Application Guidelines for the
2024 R Accelerated Grant

Full Application Due: June 6th (by 8:00 p.m. Eastern)

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About Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) emerged from the front yard lemonade stand of 4-year-old Alexandra "Alex" Scott, who was fighting cancer and wanted to raise money to find cures for all children with cancer. Her spirit and determination inspired others to support her cause, and when she passed away at the age of 8, she had raised $1 million. Since then, the Foundation bearing her name has evolved into a national fundraising movement. Today, ALSF is one of the leading funders of pediatric cancer research in the U.S. and Canada, funding more than 1,000 research projects and providing programs to families affected by childhood cancer. ALSF is also the only childhood cancer research organization that has been given the NCI peer-reviewed funder designation for rigorous selection of research grants. The mission of ALSF is to change the lives of children with cancer through funding impactful research, raising awareness, supporting families, and empowering everyone to help cure childhood cancer.

R Accelerated Grant Program Description

The purpose of the R Accelerated Award Grant is to advance ALSF's mission to find cures and better treatments for childhood cancers by providing support to scientists focused on pediatric oncology research. Applicants must have an original project that is not currently being funded that has a clear focus on accelerating the discovery of more effective, less toxic therapies for childhood cancers. Research projects should address a testable hypothesis based on strong scientific rationale. Applicants must be first-time recipients of a pediatric cancer research-focused NIH R01 award or equivalent independent award. Demonstration of continued commitment to pediatric cancer investigation as well as institutional support are critical components of a successful application. The R Accelerated Award is a four-year grant.

Application Timeline and Review

- A full proposal must be submitted that meets all guideline criteria as well as all eligibility criteria; otherwise, applications will be administratively rejected.
- Proposals will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts according to the NIH recognized peer-review process.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

FULL PROPOSAL DUE	**June 6, 2024 8PM ET**
AWARD NOTIFICATION	**October 2024**
PROJECTED START/END	**January 2025**

Applicant Eligibility: must be met at the time of application

- Applicant institutions must be based in the United States or Canada. Applicants need not be United States citizens. Funds must be granted to nonprofit institutions or organizations.
- Applicants must have an MD, PhD, or MD/PhD (DO, MBBS or equivalent) and **be within ten years of their first faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor level** (higher academic ranks allowed) at the time that their application is submitted.
- Applicants cannot be lead PIs on active ALSF funded grants concurrent with the R Accelerated Award.
- Applicants must be recipients of their first independent award such as R01 and must be within five years of notice of award of this award or its equivalent. **A Notice of Award document from the NIH or other funding organization must be submitted with the application.** There must be clear documentation of how scientific and budgetary overlap will be avoided.
- R01 equivalent NIH awards include the DP1, DP2, DP5, R37, R56, RF1, RL1, U01 and selected R35 activity codes. Applicants with a K99/R00 award are eligible, if the PI is in the first year of the R00 phase of the award at the time of submission.
- Funding from other agencies should be peer-reviewed awards of $200,000 (USD) a year for 4 or more years. R01-equivalent grants cannot be mentored-career development awards.
- **All interested applicants with a non-NIH grant thought to be R01-equivalent must contact Margaret Poore at M.Poore@AlexsLemonade.org at least 4 weeks before application due date to determine if the applicant is eligible to apply under the R01-equivalent category.**

Scope of Proposal

- Proposals must fall within the scope of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation's mission, focused on childhood cancers. Proposals with a sole/primary focus on patients >19 years of age will not be considered.

Budget

The requested budget should be in proportion to the scope of the proposed project and should be for direct costs of $800,000 USD or below over 4 years. A maximum of $200,000 in total direct costs may be requested per year.

Restrictions:
- ALSF adheres to the NIH Salary Cap.
- Indirect costs are not allowed.
- The grant may not be renewed; one no-cost extension request is allowed with the Final Report.

- Other budget items may include fringe, travel, supplies and small pieces of equipment. ALSF funds <u>cannot</u> be used for tuition remission. View ALSF's complete budget policy.
- If utilizing a subcontract or subaward, you must include this expense in the budget.
  - No indirect costs will be paid.
  - The PI's institution is responsible for disbursing funds for subawards and/or subcontracts.

