

Precision Child Health Partnership

Catalyst Program 2026

Letter of Intent Submission Guidelines

Submission Deadline: August 14th, 2026

Letter of Intent Submission Form to be shared a later date

About the PCHP Catalyst Program

As part of the SickKids and CHU Sainte-Justine Precision Child Health Partnership (PCHP), the Catalyst Program aims to provide seed funding for innovative proposals that will transform the discovery and development of novel approaches to precision health, and/or to address challenges in the delivery of precision child health at SickKids, CHU Sainte-Justine, and beyond. All catalyst proposals must involve principal applicants from both SickKids and CHU Sainte-Justine.

Proposals submitted to the PCHP Catalyst Program should be made for new project ideas; the continuation of existing projects will not be supported. Even though the long-term goals of a given proposal may extend beyond the means and timeline of this grant, within one year the results of the catalyst projects should enable the development of funding proposals that are eligible for submission to national or international peer-reviewed competitions.

During the 2026 cycle, the PCHP Catalyst Program will fund projects with up to \$150,000/year for two (2) years, for a total of up to \$300,000 per project.

The PCHP Catalyst Program has been made possible by philanthropy in collaboration with the SickKids and CHU Sainte-Justine Foundations and its specific goals are to:

- Foster collaborative multi-investigator projects across SickKids and CHU Sainte-Justine;
- Enable investigators to obtain preliminary data that will position them favorably for subsequent applications to other granting agencies;
- Demonstrate a proof of concept around a pediatric precision health opportunity; and,
- Advance impact in three (3) priority areas identified for the PCHP: genomics & omics, advanced therapeutics, and cross-institutional data sharing to advance precision health.

Eligibility Criteria

The PCHP Catalyst Program is open to all researchers (clinical, psychosocial and/or fundamental) in all areas of health research that are aligned with PCHP's mission.

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. The Principal Applicant needs to have a research institute appointment at the time of submission at the Scientist-track, Scientist, Associate Scientist, Senior Scientist, Senior Associate Scientist, or Project Investigator level; at CHU Sainte-Justine, this includes holders of research practice privileges.

2. There must be **one** (1) principal applicant from SickKids and **one** (1) principal applicant from CHU Sainte-Justine. Additional co-applicants may be named from other institutions, but funding can only be deployed to SickKids and CHU Sainte-Justine;
3. A researcher can only submit one (1) proposal per competition as principal applicant. They may be named as a co-applicant in other submissions;
4. Only new research projects (discovery, translational, and/or clinical) will be considered. Proposals may not be used to supplement already funded projects;
5. Proposals must focus on the discovery and development of novel approaches to precision child health, and/or to address challenges in the delivery of precision child health at SickKids and CHU Sainte-Justine;
6. All applicants must agree to adhere to the [Open Science Principles](#) and [FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship](#).

Application Process

The application process is divided into two (2) stages.

STAGE 1 - Letter of Intent (LOI).

Deadline for submission: August 14th, 2026 (23h59)

The principal applicants [at least one (1) from each institution] must jointly submit a LOI using the Letter of Intent Submission Form (to be shared at a later date).

Guidelines for the LOI

Applicants will submit a 500-word high-level overview of the intended project including:

- Name of project, name and email of the principal applicants, and co-applicants (not included in word count);
- Background (150 words);
- Project goals and hypothesis (150 words);
- Brief description of intended methods (100 words); and,
- Description of how your approach aligns with precision child health and the potential impact on patients and families (100 words).

The PCHP Steering Committee will evaluate the submitted LOIs to confirm eligibility and invite select submissions to proceed to the Full Application stage. Notification of an invitation to submit a Full Proposal will be sent to all principal applicants by early September 2026.

STAGE 2 - Full Proposal.

Deadline for Submission: October 30th, 2026 (23h59)

Guidelines for full proposal submission will be shared with principal applicants at a later date.

Overview of Program Timelines and Milestones

Milestone	Date
LOI Open	June 18, 2026

Stage 1 - LOI submission closes	August 14, 2026
Stage 2 - full application stage opens	Early September 2026
Stage 2 - full application stage submission closes	October 30, 2026
Notice of award	January 2027
Funding available	May 2027
Initial progress report due	Spring 2028
Closeout report due	Spring 2029