

Catalyst's Spark Award

Application Deadline: November 8, 2024

Award Project Period: 12 months

Award Amount (up to): \$100,000

Opportunity:

This is a one-year award for up to \$100,000 to support novel population health, implementation science, or community-engaged research. This should be an innovative research project that results in pilot data to support a competitive future extramural funding application with a community, population health, or outcomes focus. All concepts will be weighted using the following priority criteria:

- Proposal engages diverse stakeholders including communities, patients, and families.
- Proposal clearly articulates planned engagement with SCHORE Catalyst
 - Interested investigators should contact [Michelle Macy](#), Director, Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Child Health Outcomes, Research, and Evaluation Center and Scientific Director, Community, Population Health, and Outcomes, for consultation on Catalyst's expertise and resources.
- Investigators without significant pre-existing funding.
- Investigators without evidence of long-standing research effort in direct line of the proposed area of study.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Must be a faculty member or other person who has PI-eligible status.
2. Each investigator may only submit one application per award type as the program lead.
3. Previous IGA recipients must have provided progress reports for all prior IGA funding.

Application Requirements:

- Letter of Support from Program Leader/Division head addressed to President and Chief Research Officer. The letter should include:
 - The level of commitment (i.e., applicant's protected time for research project)
 - Proposal title and award type
 - Name of the target granting agency for extramural support for the proposed project
- Research summary (30 lines maximum)
- Relevance to Children's Health Statement (3-4 sentences maximum)
- A statement of planned collaboration with Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Child Health Outcomes, Research, and Evaluation Center (SCHORE) Catalyst (1 page maximum)
- Key personnel table that includes:
 - Name, Institution, Role in the project, Expertise to grant and year began collaboration (1 page maximum)

- Current NIH biosketches and Other Support documents from each key collaborator
- Research Plan: (5 page maximum including figures; citations are not included in the page limit)
 - Specific aims
 - Research strategy
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Summarized research approach (including a timeline)
 - Supporting preliminary data, if available (not required)
 - Competitive proposals will highlight feasibility to meet the aim(s) in the funding time frame.
- Budget (see guidelines below)
- Budget justification
- If the PI has not had previous external funding, must identify a senior mentor (please contact the appropriate Scientific Pillar Director for assistance if needed).

Application Instructions:

- Complete application materials must be submitted prior to the deadline using the link available on the Internal Funding Opportunities webpage.

Budget Guidelines:

- Budgets should be submitted on [PHS398 NIH format form page \(4\)](#)
- A budget justification should be included with the application materials
 - x No indirect costs (F & A)
 - x No travel support to professional meetings
 - x No salary support for investigator or mentor
 - x Funds may not be used for capital equipment
 - ✓ Salary support can be provided for support personnel (i.e., technician, statistician, etc.)

Review Process:

- Funds are awarded on a competitive basis based on scientific merit, innovation, potential impact, and likelihood of leading to external funding.
- All applicants may be asked to revise or resubmit an alternative plan based on review feedback.
- Applications are reviewed by an expert reviewer and a review panel in the following areas:
 - **Significance:** *Is the focus of the proposed work important in children's health? Will external peers likely endorse the proposed significance in peer review?*
 - **Impact:** *Is the project likely to have a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved? Can the potential impact be conveyed to external peers to endorse extramural funding?*
 - **Innovation:** *Does the project have novel conceptual, technical, and collaborative ideas? If successful, will the proposed innovations be highly regarded by external peers?*
 - **Feasibility:** *Can the proposed work be completed in a year to the extent that it will lead to a competitive extramural award application within 18 months of the project start?*

- **Investigators:** *Is the proposed leadership justified and appropriate?*
- **Relevance to award:** *Does the proposal incorporate and embrace the spirit of the award type?*
- **Priority Criteria:** *Does the proposal address the priority criteria for the award type?*

Award Conditions:

- Recipients are required to submit an extramural application for sustained research support within 18 months of receiving the award.
- Award is for a one-year period. A no-cost extension of up to six months may be applied for and are granted with specific approval from Manne Research Institute scientific leadership team.
- In the case that new external funding is received during the project period to support related research, the IGA award will be terminated. Remaining project funds will revert to the IGA pool to support other needs.
- Progress reports are required at the end of the project period (12 months) and 1 and 2 years after the end of the project period.
- Appropriate IRB or IACUC approval for proposed work.
- All applicants may be asked to revise or resubmit an alternative plan based on review feedback.
- Inclusion of the following in any publications or presentations that are a direct result of this funding:

"Supported in part by the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, affiliated with Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago"

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility: Proposals should incorporate meaningful IDEA practices across the project team and proposed activities. This will be a consideration during the programmatic review.

Questions: Please contact mannerresearchinstituteiga@luriechildrens.org with questions. Internal Grant Awards are supported by the Office of Research Development. Our team is available for questions including PI eligibility, project applicability to award type, and the application and review process.

Applicant resources, including an FAQ document, are available on the [Internal Funding Opportunities webpage](#).