



**Kids Beating Cancer
John Voight Memorial Leukemia Research Grant
Application Guidelines**

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About Kids Beating Cancer

Kids Beating Cancer's Mission

Kids Beating Cancer provides access to life-saving treatments through the science of cellular therapy and advancing pediatric innovative, novel, research, moving new discoveries to patient care, while supporting the children and their families throughout the journey to a cure.

Kids Beating Cancer's Story - How One Boy Impacted the Lives of Thousands

The love for a child and the unspeakable sadness that comes from the loss of that child is the opening page of the Kids Beating Cancer Story and how one little boy's life has impacted over 10,000 children since 1992. Five-year-old John was not able to understand the rare and highly fatal disease with which he had been stricken. John had Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), which had evolved into acute myeloblastic leukemia (AML), an almost universally fatal disease. His only hope for a cure was a bone marrow transplant. With no options close to home, his young mother, Margaret, had to leave her home in Orlando, Florida to seek treatment at a pediatric transplant center in Seattle, Washington. With a slim chance for survival, the next four years consisted of hospital rooms, painful treatments and two bone marrow transplants. A cure was not to be - John was nine years old when he died.

John was not able to beat his disease, but the battle continues for others like John, who deserve a chance at a cure. Kids Beating Cancer was established in 1992, just six months after John's death, with two objectives: 1) to provide to treatments access close to home without compromising quality of care or outcome; 2) funding research to ultimately bring an end to childhood cancer.

The result every parent prays for is a cure, and they hope the family stays intact throughout the long treatment process. They all echo John's question, "Mommy why do kids get leukemia?" Today, John's question still can't be answered, but the outcome of the efforts in his memory is changing thousands of children's lives, offering them access to a cure and advancing discoveries to one day find a cure.

Program Description

Kids Beating Cancer continues to build the blueprint for a cure through its research grants. From molecular discoveries to innovative treatments, the John Voight Memorial Leukemia Research Grant aims to bring today's leukemia discoveries to tomorrow's cures. Our vision is to move pediatric cancer knowledge forward by developing new treatments for pediatric leukemia. Kids Beating Cancer funds research grants during two cycles per year up to \$300,000 per grant.

Application Timeline

A letter of intent must be received by the submission deadline indicating interest in applying for the John Voight Memorial Leukemia Research Grant. If invited, a full proposal must be submitted by the specific cycle deadline that meets all Kids Beating Cancer guidelines and criteria to be accepted and reviewed by the Kids Beating Cancer Scientific Advisory Board.

- Letter of Intent Cycle II Submission Due Date December 15, 2023
- Invitation to Apply notification December 30, 2023
- Proposal Submission Cycle II January 30, 2024
- Grant award notification Cycle II..... March 15, 2024

Eligibility Criteria

- Research must be original, novel and focus on Leukemia with applications to pediatric cancer.
- Authors must submit original work that has not been previously published; or, if previously submitted abstracts from recent prominent research conferences, such as ASPHO, ASH, ASCO, or AACR, there must be a noted significant change or advancement to the research to be eligible.
- Applicants MAY be involved in other research grants, but there must be clear documentation of mechanisms to avoid scientific and/or budgetary overlap.
- Research institutions must be based in the United States.
- Research institutions must have a nonprofit status or academic status.
- Applicants must have an MD, PhD, or MD/PhD or equivalent and be appointed as faculty (or equivalent) at an academic institution.
- Applicants must have a demonstrated track record of pediatric cancer research.

Resubmissions

Resubmission of a proposal previously reviewed and rejected by Kids Beating Cancer’s Scientific Advisory Board will be allowed one time after the initial rejection letter is received. Applicants should respond to the prior Scientific Advisory Board comments in the Resubmission section of the application.

Letter of Intent

The letter of intent must include in two pages or less a brief description of the research project with objectives and expected outcomes, Principals Investigator(s) involved, and Estimated Budget.

Once the Letter of Intent is received, a notification will be sent if the research project has been selected to submit a full grant application.

