

Arkansas Children's Funding Opportunity: Arkansas Children's Catalyst Program Awards



Program Overview

Program Purpose	This grant mechanism is intended to provide entrepreneurial mentorship and seed funding to Arkansas Children's scientists and innovators for developing promising ideas. The focus of proposals should be on the development of therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, digital health, and biological tools related to improving child health outcomes.
Eligibility Requirements	Eligible candidates must be employees of Arkansas Children's or of UAMS based on an Arkansas Children's campus.

Key Dates

Letter of Intent Due Date	March 8 at 5 pm
Application Due Date	April 5 at 5 pm
Award Date	May 15 each year

If a date falls on the weekend, documents will be accepted until 5 pm the next business day.

Award Information

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	Arkansas Children's will fund up to four \$50,000 awards in FY 2021 and in FY 2022. Final funding decisions are contingent upon the institutional availability of funds to support the program.
Award Budget	\$50,000 total
Award Project Period	Up to 24 months

Review Criteria and Process for Prioritization for Funding

The award process is expected to follow these guidelines:

- The Selection Committee reviews applications and selects finalists.
- The finalists make presentations to the Selection Committee and awardees are selected.
- The Awardees must receive mentoring sessions from a relevant industry advisor.
- The Awardees will receive training for future SBIR/STTR grant applications.
- The Awardees will be required to give progress reports to the committee at regularly scheduled intervals.

All proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. This committee will be comprised of Arkansas Children's Innovation Team members, potential industry partners, and local commercialization infrastructure partners. The Selection Committee will select the finalists and provide them with a slide template to be used for a mandatory presentation to the committee. The presentation will provide an overview of the proposal, and the Selection Committee will score the presentations. Final funding decisions will be made by the Arkansas Children's Innovation Committee who will consider potential commercialization value of a given application to the strategic mission of Arkansas Children's.

Letter of Intent

A Letter of Intent is due no later than 5 pm on March 8 of each year. The Letter of Intent should be submitted to Barry Brady, Chief Operating Officer, Arkansas Children's Research Institute (BradyB@archildrens.org) via email.

The Letter of Intent should be no longer than one page in length and include the following components:

1. Principal Innovator: Name/Title/Contact Information
2. Collaborators: Name/Title/Department
3. Project Title
4. A brief description of the proposed innovation.

The information from the letters of support will help inform the expertise needed for the Selection Committee.

Each applicant may only submit one Letter of Intent per grant cycle.

Application Package

Please see Attachment 1 for a complete listing of the required forms and instructions for preparing the Application Materials and Innovation Plan.

Award Notification

Applicants will receive a copy of reviewer comments related to their proposal. However, they will not receive the scores assigned to the proposal. Notifications of funding will be made by the Innovation Committee via a letter to the Principal Innovator. ACRI will facilitate establishment of an account and provide oversight for all post-award functions.

Reporting Requirements

A final progress report by the Awardee is due upon completion of the award and upon request. Failure to submit a final report or respond to additional request for reporting may jeopardize future funding.

Application Submission Contact Information

Barry Brady, Chief Operating Officer
Arkansas Children's Research Institute
(501) 364-6517
BradyB@archildrens.org

Attachment 1 – Application Materials & Innovation Plan Requirements

After the letter of intent is submitted, you will be notified by ACRI when you have been granted access to the Proposal Management System. On or before 5 pm on the deadline date, an applicant must upload a PDF copy of their application to the Proposal Management System found here:

<https://apps.uams.edu/ClinicalTranslationalScienceAward/Account/Login.aspx>

Application Materials

The final application should include the following items (contact Barry Brady at BradyB@archchildrens.org for packet information)

1. [ACRI Intramural Funding Application Form](#)
2. [ACRI Research & Related Intramural Budget Form](#)
3. [ACRI Intramural Budget Justification Form](#)
4. Innovation Plan

Innovation Plan Requirements

The Innovation Plan should not exceed 3 pages (not including reference pages). Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. For font, use an Arial typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger. Do not include headers, footers, or page numbers.

The Innovation Plan should include the following sections:

A. Problem

- Describe the problem(s) or unmet needs in healthcare you are trying to solve.
- If available, support the magnitude of the problem today with data (deaths, costs to the healthcare system, etc.).
- Discuss how the problem is currently being solved, i.e., competing solutions.

B. Users and Customer Segments

- Identify the primary stakeholders (end users) – those who benefit the most from solving the problem or meeting the need.
- Identify the secondary stakeholders (economic decision-makers) – those who will make the decision to invest in solving the problem or meeting the need.
- Identify the tertiary stakeholders (influencers and saboteurs) – those who could influence the purchasing decision in a positive or a negative way.
- Attempt to quantify the market using whatever data or terms that are available.

C. Innovation

- Describe your proposed solution to the problem(s) identified above.
- Outline what features are unique or proprietary about your innovation.
- Identify which features are important in solving the problem(s) and how the innovation differs from existing solutions.

D. Specific Aims/Use of Funds

- Describe the use of funds, including the goals of the project and sequential discovery steps.
- Identify how data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
- Include a detailed line-item budget for the project.