Application Guidelines for the 2026 Bio-Therapeutics Impact Grant

Full Application Due: June 9th, 2026 (by 8:00 p.m. Eastern)
Finalist Virtual Presentations: September 2026

About Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation *2*

Bio-Therapeutics Impact Grant Program Description *2*

Application Timeline and Review **3**

Applicant Eligibility: must be met at the time of application **3**

Scope of Proposal **3**

Budget **4**

Resource and Data Sharing **4**

Restrictions **5**

Grant Policies & Reporting Requirements **5**

Application Package Instructions *6*

Format Instructions **6**

Section Descriptions **6**

Application Submission Instructions *9*

Contact *10*

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 research projects and providing programs to families affected by childhood cancer. ALSF is one of the only childhood cancer research organizations 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.

Bio-Therapeutics Impact Grant Program Description

The ALSF Bio-Therapeutics Impact Award provides funding to support investigator-initiated clinical trials using biologic therapies, including but not limited to immunotherapy (including cell therapies), gene therapy, and small molecules. This grant category was initiated to accelerate the development of clinical trials for promising biologic approaches to treat childhood cancers.

ALSF's *Travel For Care* program is available to patients enrolled in the clinical trial supported by this award. A medical representative must apply on behalf of the families who meet our criteria as listed in the *Travel For Care* guidelines. The online request form must specify that the clinical trial is funded by ALSF's Bio-Therapeutics Impact Award.

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.
- Full proposals will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts according to the NIH recognized peer-review process, overseen by the Bio-Therapeutics Impact Grant Scientific Review Board.
- Dates for Finalist Presentations will be announced as soon as they are confirmed. If invited, applicants are expected to work to be available at the designated time.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

FULL PROPOSAL DUE	**June 9, 2026, 8PM EST**
FINAL PRESENTATIONS (VIRTUAL)	**September 2026**

AWARD NOTIFICATION	**October 2026**
PROJECTED START	**November 2026**

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 (or equivalent) and be appointed to the level of Assistant Professor or higher.
- Study team has completed pre-clinical studies informing the trial and holds an approved IND.
- Demonstrates a track record of implementing and executing biologics clinical trials through publishing a prior investigator-initiated clinical trial as a lead PI or as a member of a study committee.
- Applicants working within a consortium are eligible. See restrictions below related to networks with established per-patient reimbursement mechanisms already in place.

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.
- Proposals must have a well-defined plan and time frame to complete trial enrollment.
- Potential for major scientific and clinical impact in pediatric oncology is critical.
- The priority of this mechanism is to fund the clinical trial, but some costs (see budget section below) may be used for trial-embedded correlative studies.

Budget

The requested budget should be in proportion to the scope of the proposed project and should be for direct costs of $1.8 million USD or less over three years. A maximum of $600,000 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. Maximum NCE is 12 months.
- Clinical trial expenses, such as per patient reimbursement (including study procedures not billable to insurance), IRB costs, drug distribution, cell therapy production, and required assays needed to conduct the trial are permitted.

- Trial-embedded correlative studies (no more than 15% of the total budget) are permitted.
- Other budget items may include fringe, travel, supplies, and small pieces of equipment. ALSF funds cannot 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 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. Clinical trials must be registered in clinicaltrials.gov

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 focused on social determinants of health with an emphasis on oncologic outcomes (rather than psychosocial outcomes) are permitted.
- Researchers currently funded as a PI or scholar by the ALSF Centers of Excellence Award are not eligible.
- Industry-sponsored clinical trials are not eligible.
- Clinical trials that are conducted through established cooperative groups or consortia with existing per-patient reimbursement mechanisms are not eligible.

Grant Policies & Reporting Requirements

- Please review ALSF's Grant Policies, including Budget Expenditures, Resource Sharing, and Grant Agreement 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.
- A yearly progress report call with ALSF is required for subsequent release of funding for the next year.
- 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. 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 no indirect costs will be paid.
        i. The maximum award amount is $1.8 million over 3 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. Trial related costs (please see budget section for allowable expenses)
        iii. Subcontractors/Subawards/Consultants
        iv. Equipment (for equipment costs above $5,000)
        v. Travel
        vi. Computer and Software
        vii. Other

3. **Biographical Sketch(es):** Use the NIH SciENcv biographical sketch format for the principal investigator and all key personnel.
4. **Research Plan**
    a. **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.
    b. **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 a plan for advancing the therapy to frontline therapy after the completion of the proposed trial.

c. **Innovation (0.5 page):** Describe how the proposed clinical trial challenges and shifts paradigms, or introduces a novel concept, approach, or technology.
d. **Approach (6 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. Experimental Design of the proposed Clinical Trial. Key aspects include:
        - Target enrollment for trial (per year)
        - Plan to complete enrollment, including strategy for recruitment
        - Staffing requirements to open and run trial
        - Key milestones with expected outcomes, details of potential problems, and plans to address these issues
        - A timeline

5. **Institutional Environment (1-2 pages)**:
    i. Infrastructure to support the proposed clinical trial
        - For cell therapy trials, provide details on the available GMP facility
    ii. Institutional track record for completing similar proposed trials
6. **Institutional Letter of Commitment (1 page):** Provide an institutional letter of commitment in support of the proposed clinical trial.
7. **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.
8. **Literature Cited (no limit):** Use Vancouver or NIH style (numbered citations within text) format.
9. **Human Subjects (1 page):** If approved, include the IRB approval letter or equivalent. If approval is pending, indicate the expected approval date. Funding will not be released until the trial is IRB approved.
10. **IND Approval Document (no limit):** Attach documentation of IND approval (typically a "Study May Proceed" letter from FDA for US-based trials) for the proposed clinical trial. Do not upload the IND application.

11. **Letters of Support (no limit):** Include any appropriate letters from individuals confirming their roles in the project. If drug is being provided by a pharmaceutical partner, a letter of support from the drug provider is required.

12. **Other Support Document (no limit):** Attach a NIH SciENcv other support document for the lead PI only.

13. **Appendix:** A brief appendix is allowed for Bio-Therapeutics Grant applications. Appendices should be included only if essential to the understanding of the application. Appendices are limited to one accepted but not yet published manuscript OR two pages of additional information such as a summary of the protocol and 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

1. To start an application, navigate to Proposal Central and select I am an: Applicant or Awardee
    a. **ORCID Registrants:** you can login using your ORCID. If you don't have one, please obtain one by registering through the link https://orcid.org/register. An ORCID is required for this application.
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 the ALSF Bio-Therapeutics Impact Grant, please contact Audrey Gorton, Grant Associate, at A.Gorton@AlexsLemonade.org.