

2023 Funding Opportunity Announcement

Healthy After Cancer: Childhood Cancer Survivorship Research Award

Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF) is a national nonprofit committed to finding safer, more effective therapies for kids battling cancer. Thanks to donors and partners around the country, we have contributed \$200 million to research, education and awareness, and quality-of-life programs for childhood cancer families. We believe kids deserve safer, less toxic treatments, and we're committed to funding groundbreaking research and services that enhance healing and care.

This award is intended to shape the future of cancer survivorship treatment and care. We invite applications that focus on improving the quality and quantity of life for childhood, adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. Our goal is to support development of interventions that prevent, minimize and address the late effects of cancer therapies.

Proposals to develop drugs or modalities meant to mitigate late effects, as the sole or primary focus, are eligible. Proposals to develop therapeutic approaches (new drugs, modalities, or regimens for treating cancer) are not eligible to apply. In addition, projects that propose to translate basic research into interventions, regardless of whether these take place during active therapy or later, are encouraged. Observational studies are welcome but are a lower priority, with the exception of those describing late effects (or early signs of late effects) among children receiving novel agents or therapies.

Key Dates

Funding announcement	Wednesday, May 31, 2023
LOI submission open	Thursday, June 8, 2023
LOI submission deadline	Thursday, July 6, 2023, noon Central time
LOI applicants notified	Thursday, July 20, 2023
Due date for applications	Thursday, August 31, 2023, noon Central time
Applicants notified	Notified on a rolling basis starting January 2024
Awards start	April 1, 2024

All applicants should review all necessary materials using the appropriate templates and forms. Failure to comply with the provided instructions may result in administrative rejection of the application.

Award Information

Application types	We will accept applications that are new or from a previous pilot study, and applications (R03, R21) that have been reviewed but not funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH).
Number of awards	Up to 2 awards; maximum of \$250,000 each may be funded
Award budget	A budget for total costs of up to \$125,000 per year may be requested
Award period	Maximum project period is 24 months

Allowable direct costs include: Salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, sub-contracts, equipment, & travel

- Salary is capped using the current NIH guidance
- Travel: Project-related travel as needed (must be fully justified); Up to \$2,000 per year
- Indirect costs of 10% are allowed
- All sub-contracts and collaborations must be described and well-justified
- Any equipment to be purchased with grant funds must be well-justified

Award requirements:

- Applicants must be PI-eligible at their sponsoring institution
- Awardees are required to commit at least 10 percent of their research effort each year to activities supported by this award
- Applicant U.S. citizenship is not a requirement
- Applications will be accepted only from US-based institutions

Call for Applications Requirements:

- Submission of a letter of intent (LOI) is required
- Follow all instructions and submit all required forms to avoid administrative rejection
- Applications may be rejected based on programmatic or administrative review
- Go to **childrenscancer.org/awards** for LOI/Application instructions and information on how to access the application submission system

We encourage applicants to contact CCRF staff with questions regarding eligibility requirements before submitting an LOI or application. Application questions should be submitted to grants@childrenscancer.org

Letters of Intent (LOI)

Submission of an LOI limited to 2 pages (excluding biosketch) is required for all applications.

LOIs will be peer reviewed and only those with sufficient merit will be invited to submit a full application. The CCRF Research Advisory Committee will make the final decision on invitations to submit full applications.

A submitted application must be substantially similar in focus to the eligibility requirements as described in the LOI.

LOIs and invited Applications must be submitted electronically using proposalCENTRAL. Go to **childrenscancer.org/awards** for LOI/Application instructions and information on how to access the application submission system.

Once an LOI is approved, the applicant will be notified and the application materials will be made accessible through the CCRF website.

The following components should be provided in 2 pages of the LOI:

1. Describe Principal Investigator current position and background
2. Provide a brief background of the research topic
3. Provide an abstract of the research proposal, including the significance, objective, hypotheses, specific aims, and methods to be employed
4. Applicants should describe how the proposal will address survivorship
5. Applicants should briefly describe their budget request
6. Attach PI NIH biosketch (not included in 2-page limit)

Resubmission of NIH unfunded applications

An original grant application submitted to NIH in 2019-2020 as an R03 (small grant) or R21 (exploratory/developmental research) is eligible under this funding announcement. An application not funded by NIH is eligible if it has been issued a summary statement from a previous review; scored 20th percentile or better, or an impact score 3 or better. An eligible applicant must register and submit an LOI.

Children's Cancer Research Fund

Research Grant Policies

Effective May 2023

Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF) is a national nonprofit committed to finding safer, more effective therapies for kids battling cancer. Thanks to donors and partners around the country, we have contributed more than \$200 million to research, education and awareness, and quality-of-life programs for childhood cancer families. We believe kids deserve safer, less toxic treatments, and we're committed to funding groundbreaking research and services that enhance healing and care.

With our 2023 research awards, we intend to support a variety of project areas including hard to treat cancers, cancer survivorship, and early career research awards. Specific details will be released in Funding Announcements.

1. Eligible Individuals (Principal Investigator)

Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Principal Investigator (PI(s)) is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Applicants need not be American citizens; however, they must have a paid appointment at an academic, medical, or research institution in the United States.

Anyone serving on the CCRF Research Advisory Committee is ineligible to apply for funding or to receive research support from a CCRF grant, for example as a co-investigator or consultant.

