



20/20: Alumni Visionary Grant

Honoring 20 years of innovative ideas and the visionaries behind them.

For 20 years, Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research (Rally) has served as a catalyst for progress, providing critical early-stage funding to researchers dedicated to finding better treatments and, ultimately, cures for childhood cancer. In that time, we proudly supported groundbreaking ideas, empowered early career investigators, and accelerated the path from bench to bedside.

To recognize 20 years as philanthropic seed investors in the next great discovery, Rally announces our 20/20: Alumni Visionary Grant. This one-time, competitive grant program honors our past by reinvesting in the exceptional researchers and projects we've supported over the years — and empowers the next chapter of discovery. Through this grant opportunity, we strive to:

- Recognize the achievements of past principal investigators, whose research continues to shape the field.
- Support innovative, next-phase research that builds upon previous Rally-funded studies.
- Support forward-thinking, potentially transformative approaches that could define the next 20 years of pediatric cancer care.

Applications may be accessed and submitted online through Proposal Central:
<https://proposalcentral.com/>

2026 GRANT CYCLE DATES

CYCLE COMPONENT	DATE
Letter of Intent Opens	August 4, 2025
Letter of Intent Closes	September 12, 2025, 3:30 PM EDT
Full Application Opens (by invitation only)	November 6, 2025
Full Application Closes	January 6, 2026, 3:30 PM EST
Earliest Award Notification	April 1, 2026
Project Period Start Date	July 1, 2026

FOR QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CONTACT:

Leigh Anna Lang, Grant Manager
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
Email: leighanna@rallyfoundation.org | Phone: 404-847-1270

20/20: ALUMNI VISIONARY GRANT GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

I. Eligibility

- Applicants must have previously received grant funding from Rally or through Rally from a member of A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program as the principal investigator. If the applicant has an active Rally-funded grant as the principal investigator, the award period must end by June 30, 2026.
- Any research project in alignment with the Priority Areas in Section II will be considered, however, Rally will prioritize research that has a clear and compelling link to a previous Rally-funded research project proposing to either:
 - Extend or scale a previous Rally-funded research project; or
 - Launch a new research project rooted in insights from a previous Rally-funded research project.
- Applicants do not need to be U.S. citizens or located at a U.S. institution.
- The applicant's institution may be a hospital, university or private lab.

II. Priority Area

The application must address at least one Priority Area related to cancer in children, adolescents and/or young adults up to age 24 (see Section V. Grants for age ranges).

Priority Areas:

- Innovative approaches to research that could lead to advanced studies, better delivery of treatment or clinical trials.
- Basic science studies that are likely to lead to a new discovery.
- Under-studied cancer types.
- Quality of life, survivorship or palliative care studies.
- Personalized, targeted, alternative or integrative research proposals.
- Data utilization through data standardization, collection, storage, analysis and sharing.

The following will not be reviewed:

- Grants that have no direct relevance to pediatric cancer nor fall within the scope of the 20/20: Alumni Visionary Grant program.
- Proposals for infrastructure programs.
- Incomplete applications and/or applications received after the deadline.

III. Award Information

Award Amount

20/20: Alumni Visionary Grants up to \$100,000 per year for one or two years of support will be awarded. Please note that not all applicants that request two years of funding are awarded two years of support. Awards are determined by a competitive peer-review process and scores received. One-year grants will receive two installments, and two-year grants will receive four installments, one every six months. Grants awarded one year of funding will have the option to apply for a second year of support with a bypass of the Letter of Intent and the submission of a 20/20: Alumni Visionary Grant Renewal. Grant Renewal applications will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

Rally has an interest in funding 20 Alumni Visionary Grants in honor of our 20th anniversary. A portion of available funds are reserved for the 20/20: Alumni Visionary Grants contingent on the quality of applications and scores received. Applications will be reviewed through Rally's dual peer review process led by our Medical Advisory Board. Grants that receive a fundable score but that are not awarded a 20/20: Alumni Visionary Grant will be considered with all other applications in this grant cycle for either a Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Fellow Grant or an Independent Investigator Grant dependent on career stage. If awarded, the funding amount will be reduced to \$50,000 in alignment with the award ceiling for these grant mechanisms.

