



Enduring Hearts Direct Grant Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for considering Enduring Hearts for your research concept's support. Enduring Hearts Direct Grant program has two funding application deadlines: July 1st and October 1st. Investigators should refer to the Enduring Hearts webpage enduringhearts.org/investigators for the most current grant period dates. Grants should be submitted directly to grants@enduringhearts.org.

While we encourage investigators to submit a preliminary application to determine if a proposal is within the funding priorities, we will also accept full grant proposals. For any additional questions, please email grants@enduringhearts.org.

Applicants will then be notified if the research concept is within our funding priorities.

First applications or Letter's of Intent should include the following:

Submit a one- page summary that should include the name(s) and academic affiliations of the Primary Investigator and key collaborating investigators. Also include a 250-word general audience summary on page 1.

On page 2, submit a structured abstract of your research concept that would include the following sections: **Background** section that could include the rationale and hypothesis; **Methods** section that could include specific aims and methods to address those aims; and **Anticipated Results** that would be linked to the proposed specific aims and methods and could include significance and clinical relevance avoiding vague hyperbole.

On page 3 add key reference citations supporting your structured abstract and include an open access citation of the most recent review of the scientific area most closely related to your research concept. The third page can also be used for a graphical version of your proposed research methods.

Lastly, please indicate the Enduring Hearts targeted research area that your proposal aligns with and include and return the form below electronically with your First Application/Letter of Intent.

Your research concept will be reviewed, and you should expect to receive our response, usually within 2 weeks. Enduring Hearts would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with you to advance your research concept for kids who have been given this second chance at life.



What is the purpose of the Direct Grant Program? Atlanta-based Enduring Hearts launched in 2013 with a mission to fund research to increase the longevity of pediatric heart transplants and improve the quality of life for pediatric heart transplant recipients.

What are the specific areas of research that will be considered for funding? Enduring Hearts Scientific Advisory Committee seeks to fund projects for up to 2 years that have a combination of the best science, innovation, and potential for impact. Specific areas of research in which Pediatric Heart Transplant Longevity can be improved include the following:

- **Improving longevity and quality of post heart transplant life by reducing/eliminating rejection and Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy (CAV) by:**
 - Integrating accurate non-invasive surveillance methods, technologies and biomarkers for care strategies, technologies, and methods towards EARLIER identification of the onset of acute cellular rejection (ACR), antibody-mediated rejection (AMR) and/or cardiac allograft vasculopathy (CAV)
 - Development of therapeutics and/or therapeutic strategies for acute cellular rejection (ACR), antibody-mediated rejection (AMR) and/or cardiac allograft vasculopathy (CAV)
 - Developing novel immunotherapies, identification of novel targets for immunosuppression, improving methods for monitoring and determining the optimal level of immunosuppression to prevent ACR, AMR, and/or CAV while reducing/eliminating secondary conditions that may arise due to immunosuppression (renal; infectious)
 - Development and validation of better experimental models to study the underlying mechanisms, therapies, and/or prevention of CAV
- **Development of evidence-based strategies to improve longevity of adolescent recipients including:**
 - Improving transitioning from pediatric to adult care/medication adherence
 - Development of evidence-based tools for improving pediatric heart recipient and family education related to heart transplantation
 - Improving evidence-based diverse psycho-social support methods including technologies, hosted peer action groups, virtual visit models and remote metrics
- **Strengthen pre-transplant strategies, innovations or new technologies for children waiting for and immediately after receiving a heart transplant including:**
 - Applying advanced data analytics to better integrate extracardiac and cardiovascular candidate risk factors including degree of multiorgan dysfunction and frailty, race and ethnic group, and HLA and non-HLA sensitization
 - Innovative strategies that would improve organ availability, matching, utilization, and allocation
 - Pre-transplant modifications in donor heart immunogenicity
 - Promotion of evidence-based optimization and standardization of pre-transplant protocols including donor selection and management
 - Pediatric scaled xenotransplantation and/or tissue engineering



Are there any additional priorities that are weighted in the decision? Additional weighting is afforded to those research studies that have the potential to translate within the next five years, directly involves pediatric heart transplant recipients and their families or would promote the standardization of post-transplant care of pediatric heart recipients.

