



**FY 2027/28 Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund
House Bill 6 Research Grant Program
DUE DATE: September 2, 2025**

Note: a separate House Bill 1 Funding announcement for family support projects is expected to be released on May 20, 2025

Research Request for Applications

OUR MISSION

To make childhood cancer a state health priority and give all Kentucky children access to new and innovative cancer research, development, and precision treatment — with less toxicity — while encouraging psychosocial support and focus on the complicated issues of long-term survivorship. These efforts target the needs and challenges specific to Kentucky childhood cancer epidemiology and treatments but hope to serve as a national model for how other states approach childhood cancer research.

OUR VISION

To serve as an umbrella organization to organize all pediatric cancer work across the state. It is not designed to compete with other organizations but to augment and elevate collaborative efforts; and, to serve as a reservoir of collaboration and information so that all efforts are amplified through an organized channel eliminating silos and fostering innovation with compassion and collaboration.

HISTORY

The Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund (KPCRTF) was established in 2015 by passage of Senate Bill 82 in the Kentucky General Assembly and funded in the amount of \$2.5 million each year of the biennium as part of the budget bill in 2018. The KPCRTF is an independent board administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, as described in KRS 211.596 and KRS 211.597. Eligible grant applicants include non-profit entities, educational institutions, and government agencies in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Each applicant must offer research or treatment that seeks to address the needs of the Commonwealth.

The following program/service criteria to be considered:

- Eligible applicants for this Request for Applications (RFA) are limited to the University of Louisville/Norton Children's Hospital and the University of Kentucky/Kentucky Children's Hospital (as described in HB 200) as well as non-profit entities, educational institutions and government agencies in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- Must be relevant to the mission of the Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund Board;

- Must propose to address the following areas that the Board has identified (research and/or treatment);
- If necessary, based on the phase and scope of the project, researchers must have institutional and CHFS approval (HIPAA waiver granted/internal review board (IRB) approval) by June 30, 2026; receipt of funds are contingent on IRB approval if IRB approval is determined to be necessary;
- Must have conflict of interest disclosure submitted by April 1, 2026;
- Must outline how intellectual property will be shared to impact state, national and international childhood cancer mortality and morbidity;
- First preference will be to emerging, novel, and innovative high risk/high impact proposals with scientific research that can be quickly translated into new treatments for Kentucky children;
- Investigators must commit to providing testimony and information as requested by the KPCRTF Board and Kentucky General Assembly to include legislative hearings as well as content for the KPCRTF Annual Report;
- Investigators agree to attend, as requested and necessary, meetings of the KPCRTF Board;
- Investigators agree to provide Return on Investment (ROI) information as requested by PCRTF;
- Individual applications shall be submitted for each proposed project;
- Contracts will be awarded for two fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028;
- Funds will be awarded contingent upon funding approval during the 2026 legislative session; and,
- Modifications to the original project proposal will be considered by the Board if research is failing to produce expected outcomes. Researchers will be allowed to propose a different project to the Board for consideration for continued use of funds.

Grant recipients are selected within 120 days of the application deadline. It is the intent of the KPCRTF to support novel research and avoid a duplication of funding for the same work due to limited resources for childhood cancer research nationwide. Funding is for the direct costs related to the implementation of the proposed and approved research project. Direct costs include personnel, salary/fringe benefits, supplies, and equipment exclusive to work in the pediatric oncology field. Support for salary must not exceed percentage related to the research proposed. Travel costs and indirect costs are excluded from funding.

Progress reports must be submitted on an approved KPCRTF template on six-month intervals and at the end of the funding period. Failure to submit reports on a timely basis will disqualify the investigator from any future funding.

Please note that in research contracts consummated after May 1 2025, a provision regarding monetization of devices, diagnostics, services and therapies allows the KPCRTF to share in financial benefits with the researching organization. Additionally, any capital improvement, media recognition or publishing of KPCRTF funded projects will require credit as such.