On the application Face Page, the applicant will identify their career stage as one of the following:

- Postdoctoral or Clinical Research Fellow
- Young Investigator: Principal investigators no more than five years post fellowship.
- Independent Investigator: Principal investigators more than five years post fellowship.

IV. Request for Continued Funding

Applicants may request additional funding for a project previously funded by Rally. After two years of consecutive funding for a specific project, the applicant will be required to submit a new Letter of Intent that will be peer-reviewed and considered with all other applications in the grant cycle.

V. Grants

The funds awarded must be used for the specific purpose for which they are granted unless written permission is received from Rally.

Rally will fund cancer research for the following populations: childhood (0-14), adolescent (15-19) and young adult (20-24).

We will not fund grants for construction of buildings, remodeling of laboratories or purchase of land. We will not fund human embryonic stem cell research. We do not pay indirect costs. If there are any questions about the definition of indirect costs as applicable to Rally, contact the Grant Manager.

VI. Post-Award Requirements

Rally has pledged to regularly report to its supporters on how their donations are being used. The goodwill felt by these donors generates continued income for future grant funding. Therefore, all award recipients must adhere to the following requirements:

A. Reports

Interim Report

Prior to the authorization of any funding installment after the first funding installment of a grant award, the principal investigator must complete an interim report using the web form in Proposal Central stating the specific aims, studies and results, significance, plans and a layman's summary. A written statement on the value of the grant to their research is also required. In addition, principal investigators must submit a financial report utilizing the provided financial report template.

Final Report

No later than 60 days following the end of the award period, principal investigators must provide a final progress report using the web form in Proposal Central stating the specific aims, studies and results, significance and a layman's summary. A written statement on the value of the grant to their research is also required. In addition, principal investigators must submit a final financial report utilizing the provided financial report template.

B. Publications

Rally requires recipients to cite the organization as a funding source in peer-reviewed publications and presentations arising from this award program. Recipients should also acknowledge Rally in non-peer-reviewed presentations and articles about their research in student newspapers, alumni newsletters, institutional magazines, etc.

C. Miscellaneous Information – Action Required

Funding of a proposal authorizes Rally to use the applicant's name in soliciting contributions to fund its cancer research.

Funding of a proposal also authorizes Rally to link to the applicant institution's website. We understand that your web master must approve all links, and we agree to contact you if the application for your institution is funded so that we can make appropriate arrangements to link to your site.

VII. Proposal Central Guidance

- Applicants must submit proposals electronically through Proposal Central, an electronic grant submission system provided by Altum, Inc: <https://proposalcentral.com/>.
- If the applicant is a new user in Proposal Central click the link: "Need an account?" and complete the registration process.
- If the applicant is already registered in Proposal Central, access the site and log in. If the applicant has forgotten their password, click on the "Forgot your password?" link. Supply the associated email address in the space provided; a link to reset the password will be sent by email.

- After logging in, update or complete the Professional Profile (fourth tab from the left) before starting an application.
- To start the application, select the Grant Opportunities tab (sixth tab from the left). A list of opportunities will be displayed. Find the A Collaborative Pediatric Cancer Research Awards Program grant you wish to apply for (20/20: Alumni Visionary Grant) and click the “Apply Now” link (second to last column) to start your application.
- For any difficulties logging in or creating an application, contact Proposal Central Customer Support at 1-800-875-2562 or +1 703-964-5840 or email at pcsupport@altum.com.

Format Specifications for Text

Arial font size 11-point should be used for all documents. Applications that are incomplete, typed in a smaller font size or not adhering to the page limits will be rejected administratively. Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages. For text boxes, character limits in Proposal Central include spaces.

VIII. Guidelines for Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission

Electronic Submission Deadline – September 12, 2025 at 3:30 PM EDT

Specific instructions for the LOI are available in Proposal Central upon starting the LOI application. All templates and requirements will be available in Proposal Central.

