



Mission of CKC

Curing Kids Cancer funds innovative research to develop cutting-edge therapies for children with cancer in support of our overarching mission *to find cures for childhood cancers in our lifetime.*

Goal and Focus

The goal of these grants is to overcome barriers to the clinical application of new treatment approaches for childhood cancer. A priority is to fund projects that have already shown great promise, but that have a specific funding need to move forward. The main focus areas for this RFP are:

- Cancer immunotherapy or targeted therapy
- High-grade brain tumors or other difficult-to-treat pediatric cancers
- Epigenetic modifying therapy or gene therapy
- Correlative study endpoints on funded clinical trials

Applications of novel technologies (e.g. nanotechnology, omics, gene editing, bioinformatics, and AI) in these areas are welcome.

Eligibility

- Applications will only be accepted from Children's Oncology Group member institutions in North America (no citizenship requirements).
- Open to PIs at all academic ranks with MD and/or PhD
 - Applicants should hold a **faculty position** at a Children's Oncology Group member institution.
- **Limit of one application per institution for either the Collaborative or the Individual grant with the endorsement of the Chief(s) of the Division(s) of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology.**

Application Guidelines

Under one application, you will have an option to select one of the following.

- Types of one-year grants to be awarded:
 - o Individual: 1-2 individual grants of \$150,000 each will be awarded
 - o Collaborative: Up to 1 multi-institutional collaborative grant of \$300,000 will be awarded
 - **There must be at least 2 collaborating divisions of pediatric hematology/oncology from separate institutions.**
 - A collaborative project can either include a new proposal or a proposal where preliminary data has already been gathered.

***Funding of clinical trials is excluded with the following exception:**

Applications to fund correlative studies associated with clinical trials in the focus areas will be considered. Funding for the associated clinical trial must have already been secured and applications must include a description of the developmental pathway for the therapeutic approach.

- The NIH salary cap must be employed
- 10% indirect costs from the total award will be allowed (e.g., maximum \$15,000 indirect and \$135,000



direct costs per award)

- A second year of funding may be applied for but will require a full review

Dates

- Submission deadline: **Monday, September 14, 2026 by 12:00 PM**
- Awards will be announced at the end of the calendar year for a grant period of 1/1/2027 – 12/31/2027

Submission Requirements

Applications must be submitted via Proposal Central (<https://proposalcentral.com/>) and will include the following:

- A. Title page
- B. Key personnel (Co-PIs must be listed)
- C. Institutional contacts
- D. Lay abstract (2,500 characters or less, including spaces – approximately 250 words)
- E. Budget details- NIH budget format
- F. Budget justification (3,000 characters, including spaces – approximately 300 words)
- G. Organizational assurances (i.e., human subject and/or animal approvals)
- H. Only the following attachments will be accepted:
 - a) Project Proposal (4-page limit), to include:
 - I. Scientific Abstract
 - II. Background/Rationale
 - III. Design/Methods
 - IV. Significance/Impact
 - V. Environment
 - b) References (1-page limit)
 - c) Biosketches in NIH format (OMB No. 0925-0001 and 0925-0002) for PIs and Co-PIs (5-page limit)
 - d) Letter of endorsement from the division **chief of pediatric hematology/oncology**. For the Collaborative Grant, a signed letter of collaboration from all Co-PIs and a joint letter of support from **each institution's division chief are required**.
 - e) For correlative study proposals linked to **funded** clinical trials please include the protocol and the NCT number or IRB approval notice.

All attachments must be submitted as a PDF document. **No other attachments will be received or reviewed.**

Proposal Formatting

- Font: Arial, Times or Times New Roman, 11 point minimum
- Margins: 0.75 in minimum
- Top of each page should include
 - o PI (full name)
 - o Institution
 - o Abbreviated project title



Review Criteria

The reviews will use the NIH 9-point rating scale, with specific ratings on the following components:

- PI(s)
- Environment
- Innovation
- Clinical impact

We look forward to working with you to complete this grant cycle. What an exciting time to have the ability to fund research!

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gráinne Owen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gráinne Owen – Founder and President, Curing Kids Cancer

Dr. Alan Wayne – Co-chair, CKC Medical Advisory Board; Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Los Angeles/University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

Dr. Lee Helman – Co-chair, CKC Medical Advisory Board; Chair, Osteosarcoma Institute

**For technical questions regarding the online submission process, contact proposalCENTRAL Customer Service at (800) 875-2562 or via email at pcsupport@altum.com, during business hours, Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–5:00 PM (Eastern Time). There is no technical support available on weekends or holidays.*

**Any additional questions, please contact Madalynn Opper at madalynn@curingkidscancer.org and Anjali Howlett at anjali@curingkidscancer.org*