



Child Health Research Awards Program Full Proposal 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

Submission Deadline (online and by invitation only): July 7, 2026 by 12:00 Noon Eastern Time

NOTE: Significant recent changes to the application process for this program:

1. Effective this cycle, Full Proposals will be accepted by invitation ONLY.

Applicants who submitted a Concept Paper in April will receive formal response and notification of next steps by the end of May.

2. Eligibility Windows

Up to seven years since completion of clinical training for **physician-scientists**, and up to five years since completion of postdoctoral training for **PhD scientists** without clinical roles. These Eligibility windows may be extended for applicants who welcomed new children into their family during their applicable timeframe. *(see details on page 3)*

3. Resubmissions: The Hood Foundation allows one resubmission, restricted to within one year of original application. See pages 5 and 7 for related requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: There are no limitations on the number of departmental or institutional submissions per grant cycle.

Overview

The Charles H. Hood Foundation was established in 1942 to improve the health and quality of life for children through grant support of New England-based child health researchers. The Foundation is proud to have launched the careers of over 600 promising junior faculty whose research findings have contributed to significant improvements in child health.

Research Focus

Projects must be **hypothesis-driven** with **direct relevance to child health**. This program supports research relevant to child health in the following areas:

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

Applicants must complete an **impact statement** describing the implications of their work. Basic science projects will describe project's relevance to child health or disease. For translational research, applicants will be asked to describe the next steps in moving the research along the translational research spectrum towards clinical application. For T4 or public health research, they will be asked to describe the implications for healthcare or public policy.

In addition, applicants must clearly convey their **commitment to advancing child health research**. This should be addressed in the Personal Statement section of the Applicant Biosketch. Reviewers and Trustees consider both the relevancy of proposed research and the career commitment of each applicant to child health very carefully, so it is important to describe both.

*Please note that studies focused solely pregnant women and/or prenatal exposures are not eligible. Projects using animal or human models to investigate postnatal outcomes, diagnosis, or treatment are eligible. As a matter of clarification, this restriction also applies to animal studies of pregnancy or prenatal development. Please inquire **before** submitting any application that involves prenatal development, or animal studies that correspond to prenatal human development.*

Eligibility Requirements

United States citizenship or residency is not required. All applicants must have completed their training at the time of application and be within five years (for PhD scientists) and seven years (for physician-scientists) of employment following conclusion of training. Applications from physician-scientists are encouraged.

All applicants must have a doctoral degree, lead an independent research program, hold a faculty appointment at a nonprofit academic, medical or research institution in the six New England states (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT) and be working in that institution by the application deadline.

The applicant must have demonstrated **research independence** confirmed by the Department or Division Chair. **Please note, Chair Letters not *directly* addressing the research independence of the applicant will be considered non-responsive to this requirement.**

Applicants may contact Charlene Mancusi at Charlene.Mancusi@CharlesHoodFoundation.org with questions regarding investigator-stage appropriateness.

The Department or Division Chair's letter of recommendation must include an assessment of the applicant's potential to succeed in a clinical, health services or basic science research career. In addition, the Chair must complete a form that confirms the applicant's independence as well as the **Institution's level of commitment to the applicant.**

A publication record substantiating the applicant's abilities should accompany the grant submission. Although this may not be available for new areas of inquiry, a demonstrated ability to plan, execute and report research data is an important consideration in evaluating potential for future success.

By the application deadline of 7.7.2026, applicants must be employed at least four days each week (0.8 full-time equivalent) at a nonprofit academic, medical or research institution in New England.

Applicants Holding a PhD or Equivalent

The five-year window begins on the first day of employment following completion of fellowship training, regardless of job title or place of employment. All previous faculty positions as well as any independent research position in a for-profit company, non-profit research institution or similar professional setting are included within the five-year window of eligibility.

The first paragraph of the Department or Division Chair's letter must document the dates of the final post-doc appointment.

Preference will be given to applicants who have established independent research environments.

Applicants Holding an MD or Equivalent

The seven-year window begins at the completion of an ACGME–certified subspecialty training program, or the equivalent for generalist fellowships. For physician-scientists who have not had fellowship training, the seven-year window begins at the completion of residency.

The difference in the eligibility window for MDs and MD/PhDs recognizes the need for mentored research training following the completion of clinical training.

The first paragraph of the Department or Division Chair's letter must document the start date of the subspecialty fellowship, if applicable, the date when fellowship training was completed, and the total number of years the applicant was employed following completion of training as described above.

Kindly note, in order for any fellowship to factor into eligibility calculations for the purposes of the Child Health program, that fellowship must meet the accreditation standards of ACGME or a similar authoritative entity.

Gaps in Work History, including Family or Medical Leave

If an applicant has been on medical or family leave, or if research was interrupted for other reasons, this period of absence does not count towards eligibility. In addition, the eligibility window will be extended by six months for each dependent child born or adopted by the applicant during that timeframe.

Please address any gaps in work history in the Personal Statement section of the applicant Biosketch. The Department or Division Chair's letter must also confirm both the duration of the leave of absence and applicant eligibility.

