



Application Guidelines for the 2026 Accelerating Impact for Hard-to-Treat Cancers Award

Applications focused on Ewing sarcoma are especially encouraged, highlighting an area of special interest for the 2026 grant cycle. Applications addressing other eligible hard-to-treat cancer types are also welcome. All applications will be evaluated equally and fairly through our rigorous peer review process.

Please note that Children's Cancer Research Fund permits investigators to submit only one Letter of Intent as Principal Investigator per calendar year. Applicants are encouraged to review all available grant mechanisms before applying.

Further details on our Research Grant Policies can be found below. We encourage applicants to contact CCRF staff with questions regarding eligibility requirements. Questions should be directed to grants@childrenscancer.org.

Letter of Intent Due: March 2, 2026 (by 8:00 p.m. Eastern)
Full Application Due: June 8, 2026 (by 8:00 p.m. Eastern)



About Children's Cancer Research Fund

In 1979, 13-year-old Katie Hageboeck was nearing the end of her 16-month battle with leukemia. Before she died, Katie asked that her savings for a new 10-speed bike be given to Children's Cancer Research Fund, a little-known fund at the University of Minnesota. Since 1981, Katie's parents, Diana and Norm, have made it their mission to support groundbreaking research.

Today, Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF) is a national nonprofit focused on funding transformational research to bring better treatments and cures to children with cancer. Thanks to donors and partners around the country, we have contributed more than \$235 million to research, education and awareness, and quality-of-life programs for childhood cancer families. We believe children deserve safer, less toxic treatments, and we're committed to funding groundbreaking research and services that enhance healing and care.

Accelerating Impact for Hard-to-Treat Cancers Award Description

Treatment success against hard-to-treat cancers has remained out of reach. This grant mechanism supports basic and translational studies. Projects may include pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology. With this award, we intend to support projects that enable the prevention, early detection, treatment, and improvements of outcomes for pediatric cancers that remain hard-to-treat. Only pre-clinical research is eligible. Clinical trials focused on hard-to-treat cancers are eligible via a separate funding mechanism.

For this funding opportunity, hard-to-treat is defined as a 5-year survival less than 70% in an individual cancer (e.g. osteosarcoma, AML, DIPG), in a cancer with unfavorable behavior (e.g. relapse or metastasis), or in a molecularly defined subtype (e.g. MLL rearranged leukemia, PAX3-FOXO1 rearranged RMS). Cancers with survival <70% in demographic groups defined by age, sex, or race/ethnicity may also qualify, provided a biologic hypothesis is being pursued.

Applicants must demonstrate that the cancer(s) they propose to study are consistent with this definition of hard-to-treat and with scientific literature.

Letter of Intent & Application Timeline

LETTER OF INTENT DUE	MARCH 2, 2026, BY 8:00 P.M. ET
INVITATION TO SUBMIT FULL PROPOSAL	APRIL 29, 2026
FULL PROPOSAL DUE	JUNE 8, 2026, BY 8:00 P.M. ET
NOTIFICATION	DECEMBER 2026
AWARD STARTS	NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2027



Award Information

Application Types

We will accept applications that are new or from a previous pilot study. We will also accept applications (R03, R21) that have been reviewed but not funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We will also consider proposals that were awarded, but later cancelled, by the NIH as long as they correspond to the requirements of this funding mechanism. (See Resubmission of NIH Funded Applications below for additional information).

Number of Awards

Funding of awards will be dependent on the availability of funds.

Award Period

Maximum project period is 24 months.

Award Budget

A budget for total costs up to \$125,000 per year may be requested. This includes indirect costs of up to 10% of direct costs.

Clarifications:

- Allowable direct costs include salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, sub-contracts, publication costs, equipment & travel expenses.
- CCRF adheres to the NIH salary cap for Principal Investigators.
- Project-related travel is allowed as needed and must be fully justified. Up to \$2,000 per year for conference travel.
- All sub-contracts and collaborations must be described and well-justified.
- If utilizing a subcontract, the PI's institution is responsible for disbursing subcontract funds.
- Any equipment to be purchased with grant funds must be well-justified.
- Indirect costs of 10% of direct costs are allowed.

Applicant Eligibility & Requirements

- Applicants must be eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator at their sponsoring institution.
- Applicant institutions must be based in the United States.
- Applicants are not required to be United States citizens.
- Awarded PIs are required to commit at least 10 percent of their research efforts each year to activities supported by this award.
- Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required.
- Co-Investigators and/or collaborators are permitted, but the award must be made to a single institution which will act as the grant administrator.
- Applicants' organizations may submit more than one application, provided each application is scientifically distinct. However, CCRF will only accept one LOI from a PI each calendar year.
- Applicants should review all necessary materials and use the appropriate templates and forms. Failure to comply with the instructions provided may result in programmatic or administrative rejection of your Letter of Intent (LOI) or full application.