Central click the link: "Need an account?" and complete the registration process.
- If the applicant is already registered in Proposal Central, access the site and log in. If the applicant has forgotten their password, click on the "Forgot your password?" link. Supply the associated email address in the space provided; a link to reset the password will be sent by email.
- After logging in, update or complete the Professional Profile (fourth tab from the left) before starting an application.

- To start the application, select the Grant Opportunities tab (sixth tab from the left). A list of opportunities will be displayed. Find the A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program grant you wish to apply for (Outside the Box Grant) and click the "Apply Now" link (second to last column) to start your application.
- For any difficulties logging in or creating an application, contact Proposal Central Customer Support at 1-800-875-2562 or +1 703-964-5840 or email at pcsupport@altum.com.

Format Specifications for Text

Arial font size 11-point should be used for all documents. Applications that are incomplete, typed in a smaller font size or not adhering to the page limits will be rejected administratively. Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. For text boxes, character limits in Proposal Central include spaces.

VIII. Guidelines for Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission

Electronic Submission Deadline – September 12, 2025 at 3:30 PM EDT

Specific instructions for the LOI are available in Proposal Central upon starting the LOI application. All templates and requirements will be available in Proposal Central.

IX. Guidelines for Full Application Submission

Electronic Submission Deadline – January 6, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST

Full applications will be available in Proposal Central to invited applicants in November 2025. All templates and requirements will be available in Proposal Central upon approval of a LOI.

A. Layman's Summary (2,000 characters)

This will help each funding organization's Board of Directors evaluate the recommendations of the Medical Advisory Board. Provide a one-half page layman's summary in *plain language*, suitable for a general audience. Please refer to the NIH guidelines for plain language summaries: https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/clear-communication/plain-language/plain-language-getting-started-or-brushing.

B. Scientific Summary (2,000 characters)

A separate one-half page summary of the research objectives and rationale.

C. Other Support

Provide the applicants recently completed (within three years), current and pending support, including all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all their research endeavors.

D. Human Subjects

Certification for protection of human subjects should be obtained for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Copies of relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including I.R.B. approval letter or proof of pending submission of I.R.B. as soon as

possible. Please refer to NIH guidelines for human subjects' regulations: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/humansubjects.htm.

E. Vertebrate Animals

Certification for protection for the care and treatment of laboratory animals is required for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Relevant documentation must accompany the proposal, including an I.A.C.U.C. approval letter or proof of pending protocols.

F. Budget

Complete the Budget Period Detail by providing project costs for the budget period (year). The budget should only reflect project costs specifically supported by the Collaborative Organizations, up to $50,000. This may represent only a portion of the larger project's costs. We will not pay indirect costs. A detailed budget justification of direct costs limited to 5,000 characters should be provided in the Budget Summary section of the proposal.

G. Biographical Sketch

Principal investigators, primary scientific mentors, as applicable, and co-investigators should include a biographical sketch formatted to the Revised October 2021 NIH guidelines.

H. Research Plan (limited to six pages)

Please keep these questions in mind as you organize items 1-3 below:

- What do you intend to do?
- Why is the work important?
- What has already been done?
- How are you going to do the work?

1. Specific Aims

State concisely the goals and specific objectives of the proposed research and the clinical impact that the results of the proposed experiments will have on the advancement of the pediatric cancer research field. State the hypotheses to be tested and relevance to the funding priorities listed in Section II of these Guidelines.

Only proposals which are directly related to the Section II priority areas and funding pediatric cancer research and education programs will be considered.

2. Research Strategy

a. Significance

Describe the importance of the problem and the progress in the field that the proposed studies will address. Explain research to date that has led to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the need that the project is to fill. State the significance of your proposed project with respect to the pediatric cancer research by relating the specific aims to the goals and long-term objectives.

b. Innovation

Provide a detailed explanation of the innovations that are included in the proposal. Explain how the application seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies and instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used and elaborate on any advantages over existing methods.

c. Experimental Approach and Research Design

Describe the experimental approach to the research question and state the procedures and methods to be used in achieving the specific aims. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Specify any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised. Reviewers will heavily weigh the feasibility of carrying out the project in the projected time span, analyzing any potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and specific aims.

H. Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Career Plan (limited to one page)

Postdoctoral and clinical research fellow applicants only should describe a long-term career plan and elaborate on how the successful completion of the proposed research would benefit his/her career goals in the pediatric cancer field.

I. Relevant References (limited to one page)

List all references in "Nature" format. Limit the references to relevant and current literature. It is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

J. Letters of Support

Postdoctoral and clinical research fellows include letters of support from the scientific mentor and the department head. Young investigators include a letter of support from the department head. All applicants include any appropriate letters of support from all individuals serving as collaborators or consultants confirming their role(s) in the project.

K. Application E-Signatures

The applicant and the institution's Signing Official must log into Proposal Central to e-sign the application. This e-signature is required for the submission of the application and must be completed before the deadline.

GRANT RENEWAL
GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

I. Eligibility

- All principal investigators with a one-year Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant, Independent Investigator Grant or Consortium Grant funded by the Collaborative Organizations beginning July 1, 2025.
- Principal investigators do not need to be U.S. citizens or located at an U.S. institution.
- A principal investigator's institution may be a hospital, university or private lab.

II. Priority Areas

The application must address at least one of the following priority areas related to cancer in children, adolescents and/or young adults up to age 24 (see Section V. Grants for age ranges):

- Innovative approaches to research that could lead to advanced studies, better delivery of treatment or clinical trials.
- Basic science studies that are likely to lead to a new discovery.
- Under-studied cancer types.
- Quality of life, survivorship and palliative care studies.
- Personalized, targeted, alternative or integrative research proposals.
- Data utilization through data standardization, collection, storage, analysis and sharing.

The following will not be reviewed:

- Grants that have no direct relevance to pediatric cancer nor fall within the scope of A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program.
- Proposals for infrastructure programs.
- Incomplete applications and/or applications received after the deadline.

III. Award Information

Award Amount

Grant Renewals will be funded at the same level as the prior year: Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grants and Independent Investigator Grants up to $50,000 and Consortium Grants up to $100,000 for one year of support. One-year grants will receive two installments, one every six months. Grant Renewal applications will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

IV. Request for Continued Funding

Applicants may request additional funding for a project previously funded by the Collaborative Organizations. After two years of consecutive funding for a specific project, the applicant will be

required to submit a new Letter of Intent that will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

V. Grants

The awarded funds must be used for the specific purpose for which they are granted unless written permission is received from one of the Collaborative Organizations.

The Collaborative Organizations will fund cancer research for the following populations: childhood (0-14), adolescent (15-19) and young adult (20-24).

We will not fund grants for construction of buildings, remodeling of laboratories or purchase of land. We will not fund human embryonic stem cell research. We do not pay indirect costs. If there are any questions about the definition of indirect costs as applicable to the Collaborative Organizations, contact the Grant Manager.

Applications will be reviewed through the Medical Advisory Board peer-review process.

VI. Post-Award Requirements

Each Collaborative Organization has pledged to regularly report to its supporters on how their donations are being used. The goodwill felt by these donors generates continued income for future grant funding. Therefore, all award recipients must adhere to the following requirements:

A. Reports

Interim Report

Prior to the authorization of any funding installment after the first funding installment of a grant award, the principal investigator must complete an interim report using the web form in Proposal Central stating the specific aims, studies and results, significance, plans and a layman's summary. A written statement on the value of the grant to their research is also required. In addition, principal investigators must submit a financial report utilizing the provided financial report template.

Final Report

No later than 60 days following the end of the award period, principal investigators must provide a final progress report using the web form in Proposal Central stating the specific aims, studies and results, significance and a layman's summary. A written statement on the value of the grant to their research is also required. In addition, principal investigators must submit a final financial report utilizing the provided financial report template.

B. Publications

Each Collaborative Organization requires recipients to cite the organization as a funding source in peer-reviewed publications and presentations arising from this award program. Recipients should also acknowledge the Collaborative Organization in non-peer-reviewed presentations and articles about their research in student newspapers, alumni newsletters, institutional magazines, etc.

C. Miscellaneous Information – Action Required

Funding a proposal authorizes each Collaborative Organization to use the applicant's name in

soliciting contributions to fund its cancer research and educational programs.