Resource and Data Sharing

Grant recipients are expected to share unique resources developed under this funding award, and as part of the application, applicants are required to submit a Resource Sharing Plan using ALSF's Resource Sharing Form. Applicants should describe their track record of generating resources that are broadly re-used, the specific resources that will be generated in this proposed project, and the mechanisms by which those resources will be shared. To demonstrate a commitment to sharing that will be actualized, applicants should provide information in their sharing plan that clearly states the type of resource that will be shared, the method, characterization and timing of such sharing, and the anticipated resources (budget, personnel, etc.) required by the applicant and the resource user. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the dissemination of resources produced under the award will enhance or diminish the impact of the proposed work. For a full description and an example, see the Resource Sharing Form. For the full Resource Sharing Policy visit our Resources for Grant Applicants page.

Childhood Cancer Data Lab Collaboration (optional)

Applicants may elect to work with the Childhood Cancer Data Lab, at no cost to the investigator(s), as part of this award. This is not required and is meant to serve as a benefit. If you are interested in collaborating with the Data Lab, please fill out this form (preferably 4 weeks before Grant due date) and indicate your submission is associated with an Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation grant application. This resource does not have a cost associated with it and should not be included in the budget.

Resubmissions

One resubmission of a full application previously reviewed by ALSF's R Accelerated Grant Review Board is permitted. Applicants should respond to the prior ALSF critique of the proposal in the Resubmission section of the application. The response to critique will be scored in the review process, and resubmissions compete with new applicants for funding.

Restrictions

- ALSF does not fund proposals for research utilizing human embryonic or fetal stem cells, or non-human primates. Research with human induced pluripotent stem cells is permissible.
- Proposals studying social determinants of health will only be considered if they are focused on improving oncologic outcomes or reducing toxicity of therapy.
- Projects focused on epidemiological aspects of pediatric cancer and/or cancer control are not eligible for the R Accelerated Award.

Grant Policies & Reporting Requirements

- Please review ALSF's Grant Policies, including Budget Expenditures, Resource Sharing and Grant Agreement with IP, found on the Resources for Grant Applicants page.
- Annual progress reports: each year of funding is contingent upon demonstration of satisfactory progress toward the completion of proposed research objectives and appropriate budget expenditures.
- Minor carry-over of funds (25% or less) is permitted each year with justification. Each year's budget will be approved subsequent to the review of project progress and milestones.
- ALSF may elect to partially fund or to hold new funds if carry-over is excessive.
- A final report is required at the conclusion of funding. Report must state findings, expenditures, as well as publications and presentations which acknowledge ALSF funding.
- The grant may not be renewed; one no-cost extension may be requested in the final report. The maximum NCE request is 12 months.
- Publications, presentations, and posters featuring results of the experiments funded by this grant mechanism should acknowledge "Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation" and include the award number. Copies should be sent via email to Grants@AlexsLemonade.org.

Application Package Instructions

- All sections described below should be combined into one PDF (max 20 MB) and uploaded to the ALSF online application form (see application submission instructions).
- All templates mentioned can be found on ALSF's Resources for Grant Applicants page.

Format Instructions

- PAGE HEADER: All pages of the application should be numbered; the name of the principal investigator should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page.

- FORMAT: Follow NIH format guidelines: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts with a font size of 11 points or larger with a minimum of ½ inch margins.
- ORDER & LENGTH: The order of the application should be followed, adhering to the maximum number of pages allowed for each subsection indicated in parentheses.

Section Descriptions

1. **Project Information**
   a. **Cover Page (1 page):** Download and complete the Cover Page Template.
   b. **Table of Contents (1 page):** Provide a Table of Contents with page numbers to the corresponding sections.
   c. **Scientific Abstract (0.5 page):** Summarize the research objectives and rationale.
   d. **Impact Statement (0.5 page):** How will this project impact childhood cancer?
2. **Budget/Justification (3 pages):**
   a. **Budget Template (1.5 pages):** Complete the ALSF budget template. The signature from an institutional representative on the cover page of this grant application specifically acknowledges and accepts this budget and acknowledges that <u>no indirect costs will be paid.</u>
      i. The award amount is $800,000 over 4 years.
      ii. ALSF adheres to the NIH Salary Cap for Principal Investigator(s)/Co-Investigator(s).
      iii. Indirect costs are not allowed.
      iv. If utilizing a subcontractor, you must include their budget. No indirect costs may be paid to the subcontractor.
      v. Reasonable travel expenses to national/international research meetings to disseminate findings may be budgeted.
   b. **Budget Justification (1.5 pages):** Include a narrative for the following. Use N/A in sections as needed:
      i. Personnel
      ii. Subcontractors/Subawards/Consultants
      iii. Equipment (for equipment costs above $5000)
      iv. Travel
      v. Computer and Software
      vi. Other
3. **Biographical Sketch(es):** Use the NIH five-page biographical sketch (SF424) format for the principal investigator and all key personnel.
4. **Research Plan**

a. **Resubmissions (1 page, if applicable):** If this proposal was previously submitted to ALSF and did not receive funding, describe any changes in response to the reviewer critiques (e.g., changes in experimental design, scope, new data)

b. **Specific Aims (1 page):** List the goals, long-term objectives and what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish. State the hypothesis to be tested and relevance to childhood cancer research.

