KIDS BEATING CANCER®

Science is the Cure

Kids Beating Cancer
Emerging Scientist 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 14,000 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 often 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. The *Emerging Scientist Grant* aims to develop graduate students and post-doctoral researchers into tomorrow's scientific leaders by providing grants to students pursuing a future career in pediatric cancer research. The *Emerging Scientist Grant* is designed for graduate students pursuing a master's degree, PhD, or medical degree or post-doctoral researchers within 2 years of receiving their degree.

The goal of the *Emerging Scientist Grant* is to expose trainees to the field of pediatric cancer research while working on a research project. Trainees are required to work with a mentor to be eligible for this grant. Trainees may work on an ongoing research project conducted by their mentor or begin their own research project with their mentor. Students may pursue their research at their own institution or at another institution.

The aim of this award is to fully fund a discrete, self-contained research question that falls within a larger scientific investigation that can be completed within 3 months. Examples of grant projects are given below:

- We have discovered a novel protein that makes tumors more resistant to immune cell lysis. We will perform a pilot study in mice comparing cancer cells with or without this protein and measure tumor growth and changes in the immune microenvironment.
- Our group has found that a certain subtype of pediatric cancer is more resistant to current treatments that other subtypes. We will use RNA sequencing on patient samples to determine what pathways are changed in the resistant population.
- We have developed a new treatment that targets a certain mutation. We will perform a comprehensive cell line screen to determine its efficacy.

Kids Beating Cancer expects to award up to five $10,000 awards annually.

Successful completion of the *Emerging Scientist Grant* allows the applicant to apply for the *Promising Scientist Grant*, a $25,000 grant allows the awardee to continue and expand upon their research.

Application Timeline

A full application must be received by the submission deadline that meets all Kids Beating Cancer guidelines and criteria to be accepted and reviewed by the Kids Beating Cancer Scientific Advisory Board.

- Grant Application Deadline ..... July 3, 2026
- Grant Award Notification ..... August 14, 2026
- Project Report Deadline ..... December 2026

Application Guidelines

Eligibility Criteria

- Grant applicant must be a graduate student enrolled in an accredited institution pursuing a master's degree, PhD, or medical degree or a post-doctoral researcher within two years of receiving their degree.
- Grant applicants must work directly with a mentor.
- Mentors must work in the field of pediatric cancer research in the United States.
- Mentors must submit a letter of support with the grant application.
- Research must be applicable 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.
- Research institutions must have nonprofit or academic status.
- Research institutions must be based in the United States.

Application Submission Instructions

- Grant applications must be submitted through our Proposal Central portal.
- Upon submission of your application, you will receive confirmation of receipt via email. If your submission does not meet the requirement standards, you will be notified and given an opportunity to rectify it prior to the submission deadline.

Budget

The requested budget cannot exceed $10,000.

Budget Restrictions:

- Grant funds must be sent to the Mentor's institution.
- 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.
- The trainee must dedicate at least 20% effort, which needs to be included in the budget.
- Other personnel can be included, but salary support cannot exceed 20% of grant funds.
- At least 80% of the Grant funds must be used to fund the trainee's direct involvement in the research project, including supplies, equipment and labor.

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.

Full Proposal Instructions

1. Student's Personal Statement (1 page limit)
    a. Describe your interest in pediatric cancer research.
    b. Describe your objectives with this research grant
    c. Describe how you will contribute to the future of pediatric cancer research.
2. Mentor's Letter of Support (1 page limit)
3. Research Project Summary (2-page limit) Preliminary data is not required, however any data must be included within the 2 page limit. Use the template below:
    a. Introduction
        i. Provide background on the research project and its relevancy to pediatric cancer
    b. Hypothesis
        i. State the discrete research question to be answered and how it fits into a broader investigation/project.
    c. Research Strategy
        i. Describe in detail the research strategy to answer the hypothesis. Include key milestones, expected results and alternative directions.
    d. Research Timeline

        i. Briefly explain how the research question can be answered within three months.
        ii. Note: The proposed research can take less than three months.
    e. Budget Justification
        i. Briefly state how the funds will be sufficient to answer the proposed research question and how the proposed budget is sufficient for the research timeframe (project duration can range from one to three months).
    f. Future Investigations
        i. Describe how the data generated will support additional research within the broader research project.
4. References (1 page limit)
5. Trainee's biosketch or CV
6. Mentor's biosketch
7. Budget (1 page limit)
    a. Brief explanations of the cost and necessity of each item in the budget to be used towards
        i. Equipment
        ii. Supplies
        iii. Other
        iv. Salary support

Reporting Requirements

- A final report is due by the specified deadline.
- A final report should consist of a report from the student and a report from the mentor.
- While completion of a research project is not necessary, the final report should state any progress or findings on the research and expenditures.
- Successful completion and timely filing of the report allows the grant recipient to apply for the *Promising Scientist Grant*.

Contact

For questions or information on the *Emerging Scientist Grant*, contact:

- Sam Azar, COO & VP of Research – sam@kidsbeatingcancer.com
- Ian Henrich, PhD, Chair, Scientific Advisory Board – ian@kidsbeatingcancer.com