The KPCRTF should be acknowledged when describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with KPCRTF funds:

- *Research publications*
- *Press releases and other public statements*
- *Other publications or documents about research that is funded by KPCRTF*
- *Requests for proposals and bid invitations*
- *And other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with KPCRTF money*

These types of products must include the following two statements;

- *A specific acknowledgement of KPCRTF grant support, such as "Research reported in this (publication/press release) was supported by Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund under award number (specific KPCRTF contract number(s) in this format: PON2 728 2400001000)*
- *A disclaimer that says: "The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund."*

Clinical research result sharing should adhere to the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Policy on Dissemination of NIH-funded Clinical Trial Information (NIH Guide Notice [NOT-OD-16-149](#)). Our goal is to share information and research so that all children have hope for a cure, no matter where they may live. All study results must be shared promptly with the scientific community and not be kept strictly for proprietary purposes. Failure to share study results may result in disqualification from future funding opportunities and/or a discontinuation of any funding yet to be disbursed under the current grant.

Institutions that receive funding shall submit an official letter certifying that receipt of KPCRTF Board support will not result in loss of funding, supplanting, or redirection of funds previously received by the pediatric oncology program and instead should be viewed as supplemental or new money in addition to existing resources.

Submissions to the KPCRTF Board for grant approval should not be considered confidential information and the submitting institution or organization agrees to release the KPCRTF Board and its' officers from any and all liability from the discussions, internet posting or consideration of all documents submitted.

Grant Application Format

Cover Page Format (not included in page limit)

This information should be on organization's letterhead and include the following categories/information:

- Full title of grant application
 - Shortened name of grant to be used in correspondence (5 words max i.e. IL Inhibition in Osteosarcoma)
 - Name, address, email, and phone number of principal investigator
 - Name, address, email, and phone number of secondary contact
 - Name, address, email, and phone number of each co-investigator
 - Total amount requested for FY 27, FY 28, and total amount requested for the full grant cycle
- Projects that request no more than \$250,000 per year of funding will be more favorably received; however, if more funding is required, this must be clearly justified in the proposal.

- Designate whether the proposal is a research proposal, educational proposal, or clinical improvement proposal
- One paragraph summarizing the purpose of the application (abstract)
- Lay summary of the proposal (one paragraph)
- List all acronyms used in the application and their definitions
- Name(s) of any subcontractors to be used
- Discuss whether internal review board (IRB) approval will be needed for this project and whether IRB approval is already in place.
- Signatures of primary investigator and institutional official

Grant Application Format (4 page limit)

Should include the following categories/information:

- Specific aims page outlining Hypothesis, Objectives (aims) of the project and Impact on the field
- Significance of project highlighting statement of need and a description of how the research findings can be translated into clinical practice.
- Innovation of the proposed research
- Experimental approach emphasizing Implementation Plan to meet objectives, Anticipated Project Timeline, and Evaluation Plan
- Potential barriers and alternative approaches addressing feasibility of meeting the objectives within the funding period
- Paragraph outlining list of deliverables of this application to be used in the contract including anticipated completion dates for each
- Statement of collaboration and information/resource sharing

Include separate documents for each of the following (not included in page limit)

- Budget broken down into two separate fiscal years as well as the total of each category, including a budget justification as well as a letter from the center director certifying that the primary investigator is an independent researcher who directs his/her/their own pediatric oncology research and manages his/her/their own project budget
- Biographical sketches of primary investigator and other major researchers involved in this project
- Letters of agreement with subcontractors
- References

The following scored criteria (NIH scale 1-9) will be utilized by the Scientific Peer Review Panel.

The KPCRTF Board will utilize an enhanced NIH scoring system and peer reviewed by leading pediatric oncologists representing multiple institutions ranked by the U.S. News and World Report review of pediatric oncology programs. The KPCRTF administrative staff will first review applications to ensure guidelines/formatting requirements are met. The Scientific Peer Review Panel will then review applications for scientific merit and score them based on adherence to program mission/vision and the NIH scoring system.

Grant applications may also be sent to physicians or investigators in the specific field of interest for review of the scientific merit. Final decisions will be made by the voting members of the KPCRTF Board as defined by legislative statute.

Copies of the completed KPCRTF Grant Review Critique Forms will be provided to applicants during awards notification process.

The following information provides detail on regulations of funding received by the Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund.

1. Projects that request no more than \$250,000 per year of funding will be more favorably received; however, if more funding is required, this must be clearly justified in the proposal.
2. Funding is for direct costs only. Purchase of food or travel are not approved expenses covered in the reimbursement process.
3. Other funding sources for this program or service including in-kind participation.
4. Grantees are required to include the following statement on **all** publications, presentations, and promotional materials: *"Supported by Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Funds"*.

