KATE AMATO FOUNDATION
LIGHTING THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD CANCER

Request for Innovative Pediatric Cancer Research Applications

Annual Research Awards to Support Investigators in the Fight against Childhood Cancer

Application Deadline: July 1, 2026
Awards distributed: December 10, 2026

Purpose

Kate Amato Foundation (KAF) research grants are awarded to promote and support innovative research to develop safer, smarter, and more effective treatments for pediatric cancers. We recognize that funding is limited and we are committed to providing scientists with the resources to: (1) better understand the unique genetics and molecular biology of pediatric cancer subtypes and (2) develop novel, targeted, non-toxic therapies that will reduce pain and suffering and save young lives.

Eligibility

Applications should focus solely on pediatric cancer research, not adult cancer research with the hope of some overlap. Investigators of *all academic ranks* are eligible including faculty, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows. We believe that young investigators bring fresh ideas to existing research problems and help pioneer new areas of investigation. We welcome applications from universities, hospitals, and independent research institutes.

Budget

KAF grant awards range in size from $25K-50K for pre-clinical laboratory trials. Funds may be used for equipment, supplies and up to 10% of total cost for institutional indirect costs. *No funds may be used for salary or stipend support*. As we grow, grant awards will increase to provide sufficient funding for human clinical trials.

Instructions

A narrow focus of study is preferred. Applications should be in basic **NIH R21** format and include:

(a.) Lay Summary page.
(b.) Abstract page.
(c.) Research Strategy.
3-page limit of text and images including Specific Aims, Background & Significance, Preliminary Data, Approach, Potential Problems and Alternative Strategies
(d.) Bio-sketch (3-5 pages).
(e.) Other Current Funding.
(f.) Supporting Research and Publications to justify the research strategy.
(g.) Resources at your disposal.
Facility, lab, computers, personnel, and institutional and sponsor letters of support strongly encouraged for student applicants.
(h.) Budget Justification.

Selection Criteria

All basic and clinical research into childhood cancers will be considered with priority given to innovative ideas, even those representing a new direction for the research team. Applications will be reviewed by our Scientific Advisory Board with recommendations presented to the Board of Directors for financial approval.

Terms and Conditions

The highest scientific and ethical standards for responsible conduct of research are expected by the Foundation. Upon request, written summaries of the research progress will be provided by the award recipients to the Kate Amato Foundation.

Submissions: Please submit applications to lisa.amato@kateamatofoundation.org