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 **May 15, 2021, 4:00 p.m. EST,** if a full proposal is requested, deadline is August 15

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

Overview

The Foundation's mission focuses on infants and young children. Priority is given to projects that improve the nutrition, care, and development of infants and young children from *the first year before birth to three years of age*.

There are 2 categories of grants: (1) Research Grants and (2) Novice Grants.

The Foundation funds in **3 broad program areas**:
- Pediatric Nutrition: examining specific nutrients and their related outcomes in infants and young children
- Pediatric Health: a focus on the incidence of serious neonatal and early childhood illnesses
- Environmental Hazards: documenting the impact of, or ameliorating the effects of, environmental hazards on growth and development

The Foundation is particularly interested in fresh approaches to solving common, everyday problems or emerging issues within our defined focus area. Projects should focus on issues faced by care providers that, when implemented, will improve the health, nutrition and/or developmental outcomes for infants and young children. The board is particularly looking for practical solutions that can be easily and rapidly implemented on a broad scale with a predictable time frame to clinical application.

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:
- 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).
- Laboratory studies are funded occasionally. However, they expect that the basic science is a preliminary step required to support a clinical trial and that a clinical study will follow shortly after the funded project is completed.

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 are limited to no more than **$20,000** in total (inclusive of indirects).
  o Indirect costs are limited to no more than 10% of the total direct costs.
  o No more than ½ of the total budget may be applied to salary for the developing researcher (including fringe benefits).
  o The remainder of the funds are to be used for research-related expenses, including supplies.
  o 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.

Eligibility Note for Novice Grants:

Candidates for the Novice Grants include physicians/PhD candidates/PharmD candidates and other similar degree candidates:
  o in a residency or fellowship training program or those who are no more than one year post training
  o have not received a K award from the National Institutes of Health
  o have an assigned mentor for the project and a current development plan (and the qualifications and experience of the mentor will be a consideration during evaluation of the application)

Application Guidelines

Application for research grants begins with a Concept Paper, which is a brief summary of the project (written in lay terms) that will enable the Foundation to assess how well the proposed research fits with the Foundation's interests.

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%.