

Program Accelerator Award

Application Deadline: November 8, 2024

Award Project Period: 12 months

Award Amount (up to): \$75,000

Opportunity:

This award is intended to stimulate synergistic and innovative collaborations leading to a program project application relevant to children's health. This one-year award for up to \$75,000 is to support **planning and development of program project-related applications** expected to lead to a submission within 18-24 months of the start of funding. Support justification may include administrative and grant writing support, material support for preliminary data generation, and personnel support.

Note that a Federal Program Project submission has a defined scientific problem that is addressed by a group of experts from diverse areas who wish to collaborate on the problem. It should include at least three (3) projects and an administrative core.

Aligned with the intent of the NIH program project grant, applicants are expected to establish the infrastructure and groundwork to pursue projects more complex in scope and budget than an individual research grant. These grants are available to a group of several investigators with differing areas of expertise who wish to collaborate in research by pooling their talents and resources. Applications should represent synergistic research programs designed to achieve results not attainable by investigators working independently. Ultimately, the group is expected to be prepared to pursue a program project grant within 18-24 months and demonstrate that each of the collaborating scientists responsible for the individual projects will be an independent investigator.

This funding is not intended to be a vehicle for departmental/program support, nor is the research support of one senior investigator and several postdoctoral- and research associate-level scientists appropriate under this mechanism. The eventual project and its individual components must represent a significant effort on the part of the participating scientists and should be distinct from their other funded efforts.

Priority Criteria for Award Selection:

- Novel clinical, translational, and basic scientific synergy. Does not need to be a new line of scientific inquiry to the PI or research team.
- Existing or new Programmatic collaboration between Manne Research Institute/Lurie Children's and Northwestern University investigators.

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 or institute for extramural support for the proposed project
- Program officer support (email, letter) at the target application organization or institute stating that:
 - a) a mechanism exists that will fit the proposed research area *and/or*
 - b) the proposed research aims are aligned and would likely be approved for program project submission (either under a specific RFA or general submission mechanism)
- Research summary (30 lines maximum)
- Relevance to Children's Health Statement (3-4 sentences maximum)
- Overview of programmatic components, including projects, cores, and timeline (1 page maximum)
- Statement of proposed project leadership and team membership which addresses current collaborative experience and existing synergy.
- 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
 - Supporting preliminary data
- Budget & Budget Justification (see guidelines below)

Application Instructions:

- Submit complete application materials prior to the deadline using the link 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
 - 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.)
 - ✓ Support justification may include administrative and grant writing support, material support for preliminary data generation, and personnel support.

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 18-24 months of the project start?*
 - **Investigators:** *Is the proposed leadership justified and appropriate for an eventual program project-level application? Are the investigators synergistic and multi-disciplinary?*
 - **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 18-24 months of receiving the award.
- Award is for a one-year period. A one time, 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.
- All applicants may be asked to revise or resubmit an alternative plan based on review feedback.
- Appropriate IRB or IACUC approval for proposed work.

- Inclusion of the following in any publications or presentations that are a direct result of this funding:

"This work was supported by Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute and 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 manneresearchinstituteiga@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.