In general, the following positions may be designated as PIs in CCRF applications:

- All tenured and tenure-track Assistant, Associate, and Full Professors
- All Research Assistant Professors, Research Associate Professors, Research Professors, and Clinical Professors
- All Adjunct, Visiting, Emeritus, Lecturers or other faculty with the approval of their Department and Dean of the relevant School or College
- Post-Doctoral Fellows and other trainees are ineligible as PI but may apply for an Emerging Scientist Award

2. Eligible Institutions and Responsibilities

Any nonprofit research institution based in the US is eligible to apply. CCRF grants are intended for nonprofit institutions located within the United States. An applicant institution should have appropriate resources and infrastructure to support the proposed research, including:

- Adequate facilities and services to manage the award
- Fiscal and grants management infrastructure to support policies including protections for human and animal subjects (e.g., a sponsored-projects office or a contract with an IRB or IACUC).
- Human Subjects or IACUC approval is required as a condition of grant funding.

To signify agreement with grant policies, an application must be signed by an authorizing official of the institution. The institution is responsible for verifying that all documentation related to the application and grant is correct, including all representations made by any named researcher (e.g. position or title).

It is the responsibility of the institution to immediately report to CCRF any action including recertification, loss of certification, breach of contract, misconduct, or change in employment status for a named researcher with the institution. This includes PI administrative leave, which may occur during the term of any award pertinent to the work described in the grant application.

All applicants should review the Funding Announcement Instructions, and complete all necessary materials using the appropriate templates and forms. Failure to comply with provided instructions may result in administrative rejection of the application. Failure to abide by the terms above, or by any other CCRF policy or procedures, may result in suspension or cancellation of the grant, at the sole discretion of CCRF.

3. Peer Review of Applications

Each peer review committee includes leaders who are appropriate scientific experts. Reviewers will conduct an independent and confidential review. The top scoring applications will be recommended for funding. After considering the relative merit of the applications, the amount of available funds, and the CCRF objectives, the Research Advisory Committee will review the recommendations and the CCRF Board will approve grants for funding.

4. Scientific Merit Score

CCRF uses the scientific merit categories and rating scale similar to the NIH. Scientific merit scores are assigned by reviewers after evaluating applications in relation to specific grant criteria. Scientific merit scores are assigned according to the following scale:

Score	Descriptor	Strengths/Weaknesses
1	Exceptional	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5	Good	Strong with at least one moderate weakness
6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
9	Poor	Very few strengths and a few major weaknesses

Reviewers assign scores as whole numbers and base their rating on analysis of the proposed research in light of the review criteria. Reviewers are instructed to use the full range of scores. Applications are not compared with one another, but rather each is evaluated according to its potential for advancing the state of knowledge in its particular area.

5. Number of Applications

Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct. However, CCRF will only accept one application from a PI each calendar year.

6. Resubmission of NIH unfunded applications

An original grant application submitted to NIH in 2019-2021 as an R03 (small grant) or R21 (exploratory/developmental research) is eligible under this funding announcement. An application not funded by NIH is eligible if the following conditions apply: it has been issued a summary statement from a previous review; scored 20th percentile or better, or an impact score 3 or better. An eligible applicant with an unfunded NIH application must register and submit an LOI.

7. NIH Salary Cap applies to CCRF grants

Budgets created for CCRF funding should adopt the NIH salary cap (currently \$203,700). A salary cap is defined as a maximum annual rate of salary for full-time effort that can be charged to an award.

8. Letters of Intent (LOI) process

Submission of an LOI is required for certain grant types – see specific Funding Announcement for complete details. LOIs will be reviewed in a 2-step process: CCRF staff will verify consistency with the application requirements. If approved by program staff, LOIs will be peer reviewed. The top scoring LOIs will be invited to submit a full application. A submitted application must be substantially similar in focus to the eligibility requirements as described in the LOI, or will be rejected.

We encourage applicants to contact CCRF staff with questions regarding eligibility requirements before submission. Application questions should be submitted to grants@childrencancer.org

Once an LOI applicant is invited to submit an application, the materials will be made accessible through a link on the CCRF website.

Applicants should review instructions and complete all necessary materials using the appropriate templates and forms. Failure to comply with provided instructions may result in administrative rejection of the application.

9. Progress Reports and Final Reports

Scientific progress reports should be submitted 6, 12, and 18 months after the grant is awarded. Both final reports and progress reports are due within 60 days of the due date. Grantees should submit reports in a timely fashion or request an exception. Noncompliance may result in withholding of payments.

Each progress report should focus on the activity since the previous report. Financial reports of expenditures are due 12 months from the grant award date. The final report should include details of all

financial expenditures and a scientific report for the full grant period. Any exception will extend the 60-day deadline.

10. Expenditures and Indirect Costs

Our research grants are not intended to cover the total costs of the proposed research. The institution is expected to provide facilities and administrative support. We allow indirect costs calculated as 10% of total direct costs.

11. No cost extension (NCE)

A no-cost extension (NCE) extends a research project beyond the original end date. Grantees must submit NCE requests, using the template provided by CCRF, at least two (2) months prior to the original end date. NCE requests should be emailed to grants@childrenscancer.org.

12. Use of embryonic stem cells and fetal tissue

CCRF does not fund research utilizing embryonic stem cells or fetal tissue.