



## Application Guidelines for the 2021 Innovation Grant

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*Application Due: March 15, 2021 by 8:00 p.m. ET*

*Applications will be accepted for projects  
with an approved 2020 Letter of Intent.*



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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.

## Innovation Grant Program Description

ALSF is committed to creating opportunities for new and innovative research into treatments and cures for childhood cancers. The Innovation Grant is designed to provide critical and significant seed funding for researchers with a novel approach to pediatric oncology scientific investigation. Proposals should have clinical translation in view. This may represent a change in research direction and/or an innovative new idea that moves away from an investigator’s prior research but for which a strong case is made for the potential impact on childhood cancers.

## 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 overseen by ALSF’s Scientific Advisory Board.

### APPLICATION TIMELINE

<b>FULL PROPOSALS DUE</b>	March 15, 2021 by 11:59PM ET
<b>AWARD NOTIFICATION</b>	May 2021
<b>GRANT START/END DATE</b>	September 2021 – September 2023

## Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must have an MD, PhD, or MD/PhD or equivalent and be appointed as faculty (or equivalent) at an academic institution.



- Applicants must have a track record of publication and funding productivity that demonstrates that the project can be accomplished by the investigators.
- Applicant institutions may be based in the United States or Canada, and applicants need not be United States citizens. Funds must be granted to nonprofit institutions or organizations.
- 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 >21 years of age will not be considered.
- Potential for major scientific impact in pediatric oncology is critical.
- Proposal must be hypothesis driven and mechanistic.
- Innovation must be clearly presented.
- While preliminary data are not required, the applicant must demonstrate feasibility of the research plan.
- Resource sharing is an expected outcome of a completed project. The review will consider how outputs are shared as a component of impact.

### Budget

The requested budget should be in proportion to the scope of the proposed project and should be at or under \$250,000 USD in direct costs over two years. A maximum of \$125,000 in total costs may be requested per year.

- Restrictions:
  - ALSF adheres to the NIH salary cap for principal investigator(s).
  - Indirect costs are not allowed.
    - Other budget items may include fringe, travel, supplies and small pieces of equipment. ALSF funds cannot be used for tuition remission.
- 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. 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 see the [Resource Sharing Form](#).

### Resubmissions

One resubmission of an application previously reviewed by ALSF's 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 accept proposals for research utilizing human embryonic stem cells or non-human primates. Research with human induced pluripotent stem cells is permissible.
- Awards are non-renewable.
- Grants must be focused on pediatric oncology, from understanding basic biologic underpinnings to new therapies.
- While an Investigator may submit more than one LOI, if more than one LOI is approved, the Investigator may only submit one full application.

### Grant Reporting Requirements

- Annual progress reports, and 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 year one 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; no cost extensions must be requested in the final report.
- 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](mailto: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 at ALSF's [Information 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.
- A brief appendix is allowed (see Section Descriptions).

### 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.
  - i. The award amount is \$250,000 over two 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 sub-contractor, you must include their budget. No indirect costs will be paid to the sub-contractor.

- b. **Budget Justification (1.5 pages)**

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. **Changes since LOI (1 page, if applicable):** If the aims and approach of the project have changed since the original LOI was accepted, please describe the changes and the reason behind them.
  - c. **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.
  - d. **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.
  - e. **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.
  - f. **Approach (4 pages): Describe the experimental approach to the research question and how the research will be realistically accomplished within the proposed funding period. This section must include but is not limited to:**
    - i. A timeline
    - ii. Feasibility of the approach to reach project goals; if available, include PI's preliminary studies pertinent to the project.
    - iii. Anticipated potential problems and plans to address these issues.
5. **Resource Sharing (1-2 pages):** 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. Use the [Resource Sharing Form](#) to complete this section of the application.
6. **Literature Cited (no limit):** Use Vancouver or NIH style (numbered citations within text) format.
7. **Human Subjects (1 page):** If approved, include the IRB approval letter or equivalent. If approval is pending, indicate the expected approval date. Any funds awarded will be held until the letter is received. If IRB approval is not applicable, include a note in this section.
8. **Vertebrate Animals (1 page):** If approved, include the IACUC approval letter or equivalent. If approval is pending indicate the expected approval date. Any funds awarded will be held until the letter is received. If IACUC approval is not applicable, include a note in this section.



9. **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 issues of feasibility that can be addressed.
10. **Appendix:** A brief appendix for Innovation Grants is allowed.
  - a. Appendices should be included only if essential to the understanding of the application, including one accepted but not yet published manuscript or two pages of additional information such as: a summary of the protocol if applicable and/or supplementary figures.
  - b. Excessive appendices will result in the application being rejected administratively

### Application Submission Instructions

**Applicants must not use the Internet Explorer (IE) browser as it is not compatible with the online portal. Chrome and Firefox browsers are recommended.**

1. To start an application, navigate to the portal at [ALSFapps.force.com](https://ALSFapps.force.com).
  - a. Returning applicants: login with your username and password.
  - b. First time applicants: click the “New User?” link and complete your one-time registration and then login.
2. After you’ve logged in, follow the directions on the dashboard to submit your application. Complete the online form with applicant contact and project information.
  - a. Enter the Project Title first, even if tentative. Then Save.
  - b. Applicant will be asked for basic contact information for themselves, co-PI(s) if applicable, grant manager and institution. If someone other than the PI is entering information into the portal, the “Contact Person” name entered **must** be the PI’s name.
  - c. In the respective sections enter the project title, budget request amount, type of childhood cancer the project focuses on, as well as a 250-word summary of the research project in lay terms. The applicant will be asked to release this summary for use at ALSF’s discretion (website, press releases etc.) should the proposal be funded. The applicant may copy and paste information from other documents into these sections.
3. The application document must be uploaded as **one PDF** (maximum of 20 MB).
4. You may save your application to finish later. Go to [ALSFapps.force.com](https://ALSFapps.force.com) and login again. You will land on your dashboard. Click “Applications” to edit your application in progress.
5. Once completed, submit the application by clicking Review & Submit. You will see error messages for any required fields that need to be completed.





6. After your application has been successfully submitted an email confirmation will be sent. You will not be able to amend the application after submission.

### Contact

- If you have any questions regarding the ALSF Innovation Grant, please contact Carrie Peck, Grant Coordinator, at [c.peck@alexslimonade.org](mailto:c.peck@alexslimonade.org).