Grant Application Guidelines

A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program streamlines the grant process for researchers, reviewers and funding organizations. Members include national nonprofit organizations dedicated to eliminating childhood cancer through innovative research in pediatric oncology. For the 2027 grant cycle, 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
- Kids Join The Fight
- Luke Tatsu Johnson Foundation
- Mighty Millie Foundation

The Collaborative **considers applications addressing all types of childhood cancer for funding**. However, **designated funding is available in the 2027 grant cycle for**:

- Acute Myeloid Leukemia
- Diffuse Midline Glioma
- Neuroblastoma
- Medulloblastoma
- Rhabdomyosarcoma
- Sarcomas
- Wilms Tumor

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

2027 GRANT CYCLE DATES

CYCLE COMPONENT	DATE
Letter of Intent Opens	August 3, 2026
Letter of Intent Closes	September 14, 2026, 3:30 PM EDT
Full Application Opens (by invitation only)	November 9, 2026
Full Application Closes	January 8, 2027, 3:30 PM EST
Earliest Award Notification	April 1, 2027
Award Period Start Date	July 1, 2027

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 the Priority Area and one of the Focus Areas 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 may apply. 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 Fellow, Young Investigator or 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. Priority and Focus Areas

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

Priority Area:

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

Focus Areas:

1. **Wilms Tumor**
2. **Germ Cell Tumors**
3. **Patient Reported Outcomes as Scientifically Rigorous Endpoints in Clinical Trials**

   While survival outcomes are critical, they do not fully capture the patient experience of treatment impact on health-related quality of life. Patient reported outcomes (PRO) provide data that complement traditional clinical endpoints. However, gaps remain in the routine incorporation, analysis, dissemination and implementation of PRO data in clinical trials. Rally is interested in supporting research that generates actionable evidence and infrastructure to integrate patient-reported outcomes on symptoms, tolerability or health related quality of life as

standard, scientifically rigorous endpoints in pediatric and AYA oncology treatment or supportive care clinical trials. We invite applications that aim to address one of the following:

- Advance the effective incorporation of PROs across pediatric and AYA oncology treatment or supportive clinical trials by overcoming implementation barriers (i.e., investigator experience, patient burden, lack of consensus);
- Analyze existing clinical trial PRO data to support actionable evidence for the inclusion of PROs as a scientifically rigorous endpoint in clinical trials; or
- Analyze existing clinical trial PRO data to support the dissemination of PRO results back to patients.

4. Functional Precision Medicine for More Effective and Less Toxic Therapies

Precision oncology has transformed cancer care through genomic profiling; however, actionable genomic alterations are identified in only a subset of patients, and genomic information alone often fails to predict therapeutic response. Functional precision medicine offers a complementary strategy by directly measuring treatment response in living patient-derived tumor cells through drug sensitivity testing, organoid models, ex vivo cultures and other functional assays. Despite its promise, significant scientific, technical and implementation challenges remain. Rally is interested in supporting hypothesis-driven research studies necessary to establish functional precision medicine as a clinically actionable component of precision cancer care. We invite applications that aim to address one of the following:

- Advance functional precision medicine for more effective and less toxic therapies in children, adolescents and young adults with cancer;
- Overcome barriers to integrating functional precision medicine in the care of children, adolescents and young adults with cancer; or
- Advance the routine collection and preservation of high-quality biospecimens (i.e., tumor tissue, blood, bone marrow, other disease-specific samples) to enable personalized precision medicine for all pediatric cancers at diagnosis and relapse.

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 the construction, renovation or maintenance of buildings or laboratories, purchase of land, student tuition costs or institution recharges (i.e., data network, IT support, general auto liability, general employment liability, computer and network support, administrative and human resource support). 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 Senior Grants 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

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 all links must be approved, 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, Kids Join the Fight, Luke Tatsu Johnson Foundation and Mighty Millie Foundation. 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

- 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 14, 2026 at 3:30 PM EDT

Letter of intent applications will be available in Proposal Central on August, 3, 2026. All templates

and requirements will be available in Proposal Central.

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 applicant's 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. Biographical Sketch

Principal investigators, primary scientific mentors, as applicable, and co-investigators should include a biographical sketch.

E. Letter of Intent (limited to two pages)

1. Specific Aims
2. Rationale and Approach
3. Innovation
4. Potential for Translation Application and Future Patient Benefit

H. Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Career Plan (limited to a half 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.

F. Relevant References (limited to one page)

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.

G. 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.

IX. Guidelines for Full Application Submission

Electronic Submission Deadline – January 8, 2027 at 3:30 PM EST

Full applications will be available in Proposal Central to invited applicants in November 2026. 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 applicant's 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.

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)

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.