What will be required for the full proposal?

1. Abstract
2. General audience summary (grade level 10th-12th)
3. Full proposal:
 - a. Significance, Approach, Aims, Innovation, References
4. A line-item budget with budget justification
5. Investigators CV/ Bio sketch

What is permissible to include in the budget request?

1. Enduring Hearts maximizes every dollar raised toward funding research. Indirect costs may be included in the grant proposal of no greater than 5%.
2. Grants with a budget range of \$25,000-\$150,000 will be considered.
3. No awards will be made for projects that receive overlapping funding from other sources (unless supplementary in nature) or that duplicate other projects already funded.
4. Award periods may not last longer than three years.

What are the requirements for the investigator to receive the award?

1. If any member of the Enduring Hearts Scientific Advisory Committee should become materially involved with this research, your Institution should provide an acceptable conflict of interest mitigation plan for review to the officers on Enduring Hearts. This plan should address whether the doctor(s) involved with Enduring Hearts that are also participating in the research will receive any other non-monetary benefits because of their participation in the research; it should address the process or procedure the Institution will use in overseeing the proposed conflict of interest mitigation plan, if applicable.
2. Primary Investigator agrees to provide Enduring Hearts with biannual scientific progress reports with an accompanying general audience summary. Information shall be treated as confidential, unless otherwise discussed/agreed. The general audience summary may be shared with families and the Board of Directors of Enduring Hearts.
3. Acknowledgment of Enduring Hearts support should be made in any publication or presentation resulting from this award, with logo as appropriate. Acknowledgement should read as follows: "This work was supported by an Award from Enduring Hearts." Investigators are strongly encouraged to provide Enduring Hearts with notification of presentations made. A copy of any publications should be sent to our grant's administrators via e-mail: grants@enduringhearts.org



4. Enduring Hearts may publish your name, project title and institutional affiliation except in purchased media advertising.
5. No awards will be made for projects that receive overlapping funding from other sources (unless supplementary in nature) or that duplicate other projects already funded. Notification of Enduring Hearts of the receipt of other financial support for this project or the intent to submit a proposal for such funding.
6. Enduring Hearts and the Institution acknowledge and agree that specific terms and conditions regarding title to inventions and discoveries made by applicant resulting from research performed with support from the Award may be subject to further negotiation by Enduring Hearts and applicant or his/her legal designee. The results of any negotiations shall in no way have any bearing or influence on the award decision.

How will funds be dispersed?

The first installment of 20% will be available to the recipient upon receipt of the following:

1. Letter of acceptance signed by the PI and by the appropriate institutional representative
2. Letter of exemption or approval by the institutional IRB
3. Signed PI Permission Form (this gives Enduring Hearts permission to use your information for the purpose of obtaining donations restricted to research)
4. A general audience summary of the project that would be understandable by parents of pediatric heart recipients; a clear enumeration of the research progress that would be anticipated
5. An invoice for the first installment amount

The second installment of 40% of project will be sent on receipt of:

1. Mid-term progress report with a general audience summary
2. An invoice for the second installment amount

The final installment of the remaining 40% of project funds is contingent upon receipt of previous progress reports and will be provided on receipt of:

1. Final progress report with general audience summary
2. Invoice for the final installment amount
3. A line-item budget reconciliation of the research project
4. These items are due no later than 30 days before the end of the research project

ALL UNUSED FUNDS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO ENDURING HEARTS



How will awards be determined?

Our Scientific Advisory Committee, along with our Scientific Board Liaison peer-review each grant and score them. The group then convenes along with the Chief Executive Officer and Grant Programs Committee to discuss the merit of each proposal. Grants of high merit will be recommended for funding. Occasionally, the Grants Committee will ask investigators for further clarification or to amend a grant that they believe has merit to meet specific recommendations. Funding for all research is based upon availability of funds. Notifications will be communicated to all applicants via email.

Enduring Hearts, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. 1205 Johnson Ferry Rd ☐ Suite 136-329 ☐ Marietta, GA 30068