c. **Significance (0.5 page):** Describe the relevant background that supports the current research plan. State the significance and importance of your proposed project with respect to childhood cancer research. Relate the specific aims to the goals and long-term objectives. Include potential impact in the clinic for children battling cancer.

d. **Innovation (0.5 page):** Describe how the proposed research challenges and shifts paradigms, or introduces a novel concept, approach, or technology and how this could potentially translate to the clinic in the near or long term.

e. **Approach (4 pages):** Describe the experimental approach to the research question and how the research will be realistically accomplished within the proposed funding period. Images, graphs, and charts that are critical to the project should be included within this section, not in the appendix. They will count against the page limit. This section must include but is not limited to:
   i. Feasibility of the approach to reach project goals; if available, include PI's preliminary studies pertinent to the project.
   ii. Key milestones with expected outcomes, details of potential problems, and plans to address these issues.
   iii. A timeline.

5. **Notice of Award:** A letter of approval of NIH R01-award or equivalent from the funding organization. Letter must include date showing award was received within the last five years (NOA letter no later than June 6, 2019).

6. **Resource Sharing (1-2 pages)**: Use the Resource Sharing Form to complete this section of the application to describe the outputs from the proposed project and how they will be shared. Reviewers will be asked to consider the manner in which outputs from this project will be shared and the extent to which this plan will increase or decrease the impact of the proposed project.

7. **Literature Cited (no limit):** Use Vancouver or NIH style (numbered citations within text) format.

8. **Human Subjects (1 page):** If approved, include the IRB approval letter or equivalent. If approval is pending, indicate the expected approval date. If IRB approval is not applicable, include a note in this section.

9. **Vertebrate Animals (1 page):** If approved, include the IACUC approval letter or equivalent. If approval is pending indicate the expected approval date. If IACUC approval is not applicable, include a note in this section.
10. **Letters of Support (no limit):** Include any appropriate letters from individuals confirming their roles in the project. Institutional letters of support are not required but can be included, especially if there are feasibility issues that can be addressed. If you have requested support from the CCDL (optional) insert the Letter of Support from the Director of the CCDL here.
11. **Appendix:** A brief appendix is allowed for R Accelerated Grants. Appendices are limited to one accepted but not yet published manuscript OR two pages of additional information such as a summary of the protocol or supplementary figures. (*Reminder: tables and figures noted in the text should be embedded in the body of the proposal.*) **Reviewers are not required to read the appendix.**

Application Submission Instructions

ALSF has migrated to Proposal Central for submitting research grant applications!

1. To start an application, navigate to Proposal Central and select I am an... *Applicant or Awardee*
   a. **Returning applicants (with an existing Proposal Central):** log in with your Proposal Central ID.
      i. *A password reset request can be sent using the following link:* https://proposalcentral.com/ForgotPassword.asp
   b. **First time applicants (using Proposal Central):** click "Need an Account?" under the Login Button or use the following link: https://proposalcentral.com/register.asp. Enter all the required fields and click "Submit."
   c. **ORCID Registrants:** you can login using your ORCID. If you don't have one, you can obtain one by registering through the link https://orcid.org/register.
2. After you've logged in to Proposal Central, navigate to the Grant Opportunities tab and you can search *Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation* in the search bar to find our active grant application cycles, or click here to see the ALSF's Grant Opportunities currently open. Click the "Apply Now" button to start an application.
3. The application document must be uploaded as **one PDF** (maximum of 20 MB), in the Attachments tab. Please see the guidelines for specific format and section instructions.
4. You may save your application to finish later. Just click "Save".
   a. When you return to Proposal Central, click the "Proposals" tab at the top to navigate to your applications. You can filter your application based on Proposal

Status in the upper right-hand corner. Click "In Progress" to return to your existing applications.

5. Once completed, click "Submit". Within 10 minutes you will receive a confirmation email. As long as the deadline has not passed, you may unsubmit your application to make changes by clicking the "Unsubmit" button on the "Proposals" tab.

If you have any questions regarding your Proposal Central account, please contact pcsupport@altum.com.

Contact

- If you have any questions regarding R Accelerated Grant, please contact Margaret Poore, Grant Coordinator, at 866-333-1213 ext 122 or by email at M.Poore@AlexsLemonade.org