Minimum Percent Effort

All applicants are required to devote at least 20% effort to the proposed Hood research project. Percent effort may exceed the percent of total salary support requested from the Hood Foundation.

Concurrent, Pending and Post Award Funding

Child Health Research Awards are for the purpose of launching an investigator's career and are not intended for the support of an established investigator.

Current Federal and Non-Federal Support

Applicants may hold a K Award or be in the R00 phase of a K99/R00 as long as

- 1) Those Award amounts, combined with other funding, do not exceed the limits noted below; and
- 2) Applicants holding a current K Award must be within two years of the scheduled end date of that K Award to qualify for consideration for a Child Health Research Award.

Also please note, **Child Health Research Awards require research independence**, so applicants with any current mentored award (including K Awards) must:

- Provide the scheduled end date of the K or other Award; and
- Clarify their current level of independence in the Application, in the Applicant Independence / Institutional Commitment Form, *and* in the Chair's Letter of Recommendation.

Applicants are ineligible if, at the time of application, they have **combined federal and non-federal funding** totaling \$500,000 or more in direct costs during the first year of the Hood Award. This figure refers to external funding only and not an applicant's start-up package, other intramural support, or the Hood Award.

Applicants also are ineligible if they are currently or have previously received similar **large multi-year awards** (any individual award amount over \$1,000,000 in direct costs) from other federal agencies or national foundations.

In addition, applicants most likely will be considered ineligible if they are currently or have previously been designated as Principal Investigator or Co-P.I. on an R01, P01, Pioneer Award, New Innovator Award, or Early Independence Award.

If an R01 or similar Award that would otherwise be disqualifying was rescinded, the applicant must include a copy of the notice of cancellation or other amendment to that Award and in addition must specify any amount already expended from that Award.

Pending Federal and Non-Federal Support

Applicants who have pending R01s or other large applications to the NIH and other agencies are encouraged to submit proposals to the Hood Foundation.

If applicants are **notified on or prior to July 7, 2026** that they have been successful in securing federal or non-federal grant support that, combined with other support, totals \$500,000 or more in direct costs during the first year of the Hood Award, applications to the Child Health Research Awards Program will be ineligible for review.

Notification of funding **after July 7, 2026** will not impact eligibility for a Hood Award. **It is the responsibility of applicants to contact Charlene.Mancusi@CharlesHoodFoundation.org**

as soon as they are notified of any new funding.

Resubmission Policy

Every effort will be made to provide written feedback from the Scientific Review Committee to applicants, who may be invited to reapply **one time** following an initial application and **only during one of the next two semi-annual grant cycles immediately following the original submission**, so long as they continue to meet all other eligibility requirements. Please note that the resubmission will be considered alongside all other submissions received during that grant cycle; no special preference will be given to resubmissions and returning applicants must meet the eligibility requirements at the time of resubmission.

The resubmission may be on the same or a different topic as the original grant submission and **must include a one-page summary of changes in the resubmission that address the specific items noted in the original reviewer comments**. This page does not count towards the page limit for the research proposal. See application instructions for further details.

Award Selection Criteria

The following criteria are used to evaluate the applicant's career development:

1. Established an independent research career;
2. Potential for a future career in research relevant to child health;
3. How this proposal fits into the applicant's career trajectory and how it may advance their career development related to child health specifically; and
4. Institutional support and commitment to the applicant's research career.

The following criteria are used to evaluate the research proposal:

1. A clearly stated hypothesis, based on sound precedents and supported by relevant literature;
2. Clear and compelling indication of the direct relevance of the research study to child health;
3. Objectives that are technically feasible;
4. Personnel who are qualified to carry out the proposed research; and
5. Adequate project and institutional support.

Notification to Applicants

The online application system will notify applicants once the upload is received. Final notification of funding decisions will occur in Ju.

Please Note: If the applicant is unable to accept the Award, the Award may not be transferred to another investigator involved in the research project.

Publications

For any publications or presentations resulting from research funded by this Award, please acknowledge support from the **Charles H. Hood Foundation, Inc.**

Terms of the Award

Please download “Terms of the Award” from <https://charleshoodfoundation.org/research-grants/apply-child-health-grant/> for information regarding use of the Award funds, indirect costs, payment schedule, reporting schedule, and other Awardee and Institutional requirements.

Full Proposal Application Instructions

Please note, final Full Proposal application forms and submission links will be sent directly to those invited to proceed with that stage following consideration of their initial Concept Papers. The information below is provided as an informational reference only.

