

Pediatric Cancer Research Grants

V Scholar or Translational or All-Star

2025 Request for Applications

PURPOSE OF AWARD:

The V Foundation is dedicated to supporting **pediatric** cancer research and, in the last five years, has nearly doubled the amount of funding in this critical space. This RFA has three possible grant mechanisms: V Scholar, Translational, and All-Star.

GRANT OBJECTIVES:

This request for applications is specifically to fund **pediatric** cancer research. Please note that research areas **not** included in this scope for any grant type are *epidemiology, behavioral science, and health services research*.

V Scholar – Restricted to **pediatric** cancer research that is exploratory or translational in focus. Research on ANY pediatric cancer type will be funded. This award supports tenure-track faculty early in their cancer research career by funding projects that are **either** laboratory-based fundamental research **or** translational research. Emphasis for this grant mechanism is on supporting **exceptional early career** investigators at the **Assistant Professor stage** to be better positioned to leverage large R01 or similar sustaining grants.

Translational – Translational research is a key component of the research continuum that advances basic laboratory discoveries towards clinical use, ultimately improving human health. This Translational grant is restricted to **pediatric** cancer research in the preclinical or translational space with a focus on bench-to-bedside strategies. Research on ANY pediatric cancer type can be funded. Applicants may propose cancer research that moves a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or uses specimens from a clinical trial to test hypotheses or to develop biomarkers or mechanisms. The research must apply in a direct way to human beings within 3 years from the end of the grant. If biomarker research is undertaken, a validation set or independent clinical trial is essential. A plan for biomarker validation, if applicable, must be included in any proposal. The endpoint of the project should be the planning or initiation of a new clinical trial or conducting an investigator-initiated trial with laboratory correlates that test hypotheses.

All-Star – A reinvestment in the most exceptional **prior V Foundation grantees** and their most innovative ideas. This grant provides funding for high-risk, high-reward, transformative projects that will have a significant impact on our understanding and/or treatment of cancer. Please note it is not required that the previously funded grant was focused on pediatric research nor do the previously funded grant and the newly proposed project need to be linked. This All-Star grant is restricted to **pediatric** cancer research and research on ANY pediatric cancer type can be funded. The scope of research includes basic/exploratory research, translational, preclinical, and clinical research. Regardless of project type (i.e. basic vs translational), nominees must propose innovative, non-incremental research that has the potential to radically move the needle in our understanding of cancer or clinical practice.

BIOSTATISTICS:

A biostatistical or bioinformatics plan is **required** for all proposals. Proposals without this element will not be considered for funding.

GRANT SPECIFICS:

V Scholar: A three-year, \$600,000 grant, paid in \$200,000 annual installments. No indirect costs allowed.

Translational: A four-year, \$800,000 grant (including direct and indirect costs), paid in \$200,000 annual installments. Indirect costs up to 10% of total grant amount allowed.

All-Star: A five-year, \$1,000,000 grant (including direct and indirect costs), paid in \$200,000 annual installments. Indirect costs up to 10% of total grant amount allowed.

The V Foundation follows NIH Guidelines regarding salary caps. Institutions are welcome to supplement a grant recipient's salary with institutional funds if desired.

WHO MAY APPLY?

Each invited institution may submit up to **two nominees** to apply for the Pediatric Cancer Research Grants: one Translational or V Scholar nominee **plus** one All-Star nominee, if eligible.

INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY:

Only research institutions that received this invitation may submit a nominee for consideration. Other affiliates of the institution that did not receive the email are not eligible to nominate an applicant.

Applicants may apply to EITHER V Scholar OR Translational OR All-Star

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

V Scholar

Inclusion: Nominee must meet all the following criteria by the nomination due date.

- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501c3, Section 170).
- Either a US Citizen or a permanent legal resident in the US. This requirement does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- Possess at least 2 years post-doctoral (MD or PhD) fellowship training. For MDs, a minimum of one year is acceptable if only one year is required for their specialty.
- Clinical scientists are eligible if the research institution demonstrates that it will fully support the research applicant (e.g., dedicated lab space, committed research time, start-up funds).
- Must be in a full-time tenure track or tenured faculty position (for e.g., must be eligible to apply for PI status on an R01 at your institution). Non-promotable adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time, or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.
- Must have been appointed to their first full-time tenure track Assistant Professor position **no more than 5 years prior to the nomination due date**, and not yet promoted to Associate Professor.
 - Extensions to the 5-year limit may be given on a case-by-case basis to nominees who took parental leave (or other types of leave) during this window. Please contact grants@v.org with the following for approval BEFORE submitting the nomination form:
 - Appointment start date
 - Length of leave
 - Institutional tenure clock stoppages/extensions, if applicable

Exclusion: By the nomination due date, nominee must:

- NOT be a previous or current V Foundation V Scholar awardee.
- NOT have accepted or received notification of an R01 award or R01 equivalent by the nomination due date.
- NOT have accepted or received award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored **single grant** that totals or exceeds \$750K in total direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should exclude indirect costs and/ or institutional funds.

- NOT have accepted or received award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored funding that exceeds \$1M in **aggregated** (total) direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should exclude indirect costs and/ or institutional funds.
Note: The V Scholar award is intended to support research to leverage these larger awards; so, the nominee should not have already received such awards.

Translational - Nominee must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the Translational research team and must meet **all** the following criteria by the nomination due date:

- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501c3, Section 170).
- Must be either a US Citizen or have a legal permit (temporary or permanent) to work in the US. This requirement does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- Hold a full-time faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor or Assistant Professor-equivalent level or above. Non-promotable, adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.

