



Child Health Research Awards Program Concept Paper Guidelines - September 2026 Funding Cycle

Funding Amount: \$200,000 over two years (\$100,000/year; inclusive of 10% indirect costs)

Award Period: September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2028

Online Application Deadlines:

- Concept Paper: *April 15, 2026 by 12:00 Noon Eastern Time*
 - Full Proposal (by invitation only): *July 7, 2026 by 12:00 Noon Eastern Time*
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Introduction

The Charles H. Hood Foundation is pleased to announce the 2026 Child Health Research Awards Program. Since inception, the program has supported the careers of **688 early career investigators** (as of the January 2026 funding cycle) whose work has advanced child health across basic, clinical, public health, and translational domains.

New in 2026, the program is implementing a **two-step review process**, beginning with a **Concept Paper**. Concept Papers will be evaluated by the Scientific Review Committee based on scientific merit, relevance to child health, and alignment with Foundation priorities. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Hold a **doctoral degree** and **lead an independent research program**.
- Hold a **faculty appointment** at a nonprofit academic, medical, or research institution in one of the six New England states (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT).
- Be employed at least **0.8 FTE** at the institution by the application deadline.
- Devote at least **20% effort** to the Hood-funded project.
- Be within **5 years (PhD)** or **7 years (MD/DO/physician-scientist)** of completing training at the time of application.
- *U.S. citizenship or permanent residency is not required.*

Research Focus

The program supports **hypothesis-driven** research relevant to child health in the following areas:

- Basic laboratory science
- Clinical investigation
- Public health
- Health services research
- Epidemiology

Collaboration with the Hood Pediatric Innovation Hub

The Trustees encourage, but do not require, applicants to consider incorporating resources available through the Hood Pediatric Innovation Hub (<https://hoodhub.mit.edu/>) when developing their Concept Papers. The Hub provides capabilities in device design and prototype manufacturing, as well as access to the Hub Data Center and the Hub Network & Outreach Center.

The Hub Data Center enables investigators to work with high-resolution neonatal and pediatric critical care datasets, including the Medical Information Mart for Intensive Care (MIMIC) (<https://mimic.mit.edu/>).

The Hub Network & Outreach Center supports projects that apply technology to expand access to pediatric expertise and care for underserved children, particularly those who face geographic or socioeconomic barriers to specialized care.

Applicants who anticipate accessing these resources as part of their Concept Proposal are encouraged to contact the Hood Foundation in advance.

Resubmission Policy

Applicants who previously submitted a full proposal and are eligible for resubmission based on the 2025 resubmission policy are eligible to submit a Concept Paper. We encourage the applicant to specifically address prior Scientific Review Committee comments in the Research Approach section of the Concept Paper.

General Instructions

Concept Papers **may not exceed 3 pages** (excluding the Face Sheet and one-page Anticipated Budget Summary).

Formatting requirements:

- Minimum 11-point font
- Standard typeface (Arial, Helvetica, Georgia, or Palatino Linotype)
- 1-inch margins recommended
- All figures and tables should be numbered and titled.
- Legends must adhere to the same standard fonts and be a minimum 10-point font.

Required components:

1. Face Sheet (1 page)

Use the provided template and complete all sections, including:

- Principal Investigator (name, degree, title, institution, email)
- Co-investigators (name, degree, institution)
- Project site(s)
- Signatures of Applicant and Authorized Institutional Representative

2. Concept Paper (not to exceed 3 pages)

Sections required:

A. Specific Aims (~1 page)

Please include:

- Brief background
- Scientific gap
- Central hypothesis
- 2–3 specific aims

B. Research Approach (~1.5 pages)

For each aim, describe:

- Study or experimental strategy, including sample size and power calculations, as appropriate
- Primary endpoints or outcomes
- Analytical approach
- Feasibility considerations

C. Impact and Relevance to Child Health (~0.5 pages)

Please address:

- Burden, prevalence, or severity of the problem
- How the work will advance understanding, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment
- Potential translational pathway and timeline

3. Anticipated Budget Summary (1 page)

Use the provided template. The purpose of requiring this to be included at Concept Paper stage is to ensure project feasibility within the \$200,000 Award amount. We understand estimated figures may evolve at Full Proposal stage.

Concept Paper Submission Instructions

Please be sure to review all instructions, frequently asked questions, and other guidance materials posted to [Apply For Child Health Research Grant – The Charles Hood Foundation](#) before beginning the application process.

All submissions must be completed electronically using the following link:
<https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/79453d51-2724-4552-9fe2-c31deecc96e8>

The online portion of this application process consists of an eligibility quiz followed by collection of basic applicant information. Then, applicants must upload each of the following items in PDF format (please see prior page for additional details):

- I. Application Face Sheet (1 page)
- II. Concept Paper (maximum 3 pages)
- III. Anticipated Budget Summary (1 page)

Please note that the system will not accept submissions without completion of all required application questions and these three uploads.

Full Proposal Submission Instructions

Full Proposals will be accepted by invitation only. Detailed instructions will be shared with those selected by the end of May 2026.

Additional Resources

These Guidelines, additional corresponding materials, and the link to submit a Concept Paper are available on the Hood Foundation's website at:
<https://charleshoodfoundation.org/research-grants/apply-child-health-grant/>.

We strongly encourage you to review all materials and reach out with any questions prior to submitting. In particular, please be sure to read through the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** document for more information, including:

- Definition and documentation of research independence
- Clarification of the 5- and 7-year eligibility windows
- Common scenarios involving training gaps or leaves
- Budget and effort requirements
- Program fit examples

For questions, contact:

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