Funding of a proposal also authorizes each Collaborative Organization to link to the applicant institution's website. We understand that your web master must approve all links, and we agree to contact you if the application for your institution is funded so that we can make appropriate arrangements to link to your site.

Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research (Rally) serves as the grant administrator for A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program and its partner organizations: Arms Wide Open Childhood Cancer Foundation, Infinite Love for Kids Fighting Cancer and Kids Join the Fight.

If you are funded by one or more of the Collaborative Organizations, it is imperative that your institution properly document and recognize each individual organization.

VII. Proposal Central Guidance

- Applicants must submit a Grant Renewal Deliverable electronically through Proposal Central, an electronic grant system provided by Altum, Inc: https://proposalcentral.com/.
- To start the Grant Renewal Deliverable, access the appropriate award record and select the Deliverable tab. Please note that the Grant Renewal Deliverable will only be available in Proposal Central in November 2025 to applicants who informed the Grant Manager of their intent to apply for continuation funding.
- If you have any difficulties logging in or accessing the Grant Renewal Deliverable, contact Proposal Central Customer Support at 1-800-875-2562 or +1 703-964-5840 or email at pcsupport@altum.com.

Format Specifications for Text

The Grant Renewal Deliverable utilizes a web form in Proposal Central and includes select documents. For text boxes, character limits in Proposal Central include spaces. Arial font size 11-point should be used for all documents. Applications that are incomplete, typed in a smaller font size or not adhering to the page limits will be rejected administratively. Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.

VIII. Letter of Intent (LOI) Bypass

Researchers eligible to submit a Grant Renewal bypass the LOI process. Researchers indicating in writing that they plan to submit a Grant Renewal will be provided access to the Deliverable in Proposal Central in November 2025.

IX. Guidelines for Full Application Submission

Electronic Submission Deadline – January 6, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST

Please note that the Grant Renewal Deliverable will be available in Proposal Central to applicants in November 2025. All templates and requirements will be available in Proposal Central.

A. Progress Report

1. Scientific Summary (2,000 characters)

A summary of the research objectives and rationale.

2. Specific Aims (2,000 characters)

The specific aims, as stated in the original funded application, should be re-stated. If the aims need to be modified or expanded, provide the revised aims and the rationale for the modification.

Only proposals which are directly related to a Section II priority area and funding pediatric cancer research and education programs will be considered.

3. Research Progress

a. Studies and Results (4,000 characters)

Describe the studies directed toward specific aims, as stated in the funded application, during the current funding period, and the results obtained. If applicable, address any changes to the innovative potential of the project. If technical problems were encountered in carrying out this project, describe how the approach was modified.

b. Research Plans (4,000 characters)

Summarize plans to address the specific aims during the next funding period. Include any pertinent modifications to the original plans.

B. Budget (required)

Use the budget forms provided in Proposal Central (PHS 398 Form Page 4 and 5). The budget should only reflect project costs specifically supported by the Collaborative Organizations. This may represent only a portion of the larger project's costs. We will not pay indirect costs. Form Page 4 should include one year of costs. Form Page 5 should reflect totals under each budget category for one year of support requested. In addition, Form Page 5 should provide a detailed budget justification for direct costs. Use a continuation page as needed but limited to one page.

C. Biographical Sketch (optional)

The principal investigator and co-investigator's biographical sketches, as applicable, are not required for the Grant Renewal application as reviewers will have access to the biographical sketches submitted as part of the previously funded full application. However, if there are updates that should be shared with reviewers, please provide the necessary biographical sketches formatted to the Revised October 2021 NIH template.

D. Figures (optional – limited to one page)

Up to one page of figures supporting the progress report.

E. Relevant References (optional – limited to one page)

List all references in "Nature" format. Limit the references to relevant and current literature. It is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed

research.

F. Other Support

Provide the principal investigators recently completed (within three years), current and pending support, including all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all their research endeavors.

G. Publications

If applicable, list the complete references to all publications and other printed materials and presentations that have resulted from the funded research during the current funding period.

H. Inventions and Patents

If applicable, list the complete references to all inventions and patents have resulted from the funded research during the current funding period.

K. Electronic Signature

The principal investigator and their institution's Signing Official must log into Proposal Central to e-sign the application. This e-signature is required for the submission of the application and must be completed before the deadline.