IX. Guidelines for Full Application Submission

Electronic Submission Deadline – January 6, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST

Full applications will be available in Proposal Central to invited applicants in November 2025. All templates and requirements will be available in Proposal Central upon approval of a LOI.

A. Layman’s Summary (2,000 characters)

This will help Rally’s Board of Directors evaluate the recommendations of the Medical Advisory Board. Please provide a one-half page layman’s summary in *plain language*, suitable for a general audience. Please refer to the NIH guidelines for plain language summaries: <https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/clear-communication/plain-language/plain-language-getting-started-or-brushing>.

B. Scientific Summary (2,000 characters)

A separate one-half page summary of the research objectives and rationale.

C. Other Support

Provide the applicants recently completed (within three years), current and pending support, including all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all their research endeavors.

D. Human Subjects

Certification for protection of human subjects should be obtained for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Copies of relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including I.R.B. approval letter or proof of pending submission of I.R.B. as soon as possible. Please refer to NIH guidelines for human subjects' regulations: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/humansubjects.htm>.

E. Vertebrate Animals

Certification for protection for the care and treatment of laboratory animals should be obtained for all applicable projects, in accordance with NIH guidelines. Copies of relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including an I.A.C.U.C. approval letter or proof of pending protocols.

F. Budget

Complete the Budget Period Detail by providing project costs for each budget period (year). The budget should only reflect project costs specifically supported by Rally, up to \$100,000 per year. This may represent only a portion of the larger project's costs. We will not pay indirect costs. A detailed budget justification of direct costs limited to 5,000 characters should be provided in the Budget Summary section of the proposal.

G. Biographical Sketch

The principal investigator and co-investigators, as applicable, should include a biographical sketch formatted to the Revised October 2021 NIH template.

H. Research Plan (limited to six pages)

Keep these questions in mind as you organize the Specific Aims and Research Strategy below:

- What do you intend to do?
- Why is the work important?
- What has already been done?
- How are you going to do the work?

1. Specific Aims

State concisely the goals and specific objectives of the proposed research and the clinical impact that the results of the proposed experiments will have on the advancement of the pediatric cancer research field. State the hypotheses to be tested and relevance to the Priority Areas listed in Section II of these Guidelines.

Only proposals which are directly related to a Section II Priority Area and funding pediatric cancer research and education programs will be considered.

2. Research Strategy

a. Significance

Describe the importance of the problem, how the research reflects progress made in the field over the last 20 years, and how the research studies could define the next 20 years of pediatric cancer care. Explain research to date that has led to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge and specifically identify the need that the project is to fill. State the significance of your proposed project with respect to pediatric cancer research by relating the specific aims to the goals and long-term objectives.

b. Innovation

Provide a detailed explanation for the innovations that are included in the proposal. Explain how the application seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies and instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used and elaborate on any advantages over existing methods.

c. Experimental Approach and Research Design

Describe the experimental approach to the research question and state the procedures and methods to be used in achieving the specific aims. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Specify any procedures, situations or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised. Reviewers will weigh heavily the feasibility of carrying out the project in the projected time span, analyzing any potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and specific aims.

I. Previous Grant Linkage (limited to one page)

Only applicants proposing research that builds upon a previous Rally-funded research project should provide a detailed explanation of how the proposed project will either:

- Extend or scale a previous Rally-funded research project, or
- Launch a new research project rooted in insights from a previous Rally-funded research project.

J. Relevant References (limited to one page)

List all references in “Nature” format. Limit the references to relevant and current literature. It is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

K. Letters of Support

Postdoctoral or clinical research fellows must include letters of support from the scientific mentor and the department head. Young investigators are required to include a letter of support from the department head. All applicants may include any appropriate support letters from all individuals serving as collaborators or consultants confirming their role(s) in the project.

L. Application E-Signatures

The applicant and their institution's Signing Official must log into Proposal Central to e-sign the application. This e-signature is required for the submission of the application and must be completed before the deadline.