

The Gerber Foundation: Research Grants **and** Novice Grants

Unrestricted funding opportunities

Coordinator:	Nicole Dancz, Foundation Relations (ndancz@emory.edu)
Website:	https://www.gerberfoundation.org/how-to-apply/
Submission Limitations:	None
Foundation Deadline:	Concept Paper Deadline is November 15, 2021, 4:00 p.m. EST , if a full proposal is requested, deadline is February 15, 2022

Please contact your RAS unit **and** Nicole Dancz to inform them of your intent to submit.

Overview

The Gerber Foundation works to provide support for innovative research focused on the nutrition, care, and development of infants and toddlers, from the first year before birth to 3 years of age. In particular, the foundation is interested in fresh approaches to solving common, everyday problems or emerging issues within its defined focus area. Projects should focus on issues faced by care providers that, when implemented, will improve the health, nutrition and/or developmental outcomes of infants and young children. The board also is looking for practical solutions that can be easily and rapidly implemented on a broad scale with a predictable time frame to clinical application. Many research topics are eligible, as the fund does not focus on a particular disease but instead on children's health and nutrition, broadly defined, including effects of environmental hazards on this population.

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There are two opportunities:

- 1) Research Grants
- 2) Novice Grants (see details on eligibility below)

Research Focus Areas

- **Pediatric Health:** Promoting health and preventing or treating disease is the primary focus of this target area. Of particular interest are applied research projects focused on reducing the incidence of serious neonatal and early childhood illnesses, or improving cognitive, social and emotional aspects of development.
Typical projects funded in this area of interest may include projects aimed at:
 - Better diagnostic techniques (more rapid, specific, sensitive, or less invasive)
 - Better treatment (improved, less stressful or painful, optimal dosing, fewer side effects)
 - Symptom relief
 - Preventive measures
- **Pediatric Nutrition:** These programs respond to a long-time interest of the Foundation in assuring adequate nutrition for infants and young children. Projects include applied research that evaluates the provision of specific nutrients and their related outcomes in infants and young children.
Typical projects funded in this area of interest may include projects aimed at:
 - Benefits or side effects of supplementation of a specific nutrient
 - Effects of deficiencies or excesses of a specific nutrient
 - Timing and dosing of supplementation
 - Issues related to general growth and feeding
- **Environmental Hazards (Nutrient Competitors):** The Foundation is interested in projects that evaluate the effects of environmental hazards on infants and young children. Applied research projects that document the impact of,

or ameliorate effects of, environmental hazards on the growth and development of infants and young children are the focus of this area of interest.

Typical projects funded in this area of interest may include projects aimed at:

- Exposures and their effects on infants and toddlers
- Methods to lessen the effects of exposures

Major target areas for research include:

- New diagnostic tools that may be more rapid, more specific, more sensitive, less invasive
- New treatment regimens that are improved or novel, less stressful or painful, more targeted, have fewer side effects, provide optimal dosing
- Symptom relief
- Preventative measures
- Assessment of deficiencies or excesses (vitamins, minerals, drugs, etc.)
- Risk assessment tools or measures for environmental hazards, trauma, etc.

****Note that the Foundation is looking for projects that will result in 'new' information, treatments or tools that will result in a change in practice. The board rarely funds projects that are focused on sharing current information with parents or caregivers (parent or provider educational programs).****

Funding

- Research projects may be no longer than 3 years in length. Total grant size should be no more than **\$350,000**.
 - The in-direct costs are limited to no more than 10% (included in the total amount). In-directs applied to a subcontract may not be duplicated on the full grant.
 - The base salary is capped at the current NIH salary cap level. In addition, PI and Co-PI time supported on the grant is limited to no more than 30%
- Novice Grants (see below for more details)

Eligibility

Organizations recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) are eligible to apply for Foundation grants. Public governmental institutions such as universities are included in this definition. Organizations must also be determined not to be private foundations under Internal Revenue Code 509. No grants are made to individuals. With few exceptions, only organizations with principal operations in the United States and its territories are eligible for funding. Within the United States, there is no geographic limitation to the Foundation's grantmaking. See the FAQ page for grant specifics and limitations.