All-Star – Nominee must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the research team and must meet **all** the following criteria by the nomination due date:

- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501c3, Section 170).
- Must be either a US Citizen or have a legal permit (temporary or permanent) to work in the US. This requirement does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- Hold a full-time faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor or Assistant Professor-equivalent level or above. Non-promotable, adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.
- Must have previously been awarded a V Foundation **research** grant as the lead PI and must meet at least **ONE** of the following criteria by the nomination deadline:
 1. Have a completed V Foundation research grant or
 2. Be in the final year of an active V Foundation grant (received final payment and on track to finish by grant end date).
- Must have been the lead PI on the V Foundation research grant from start to finish.
- Must have all financial and progress reports up to date.
- Must not have a current V Foundation All-Star grant.
- Must not have only received V Foundation non-research/Mission grant(s).

INTERNAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

Letters of Intent (not to exceed 2 pages) with applicable cover page (see templates below) and PI's NIH Biosketch are due **Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 11:59 pm** and must be emailed as a single PDF document to winshipgrants@emory.edu. The Letter of Intent should include a proposed title for the research project and a brief 1-2 page abstract of the proposed research project. The selected investigators will be notified and invited to submit a full application by Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to winshipgrants@emory.edu.

2025 Pediatric Cancer Research Grants - V Scholar or Translational or All-Star

CYCLE COMPONENT

Date of RFA Announcement:
Winship Letter of Intent Due Date:
Winship Announcement of Nominee Selection:
Nomination with Letter of Recommendation Due Date (to V Foundation):
V Foundation Application Due Date:

DATE

Thursday, April 17, 2025
Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Monday, May 5, 2025
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 by 5:00 pm ET
Thursday, June 5, 2025 by 4:00 pm ET

Letter of Intent Cover Page (Pediatric V Scholar)

LEAD APPLICANT Contact Information:

Complete below ↓

First and last name (including degrees):	
Name of Cancer Institute:	
Professional Title (i.e. Assistant Professor):	
E-mail address:	
Phone number:	
Appointment Start Date:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please check this box if an extension on the 5-year appointment criterion was approved by the V Foundation	

Please confirm ALL the following eligibility items are true by the nomination due date.

(Please check the boxes below):

- ☐ Is a US citizen or a permanent US legal resident. Does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- ☐ Has at least 2 years post-doctoral (MD or PhD) fellowship training. For MDs, a minimum of one year is acceptable if only one year is required for their specialty.
- ☐ If a clinical scientist, the research institution fully supports the research applicant (e.g., dedicated lab space, committed research time, start-up funds).
- ☐ Holds a tenure-track or tenured faculty position at their cancer research institution (for e.g., must be eligible to apply for PI status on an R01 at your institution). Non-promotable adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time, or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.
- ☐ Appointed to their first full-time tenure track Assistant Professor position no more than 5 years prior to the nomination due date and has not yet been promoted to Associate Professor.
- ☐ Is NOT a previous or current V Foundation V Scholar awardee.
- ☐ Has NOT accepted or has received notification of an R01 award or R01 equivalent by the nomination due date.
- ☐ Has not accepted or received an award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored **single grant** that totals or exceeds \$750K in total direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should **exclude** indirect costs and/or institutional funds.
- ☐ Must NOT have accepted or received award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored funding that exceeds \$1M in aggregated (total) direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should **exclude** indirect costs and/ or institutional funds.

Project Title and Key words (Include important key words related to the specific type of scientific expertise needed to select reviewers for your application):

Project Title:
Key words (minimum of six key words such as breast cancer, immunology, imaging techniques, epigenetics, microbiome, etc.):

Letter of Intent Cover Page (Pediatric Translational)

LEAD APPLICANT Contact Information:

Complete below ↓

First and last name (including degrees):	
Name of Cancer Institute:	
Professional Title (i.e. Associate Professor):	
E-mail address:	
Phone number:	

Please confirm ALL the following eligibility items are true by the nomination due date.

(Please check the boxes below):

- ☐ Must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the Translational research team.
- ☐ Is either a US Citizen or has a legal permit (temporary or permanent) to work in the US. Does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- ☐ Holds a full-time faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor or Assistant Professor-equivalent level or above. Non-promotable, adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time, or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.

Project Title and Key words (Include important key words related to the specific type of scientific expertise needed to select reviewers for your application):

Project Title:
Key words (<u>minimum of six</u> key words such as breast cancer, immunology, imaging techniques, epigenetics, microbiome, etc.):

Letter of Intent Cover Page (Pediatric All-Star)

LEAD APPLICANT Contact Information:

Complete below ↓

First and last name (including degrees):	
Name of Cancer Institute:	
Professional Title (i.e. Associate Professor):	
E-mail address:	
Phone number:	
URL of the <i>Lead</i> PI's qualifying grant on the V Foundation website (click here to find):	

Please confirm ALL the following eligibility items are true by the nomination due date.

(Please check the boxes below):

- ☐ Must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the research team.
- ☐ Is either a US Citizen or has a legal permit (temporary or permanent) to work in the US. Does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- ☐ Holds a full-time faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor or Assistant Professor-equivalent level or above. Non-promotable, adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time, or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.
- ☐ Must have previously been awarded a V Foundation **research** grant as the lead PI and must meet at least **ONE** of the following criteria by the nomination deadline:
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 - ☐ Be in the final year of an active V Foundation grant (received final payment and on track to finish by grant end date).
- ☐ Must have been the lead PI on the V Foundation research grant from start to finish.
- ☐ Must have all financial and progress reports up to date.
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