Financial Reimbursement Process

1. **Monthly** invoice on activity performed by grantee shall be submitted to the Kentucky Department for Public Health, Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement, Chronic Disease Prevention Branch at Pediatric.Cancer@ky.gov
2. Invoice is reviewed by the Chronic Disease Prevention Branch for appropriate spending in accordance with the budget submitted.
3. Once invoice is approved for payment, a check will be processed within 30 days.
4. Financial site reviews will be performed as needed during the grant period. This will include a review of purchases made with grant funds, proof of receipt for line items included on approved budget, and the progress on the project.
5. The Board has the right to request proof of receipt at any time an audit is required/necessary. While receipts are not required with invoices for reimbursement, it is strongly recommended that grantees keep proof of receipt for all transactions.
6. Grantee will provide a summation of progress and achievement of outcomes at two KPCRTF Board meetings during both FY 27 and FY 28. Grantee will also provide a written progress report (utilizing a supplied template) by January 15, 2027, July 15, 2027, January 15, 2028, and July 15, 2028. Grantee should also be prepared to provide power point slides in July of each year in anticipation of a legislative update at the August interim joint Health and Welfare and Family Services committee meeting.
7. If project is failing, the intent of CHFS is to meet with the project lead to discuss the project. Project lead will be required to submit a corrective action plan to state staff within two calendar weeks of meeting.

References/Data Resources:

- KRS 211.595 – 211.597 Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund
<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/chapter.aspx?id=38167>
- 902 KAR 21:030 Pediatric Cancer Research and Treatment Grant Program
<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/Law/KAR/902/021/030.pdf>
- Kentucky Cancer Consortium, Cancer Action Plan: https://www.kycancerc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2019/08/KCC%20Action%20Plan%202019_revised_July26_2019.pdf
- American Cancer Society: <http://www.cancer.org/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/index.htm>
- Kentucky Cancer Registry website: www.kcr.uky.edu
- NIH Scoring Guidance: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/review/rev_prep/scoring.htm

- NIH RO1 Application Overview: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/write-application.htm>

Applications should be emailed to Pediatric.Cancer@ky.gov by close of business on September 2, 2025. An email confirming receipt will follow. If you do not receive this email by September 5, please contact Janet Luttrell at 502-564-6115.

Submissions and approval process:

1. Faxed or mailed copies will not be accepted.
2. Applicants will be notified by November 25, 2025, in writing, by email. A modified proposal may be requested. Grant agreements will also be distributed for signature by successful applicants and must be signed, submitted back to the Chronic Disease Prevention Branch and postmarked within two (2) weeks of receipt. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Feedback will be provided on all grant applications approved and not approved for funding.
3. Institutions that receive funding shall submit an official letter certifying that receipt of KPCRTF Board support will not result in loss of funding, supplanting or redirection of funds previously received by the pediatric oncology program and instead should be viewed as supplemental or new money in addition to existing resources.
4. Contracts will be developed based on successful applications and submitted for final approval. These contracts will be sent electronically to successful agencies for signature and must be returned to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to be fully executed.
5. CHFS Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and organizational/institutional IRB approval, when appropriate, is required prior to project implementation for research projects. All pertinent IRB approvals should be received and KDPH staff notified by June 30, 2026. ***Successful applicants should begin the IRB approval process as soon as grant approval notification has been received.***
6. A conflict of interest disclosure shall be submitted by successful applicants and approved by the KPCRTF Board, if necessary, by April 1, 2026;
7. Any grant recipient that is not making satisfactory progress toward meeting grant objectives shall be notified in writing that objectives are not being met. The grant recipient shall submit within thirty (30) days of receiving the notice a corrective action plan addressing the objectives that are not being met; and reimburse CHFS for grant funds received to date if the corrective action plan is not implemented.
8. If you have further questions, please contact the Kentucky Department for Public Health, Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement, Chronic Disease Prevention Branch at Pediatric.Cancer@ky.gov
9. Grantees are responsible for notifying the Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund staff with changes in grantee information including contact information. If any changes occur to address, email, phone number, contact name, etc... it is the grantees responsibility to inform CHFS of this change within ten (10) business days of the change.