



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH FUNDS TO INVESTIGATE EYE DISEASES IN YOUNG CHILDREN

The Blind Children's Center (BCC) is pleased to announce the availability of funding to support one-year seed grants to gain better understanding of visual impairment in children from birth to eight years of age. The BCC is a private, nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1938 to serve children with visual impairments from birth through second grade in the greater Los Angeles area. The BCC utilizes its expertise and experience to serve families and professionals worldwide through education, support services, and research.

Past research supported by the BCC has included characterization of the retinoblastoma gene, laboratory and clinical evaluation of optic nerve hypoplasia, and neonatal oxygen tension monitoring. It is expected that successful applicants will utilize the seed funding as a stepping-stone to additional research and funding by other organizations. Publication of the results is expected. This research grant is available only to institutions and individuals in the United States.

1. Grant Awards

Grants up to \$25,000 will be awarded. Duration of the award will be one year. No indirect costs will be allowed, although salary support for project team personnel will be acceptable.

Grantees will be required to submit one interim report at six months and one final report, due within six months of the termination of the grant period. The interim report should be comprised of a narrative update on progress to date; while the final report should include both a narrative report and a detailed financial report of budgeted vs. actual expenses. Any unused grant funds must be returned to the Blind Children's Center.

Publications and meeting presentations will acknowledge the support of the BCC in funding the research. Any proprietary products, services, or systems developed with the contribution of funds from the BCC will be subject to joint ownership rights with the BCC.

2. Objectives of Research

Research applications should address issues of continuing and future importance to the understanding, prevention, treatment and care, and integration of visual impairments, in children from birth to eight years of age. Potential areas of research include, but are not limited to:

- Risk factor assessment for reduction of visual impairment in children.
- Investigations of pathophysiological mechanisms underlying conditions of importance in this age group.
- Methods of evaluation of visual functioning and overall quality of life.
- Techniques of education and service to teach children with visual impairment and/or their caretakers important functioning skills.
- Investigation of possible treatments for causes of blindness in infants and young children.

- Enhancing public awareness and understanding of children with visual impairment.
- Integration of children with visual impairment into schools and their communities.

The grant program is NOT designed to support service provision or the delivery of care. It is a funding mechanism to increase the level and sophistication of knowledge about visual impairment treatment in children and hopefully will lead to future grants.

3. Application Process

All grant applications are due by **March 31, 2021**. The applications will be reviewed by the BCC Research Committee, with funding decisions made by **June 30, 2021**. The starting point for all grants will be **July 1, 2021**.

All applications will be single-spaced, in 12-point type or larger, in the following manner:

1. Executive summary (maximum of one page)
2. Specific aims (maximum of one page)
3. Background of research, identifying prior work and particularly the significance of the research issue (maximum of two pages)
4. Prior studies by the study team; since these are seed grants designed to support new investigators or investigators moving into new areas, evidence of successful prior research does not have to be directly in the field in question (maximum of one page)
5. Research plan, including timeline and budget (maximum of five pages)
6. References cited in grant proposal (maximum of three pages)
7. Biographical sketches of Principal Investigator and key team members, using the NIH/PHS forms (maximum of two pages per individual)

All applications should be emailed with a cover letter as an attached PDF to:

sarah@blindchildrenscenter.org

Please confirm that the Center has received your proposal by email or by calling (323) 664-2153.

Any questions should be referred to:

Sarah Orth
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