Novice Researchers

Applications for Novice grants follow the same process as regular grants and are limited to no more than \$20,000 in total (inclusive of indirects). They are identified by the amount requested in the application.

Novice Eligibility

Eligible applicants include physicians, PhD candidates, PharmD candidates, and other similar degree candidates:

- in a residency or fellowship training program or those who are no more than one year post training
- have not received a K award from the National Institutes of Health
- have an assigned mentor for the project and a current development plan
- Applicants who hold or have received a K award from the National Institutes of Health are not eligible to apply to the Gerber Foundation under this program.
- Projects need to be under the guidance of a mentor. The qualifications and experience of the mentor will be a consideration during evaluation of the application.

Budget Guidelines for Novice Research Grant

- A maximum of \$20,000 (inclusive of indirects) per project will be awarded under the Novice Researcher Award program.

- Indirect costs are limited to no more than 10% of the total direct costs.
- No more than ½ of the total budget may be applied to salary for the developing researcher (including fringe benefits).
- The remainder of the funds are to be used for research-related expenses, including supplies.
- The cost of attendance at one conference to report findings resulting from the project is allowed during the grant period. Travel costs for this conference may not exceed \$2,000.

Application Guidelines

- The Concept paper provides a brief summary of the project, enabling the Foundation to assess how well the proposed research fits with the Foundation's interests. Papers will be evaluated to determine the relevance of the proposed project to the Foundation's programs and to provide advice when submitting a full proposal. The concept paper does NOT include scientific references, biosketches, or CV's. The concept paper should be written in lay terms.
- Determination of interest is generally made within three weeks. The Concept paper provides a brief summary of the project, enabling the Foundation to assess how well the proposed research fits with the Foundation's interests. Papers will be evaluated to determine the relevance of the proposed project to the Foundation's programs and to provide advice when submitting a full proposal.
- Concept papers include:
 - Project title
 - A cover letter written by a senior officer of the applying organization or from the department chair to which the principal investigator is assigned. The letter should include a brief introduction to the investigator(s), the goals of their research, and why they believe this project is a fit with The Gerber Foundation. (maximum 2 pages uploaded as a pdf)
 - Type of subject: human, animal or other. Drop down boxes will appear based on selection for further detail, such as the number to be studied and age range.
 - Length of study (Maximum 3 years)
 - Estimated requested amount (Non-itemized. Limit \$350,000 on grants with no more than \$125,000/year. Limit of \$20,000 on Novice research grants)
 - Estimated total cost (This may be more than the requested amount if other funds will be used to complete all objectives.)
 - Planned outcome of study or expected outcomes: Describe how results will benefit clinical practice (how a practitioner will use the information) and provide a projection of the number of years before findings may be put into place in clinical practice. Describe how expected outcomes will improve the health and/or nutrition of infants and young children. (2500 characters or about 1/4 page). Note: Cover current practice and how it should be improved, what the ideal scenario looks like, and how this study will move care in that direction.
 - Background information: Describe any background information available on the topic, prior studies, need for this study, etc. (2500 characters or about 1/4 page)
 - Hypothesis(es) to be tested. (3000 characters or about 1/4 page)
 - Study design: Identify the type of design – randomized, observational, proof of concept, etc.
 - Study protocol: Describe the basic design of the study, including information about study groups, measures and sample collection, time points of collection, and primary outcomes to be evaluated. This is the most important section and should be the primary focus of the concept paper. (7500 characters or about 1.5 pages)
 - There is a place to add additional information if an explanation is required for specific items in the concept paper. Pdf upload

Success Rates

The Foundation generally receives approximately 130 concept papers for each concept paper deadline. Depending on funding availability and the mix of requests, 10-12 of these are selected for full proposal submission. For full proposals, the selection rate for funding averages 75-90%.