The following sections must be completed for the online submission:

1. **Institution’s Tax ID Number**
2. **Eligibility Quiz**
3. **Application Data:** Institution where proposed research will be conducted, applicant’s contact information and educational background.
4. **Research Project Information:** Project title, key words, scientific and non-technical project summaries, and impact statement.
5. **Certification:** Applicant’s initials to confirm accuracy of submitted information.
6. **REQUIRED: Application PDF (Upload):** The documents and forms listed in items *i – xiv* below must be combined and converted into ONE PDF file in the following order for upload. Name this document “LastName, FirstName.pdf” (e.g., Doe, Jane.pdf).
 - i.* **Application Face Sheet:** The Application Face Sheet must be completed and signed by the applicant as well as the Authorized Institutional Representative responsible for research oversight. Contact information for the Institutional Officer to Receive Funds must also be included.
 - ii.* **Table of Contents:** Follow the Table of Contents and number all pages.
 - iii.* **Research Project Summary and Performance Sites:** Complete this form according to the instructions at the top of that page. This summary will be posted on our website if the project is funded (*maximum of 300 words*).
 - iv.* **Non-Technical Project Summary:** Prepare a lay-language description of the proposed research that can be understood by the general public (*maximum of 350 words*).
 - v.* **Impact Statement:** Please describe the impact that the successful conclusion of this project would have on child health. For basic science projects, please describe the relevance to child health or disease. For translational research, please describe the next steps in moving the research along the translational research spectrum towards clinical application. For T4 or public health research, please describe the implications for healthcare or public policy (*maximum of 200 words*).

vi. **Applicant Independence / Institutional Commitment Form:** The Department or Division Chair must complete this form and forward it to the applicant for upload. Instructions for the Chair's letter of recommendation also are included on this form.

vii. **Applicant Biosketch:** Use the current NIH Biosketch format for the Principal Investigator. We recommend using SciENcv software to generate the biosketch, (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>). Make sure that all active and pending support matches the support listed on the "Current and Pending Support" Form that is included with the "Application Forms."

viii. **Current and Pending Support:** Use a separate form for each active or pending grant. If the grant is pending, include the date of notification. **If the Hood applicant is the PI on any current or pending grant, the Total Grant Amount (direct costs only) must be included when calculating "Total Active Grants" and "Total Pending Grants." If the Hood applicant is not the PI, include only those direct costs allocated to the applicant's research.** Clearly describe any scientific or budgetary overlap with the proposed Hood project and outline a plan to avoid duplication of funding.

ix. **Budget Forms A1 – C:** Complete these forms for both years of the project. For projects whose total costs exceed \$100,000 per year, list the other sources of support on Form B. Indirect costs (institutional overhead) may not exceed 10% of direct costs or up to \$9,091 per year. Total support from the Hood Foundation, including overhead, is \$100,000 per year. Please refer to "Terms of the Award" for budget guidelines.

x. **Research Proposal (maximum of 6 pages, excluding the bibliography of references):**

SPECIAL NOTE RE RESUBMISSIONS:

- *If the resubmission is on the same topic,* provide a response to reviewer critiques and summary of changes from the original application.
- *If the resubmission is on a new topic,* explain why changed and how it relates to your career trajectory. Also respond to any reviewer critiques from the original application which remain relevant to the new proposal.
- Place this information (*maximum of one page*) as the first item in the Research Proposal section prior to the Specific Aims. This page is not counted in the 6-page proposal limit.

Proposal sections should include:

Specific Aims; Background and Significance; Preliminary Data (*if available*); Research Design, Experimental Methods and Analytical Plan; Potential Limitations and Contingencies; Expected Outcomes and Future Directions; Relevance to Child Health; Project Timeline; and Bibliography. Any figures, graphs, tables, and images referenced must be included within the six pages. If needed, applicants may attach separate copies of all visuals included in the six pages to assist with legibility.

For all projects, if human or animal subjects are involved, justification of the sample size and a power calculation must be included.

Format the Research Proposal with minimum 11-point, standard font (Arial, Helvetica, Georgia, Palatino Linotype). Use single or double line spacing within paragraphs, double line spacing between paragraphs, and one inch or larger margins

on all four sides. Figures, legends and tables may use a font size of 8. Include the applicant's name at the top of each page.

- xi. Letter(s) of Collaboration / Confirmation of Outside Resources:** Collaboration letters must be forwarded to the applicant for inclusion in the document upload.

Applicants are required to submit letters confirming the availability of resources outside their institutions, and a letter confirming any significant collaborative relationship, either within or outside the applicant's institution. These are brief letters (**up to one page**) addressing the collaboration.

- xii. REQUIRED: Recommendation Letter from Department or Division Chair (Upload)**
As noted previously, Chair Letters not directly addressing the Research Independence of the applicant will be considered non-responsive to this requirement.

- xiii. REQUIRED: Letter from Postdoctoral Mentor or Residency Director (Upload)**
This letter should also include a section that addresses the applicant's potential to succeed in a health services, basic science or clinical research career.

- xiv. OPTIONAL: Third Letter of Recommendation (Upload)**
This letter may be from a past or current supervisor, mentor, or similar individual who may also be able to speak to the qualities noted above.

IMPORTANT: It is the Applicant's responsibility to monitor the status of the required recommendations prior to the application deadline. Applicants will not be considered for funding if the required two letters of recommendation are not submitted. *Please be advised, late letters will not be accepted.*

Direct any questions to:
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617-279-2230

(03/2026)