



Child Health Research Institute

 University of Nebraska
Medical Center

 Children's
NEBRASKA

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS Child Health Research Institute (CHRI) MD / PhD Collaborative Pilot Grants

PURPOSE: The Child Health Research Institute (CHRI) is dedicated to fostering transformational collaborations between investigators that elevate child health research. This RFA seeks to support the partnership between a CHRI MD researcher and CHRI PhD researcher.

This initiative aims to foster innovative research that advances child health research by combining the clinical insight of an MD with the specialized knowledge and training of a PhD researcher. The research should be designed to generate impactful results with clear potential benefits for improving health outcomes in children. We encourage multidisciplinary approaches that leverage the unique domain expertise of both investigators.

AWARD DESCRIPTION: We anticipate two awards will be given, with one specifically focused on pediatric cancer. Awards will be for up to \$50,000 for one year. A no-cost extension for a second year is possible using our no-cost extension request process.

ELIGIBILITY:

- MD Investigator: Must hold an MD or equivalent degree and be a full member of CHRI.
- Non-clinical PhD Investigator: Must hold a PhD or equivalent and be a full member of CHRI.
- Event Attendance Requirement: Both investigators must register for and attend the CHRI Scientific Conference on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha, NE.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- RFA Announcement: October 1, 2025
- Both investigators must register and attend the CHRI Scientific Conference. Early Bird deadline is October 14. Regular registration open until November 25. [Conference Webpage with Registration.](#)
- Submission Deadline: February 15, 2026
- Award Announcement: March 20, 2026

APPLICATION SUBMISSION: All applications must be submitted using the online [CHRI Grant Application](#). Please select the MD/PhD Collaborative category for type of application for this grant. See the link there for the *CHRI Grant Guide* for specific application instructions, including budgetary limitations.

Assistance with preparation of the budget is available from CHRI. For projects that intend to request Pediatric Research Office resources or personnel, completing the [CHRI Intake Form](#) at least one week in advance of submitting an application is required. Statistical support may also be requested using the CHRI Intake Form. This level of support may require more than one week prior to the submission deadline.

REVIEW PROCESS: The CHRI Grant Review Committee will review all applications. Applications will be evaluated according to significance of the project, innovation, investigator expertise, research approach, available resources, overall impact, and the team science demonstrated between the MD & PhD co-investigators. A statistical analysis plan is recommended, if appropriate to the project.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Priority will be based on the following criteria:

- Team science



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- Scientific merit
- Innovation and significance
- Alignment to Nebraska's needs in child health research

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: The successful Principal Investigator must submit a progress report at 6 months and 12 months after starting the project. A [PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report](#) should be included in the progress reports, if applicable. The final report should include plans for submitting applications for extramural funding and any awards successfully competed for due to this project. It is expected that results from this research will be presented at one or more CHRI sponsored event(s) (CHRI Pediatric Research Forum, CHRI Conference and/or CHRI Pediatric Research Seminar Series) in 2026 or 2027.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Applications must be submitted by January 15, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

Applications must be submitted electronically using the CHRI submission form (link above).

For additional information contact: Jackie Ostronic, CHRI Programs/Operations Manager
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