

**Department of Pediatrics
Scholarship Seed Funding Program
Request for Applications**

The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago announces an initiative to foster excellence in research scholarship. The Department will provide seed funding for promising clinical and health outcomes research projects focused on the health of children and their families. In particular, we wish to promote the early career development of translational and clinical faculty researchers in the Department, with the goal of generating preliminary data for subsequent funding applications. Project support is available to faculty, fellows, and/or residents with faculty mentors. Seed funding is available to support services from the BSD Center for Research Informatics (CRI). Examples include data requests from the Clinical Research Data Warehouse (CRDW), data analysis by the Bioinformatics Core, or application development.

The Pediatrics Clinical Research Informatics Program will provide up to four awards (up to \$5,000 each) to provide programing support for a faculty, fellow, or resident (with a faculty mentor) to use the CRDW or other CRI resources to execute a clinical or health services research project. Information about the CRI is found [here](#), and specific information about the CRDW can be found [here](#).

Sections I-III below (pages 4-5) describe submission, review, and budget criteria for the Pediatrics Clinical Research Informatics Program.

Questions and clarifications regarding these Requests for Applications can be directed to Samuel Volchenboum, Director, Pediatrics Informatics Program at svolchen@peds.bsd.uchicago.edu or Julie Johnson, Analyst, Center for Research Informatics at jjohnso3@bsd.uchicago.edu.

Pediatrics Clinical Research Informatics Program

Section I: Proposal Submission- Pediatrics Clinical Research Informatics Program

The department is **now** accepting applications for the 2017-2018 funding cycle. Applications for the 2017-2018 funding period will be accepted until 5pm, October 15, 2017, with awardees being informed on or before December 1, 2017. Applications in PDF format should be submitted by email to Anne-Marie Prince at amprince@peds.bsd.uchicago.edu

Please follow the NIH format when preparing the submission. Prepare the application using Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface in black font color. After text attachments are converted to PDF, font size in each final PDF document must be at least 11 points (or larger). The final PDF document should have at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. Please include the applicant's name in the header section of each page and insert page numbers in the center on the bottom of the page.

The proposal must include the following sections:

- Cover Page: Project Title and Investigators
- Specific Aims (half page max)
- Research Strategy (maximum 2 pages single-spaced). The following are strongly suggested:
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Approach
- A brief evaluation plan (maximum half page) that provides a timeline and quantitative metrics to judge success.
- No biosketches are required. Residents and fellows should include their faculty mentors on the cover page under the investigator heading.
- A budget for one year for programming support only. It must not exceed the amounts stated above. If the project requires IRB approval, funds will not be released until approval has been obtained. The CRI is available to help advise about IRB submissions.
- A commitment to provide a half page report within 30 days of completion of the study that describes progress in achieving the proposed goals is required.
- A commitment to include the award on all future related publications and presentations is required. This may include co-authorship and/or acknowledgements.
- A commitment to notify the CRI of all future related publications and presentations by email at: cri@bsd.uchicago.edu
- The criteria used by reviewers (derived from NIH criteria) to evaluate these components are provided in Section III below.
- **We recommend strongly that interested applicants contact the CRI to discuss project feasibility and needs.**

Section II: Review criteria- Pediatrics Clinical Research Informatics Program

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of the merit of the application.

Significance Does the project address an important clinical or health outcomes problem? If the aim of the project is achieved, how will scientific knowledge and/or clinical practice be improved?

Investigator(s) Is the PI (and faculty mentor, where appropriate) well suited to the project? Do they have appropriate experience and training?

Innovation Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or interventions?

Approach Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? Given the seed funding nature of the project, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves human subjects and/or NIH-defined clinical research, are there plans to address 1) the protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion (or exclusion) of individuals on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

Environment Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?

Section III: Budget

Application budgets are not limited, but need to reflect actual needs of the proposed project. Direct costs for the application cannot exceed \$5,000 per year. The budget should be submitted in NIH format. The funding is non-renewable. Funding for this cycle will be available through June 30, 2018.