

PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2026 REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTENT



Institutional Priorities Overview

The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation's (PCRF) [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 this vision requires both honoring the progress we've made and addressing the obstacles that stand before us.

To drive meaningful change, PCRF is guided by 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.

In 2025, PCRF is currently funding over \$2.7 million in research and programmatic support. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to changing outcomes for patients and their families through innovative research.

Our investments prioritize the development of more effective therapies with fewer short- and long-term side effects, while also exploring the use of **AI and advanced technologies** to accelerate discovery and improve patient outcomes. In parallel, PCRF continues to expand support for **clinical trials and research that address disparities in care**, ensuring advancements are accessible and effective for children of all ages, backgrounds, and communities.

Looking Ahead: The 2026 PCRF Grant Solicitation

For the **2026 grant cycle**, PCRF will open funding **exclusively for Emerging Investigator Grants**, reflecting our commitment to supporting the next generation of pediatric cancer researchers and strengthening the future research pipeline.

These grants are designed to empower early-career investigators pursuing innovative, high-potential research aligned with PCRF's institutional priorities and focused on improving outcomes for children with cancer.

PCRF plans to **reopen the full grant cycle in 2027**, including **Translational Research Grants, Legacy Researcher Grants**, and additional funding opportunities. This phased approach allows PCRF to continue investing strategically supporting emerging talent now, while preparing for broader research investments in the next cycle.

By investing in early-career investigators today and expanding opportunities in future cycles, PCRF is building a strong, sustainable foundation for progress in pediatric cancer research.

Together, we are transforming possibility into progress and moving closer to a future where every child has the chance to beat cancer and live a full and vibrant life.

Research Grants Manual

The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation (PCRF) is proud to support four types of research grant categories 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

For the **2026 grant cycle**, PCRF will **accept Letters of Intent (LOI) exclusively for Emerging Investigator Fellowship Grants**. This focused cycle underscores our commitment to supporting early-career researchers and cultivating the next generation of leaders in pediatric oncology research.

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.

PCRF 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.

The **full research grant cycle will reopen in 2027**.

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:

- 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, 2026 and April 1, 2026 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.