

Innovative Seed Grants Guideline

The Leukaemia Foundation are committed to investing in research that improves the lives of Australians living with blood cancer.

The Leukaemia Foundation Innovative Seed Grants provide targeted funding for projects at a critical early stage in the research lifecycle. By supporting innovation at its inception, the program enables researchers to test novel concepts, generate preliminary data and build the foundations required for larger competitive grants, clinical trials or progress toward real-world implementation

Purpose

Seed funding plays an essential role in advancing new discoveries by allowing researchers to explore promising concepts that may not yet have sufficient evidence for larger funding schemes. Through this program, the Leukaemia Foundation aims to catalyse innovative research that can ultimately improve outcomes for people living with blood cancer.

The Seed Grants aim to:

- Support research that explores new concepts, challenges existing approaches and opens up new directions in blood cancer diagnosis, treatment, and care.
- Encourage high-risk, high-reward ideas with the potential to lead to significant advances in blood cancer research.
- Enable researchers to generate pilot or feasibility data that strengthens future applications and provides a pathway towards larger national or international competitive funding.
- Lay the groundwork for future translational, clinical or health services research that can improve outcomes for people living with blood cancer.
- Support the exploration of emerging technologies, methodologies or interdisciplinary approaches that may advance the field.

Together, these aims are designed to support innovative early-stage research and build the evidence base needed to drive future advances in blood cancer research and care.

Project Focus

Projects may focus on a specific blood cancer type or address multiple conditions and may target any stage of the patient journey – from diagnosis and active treatment through to survivorship and ongoing care. Successful projects will exemplify innovative concepts and approaches and a high potential to lead to further funding and scientific breakthroughs.

Multidisciplinary and cross-sector approaches are encouraged, recognising the complexity of blood cancer care and the need for solutions that are clinically relevant and patient-centred.

Eligibility

Projects must:

- Align with at least one of Leukaemia Foundation's strategic research priorities
 - Implementation Science
 - Prevention, early detection and diagnostics
 - Therapies and treatment
- Clearly address an area of unmet need or knowledge gap in blood cancer.
- Demonstrate the potential for meaningful impact, including benefits to patients, health services, or the broader blood cancer research community.
- Be achievable within the funding period and clearly outline milestones, outputs and expected outcomes.
- Comply with all institutional ethics, governance, and regulatory requirements

Lead Applicants must:

- Be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia
- Hold academic, clinical or research appointment at an eligible institution (Australian university, hospital, health service, or research institution) with institutional support for the duration of the project
- Lead applicant must hold a PhD or demonstrate equivalent research experience relevant to the proposed project.
- Submit no more than one application as Chief Investigator.
- Obtain the support of an administering institution, which will be responsible for the management of the grant funds and compliance with all reporting and governance requirements.
- Be responsible for the scientific and administrative leadership of the project, including project delivery and reporting to the Leukaemia Foundation.

Proposal

Applicants must address the following in their proposals:

- Project title
- Summary of project
- Background
- Alignment of project with Leukaemia Foundation research priorities
- Research design and methodology
- Innovation and significance
- Expected outcomes and future impact potential

- Project timeline and budget
- Track record and team experience
- Letter of support from affiliated institution or health service

An application form will be available to download from the relevant grant opportunity webpage on the [Leukaemia Foundation website](#).

Submitting a proposal

Proposals must be submitted using the Leukaemia Foundation grant application form and emailed to research@leukaemia.org.au before the closing deadline.

Application open and closing dates are published on the [Leukaemia Foundation website](#).

Assessment Process

Proposals will firstly be reviewed for eligibility by the Leukaemia Foundation and then assessed by an external expert review panel who will score proposals against the selection criteria. Final funding decisions are made by the Leukaemia Foundation Board.

Selection Criteria

Project selection criteria include:

- Innovation and transformative potential
- Significance and future impact potential
- Approach and feasibility
- Investigator capability and environment (relative to opportunity)
- Leverage and future funding potential

Budget and Financial Management

Funding of \$60,000 per project over 12 months will be provided to successful applicants.

The Leukaemia Foundation will enter into a funding agreement with the Administering Institution using the standard Leukaemia Foundation Research Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

The recipient and host institution must agree to the specific conditions outlined in the MoA, including but not limited to:

- Publication of the successful applicant, institution and project title on websites, publications, media releases and other reports/publications by the Leukaemia Foundation.
- Participation in media and stakeholder activities

- Acknowledgement of Leukaemia Foundation funding in any publication or presentations arising from the funded work.

Grant funds must be spent solely on the approved research project. Funding will not cover any institutional overhead costs.

Examples of costs that will be funded:

- Salary support for research assistants, support officers/managers, or consultants for research-related activity
- Costs associated with consumer reimbursement and remuneration
- Direct research costs

Examples of costs that will not be funded:

- Publication fees
- Professional memberships/subscriptions
- Travel costs
- Indirect research or infrastructure costs

Reporting Requirements

Due to the short duration of the funding period, a brief progress update at 6 months will be required, with a full final progress report and an income and expenditure statement, certified by a Finance Officer, due on completion of the project.

For any further questions, please contact our Research Team via email at research@leukaemia.org.au