Budget

The requested budget should be in proportion to the scope of the proposed project and should be for direct costs of up to \$300,000 USD over 3 years. A maximum of \$100,000 in total costs may be requested per year.

Budget Restrictions:

- Kids Beating Cancer adheres to the NIH salary cap for principal investigator(s).
- Grant funds may not be used for indirect costs such as travel associated with the research, administrative supplies, advertising or PR, student or university memberships and parking, or other facility-related fees.
- If utilizing a subcontract or subaward, you must include this expense in the budget.
- Grant recipient may use the funds as direct costs, including salary, research supplies and equipment.

Format Instructions

- Proposal format must follow NIH format guidelines: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts with a font size of 11 points or larger with a minimum of ½ inch margins.
- All pages of the application should be numbered; the name of the principal investigator should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
- The order of the application proposal should follow the proposal content section, adhering to the maximum number of pages allowed for each subsection as indicated.

Reporting Requirements

- Annual progress reports, and each year of funding is contingent upon demonstration of satisfactory progress toward the completion of proposed research objectives and appropriate budget expenditures.
- For multi-year grants, a carry-over of funds (no more than 20%) is permitted each year with justification. Each year's budget will be approved after a review of progress reports.
- Kids Beating Cancer may elect to partially fund or to hold new funds if carry-over exceeds the 20% mark.
- A final progress report is required at the conclusion of funding.
- Final Progress Report must state findings, expenditures, as well as publications and presentations which acknowledge Kids Beating Cancer funding.
- Publications, presentations, and posters featuring results of the research funded by this grant should acknowledge "Kids Beating Cancer" and made available to Kids Beating Cancer by furnishing copies to sam@kidsbeatingcancer.com

Proposal Content Instructions

1. Cover Page
2. Table of Contents
3. Title of Project
4. Research Team
 - a. Principal Investigator(s)
 - b. Institution
5. Elevator Pitch
 - a. Short description of your research which explains the concept such that it can be understood in less than 2 minutes.
6. Scientific Abstract (400 words limit)
 - a. Summarize the research objectives and rationale.
7. Introduction/Significance (400 words limit)
 - a. Describe the science and pathways of your project and its research significance.
 - b. How will this project impact childhood cancer?
8. Research Plan (5 pages limit)
 - a. Objectives/Specific Aims/Hypothesis – list the goals, long term objectives and what the research proposed is intended to achieve.
 - b. Resubmission (if applicable)
 - c. Approach/Methodology – describe the experimental approach and how it will be accomplished.
 - d. Expected Outcomes
9. Innovation & Impact (1 page limit)
 - a. Describe how your research is innovative and its overall impact, especially as it related to patients.
10. Budget
 - a. Include Budget Spreadsheet Template
 - b. Brief explanations of the purpose and necessity of each item in the budget to be used towards
 - i. equipment,
 - ii. supplies,
 - iii. graduate student/postdoc/research scientist/technician salaries,
 - iv. subcontractors/consultants,
 - v. IT
 - vi. other
11. Conclusion (1 page maximum)
12. Include bio sketch of the principal investigator(s) and key staff members.
13. Letters of support (optional – no more than 4)
 - a. Include any appropriate letters from individuals confirming their roles in the project. Institutional letters of support are not required, but can be included, especially if there are issues of feasibility that can be addressed.

Application Submission Instructions

1. Letters of Intent can be submitted through Proposal Central (preferred) or by email to researchgrant@kidsbeatingcancer.com by the required deadline.
2. Proposals can be submitted through Proposal Central (preferred) or as a PDF by email to researchgrant@kidsbeatingcancer.com or uploaded to www.kidsbeatingcancer.com/researchgrants
3. Upon submission of your proposal, you will receive confirmation of receipt via email. If your submission did not meet the requirement standards, you will be notified and given an opportunity to rectify it prior to submission deadline.

Contact

For questions or information on the Research Grant, contact:

- Sam Azar, Chief Operating Officer – sam@kidsbeatingcancer.com
- Ben Guedes, MD, Chief Medical Officer – benguedesmd@kidsbeatingcancer.com