



The APHON &
Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation (MMCF)
Research Grant for the Implementation of the
Standards of Psychosocial Care of
Children with Cancer and their Families

Letters of Intent are due on **Monday, March 9, 2026**.

Projects invited to submit a full application will be notified by **Friday, April 10, 2026**.

Full applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, May 15, 2026** using the provided link at the time of invitation.

For specific questions or concerns about the grant programs, contact the APHON Education Team at education@aphon.org.

1660 International Drive, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102

1.855.202.9760 (US residents) • +1.703.506.3275 • www.aphon.org

The 2026 Grant Award

APHON is pleased to provide an opportunity for individuals conducting research that will support and advance nurses in optimizing outcomes for children, adolescents, young adults and their families throughout the continuum of care for their blood disorders and cancers.

APHON will award one US\$5,000 grant for the selected research project. This grant has been made possible through the generous support of the **Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation**.

The Granting Organizations



This grant has been made possible through the generous support of the **Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation**. MMCF is dedicated to increasing childhood cancer awareness, education, advocacy, research, and psychosocial support services to children, their families, and medical personnel. Children and their families will be supported throughout the cancer treatment journey, to ensure access to quality psychosocial and mental health care, and to enable children to cope with cancer so they can lead happy and productive lives. Visit www.mattiemiracle.com.



Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) is the professional organization for pediatric hematology/oncology nurses and other pediatric hematology/oncology healthcare professionals. Its members are dedicated to promoting optimal nursing care for children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer and blood disorders and their families. APHON provides the leadership and expertise to pediatric hematology/oncology nurses by defining and promoting the highest standards of practice and care to the pediatric, adolescent, and young adult communities.

Mission

To support and advance nurses and their practice to optimize outcomes for children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer and blood disorders and their families.

Vision

Pediatric hematology and oncology nurses are setting, advocating for, and achieving the highest standards of care for children, adolescents, and young adults and their families.

Core Organizational Values

- Stand out as an education and scientific organization
- Visionary leadership embracing innovation
- Committed to excellence in patient care
- Pride in the nursing profession
- Collaboration as an effective strategy
- Absolute integrity and high ethical standards
- Gratifying experience through involvement
- Continuous professional development through life-long learning

Project Purpose and Areas of Interest

The Research grant is for the specific purpose of supporting research that includes any of the 15 Standards for the Psychosocial Care of Children with Cancer and their Families (developed by over 80 healthcare professionals from the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands with and funded by the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation) or the Matrix and Guidelines for the Standards of Care.

The Psychosocial Standards may be accessed via the following link:

www.mattiemiracle.com/downloadstandards

The Psychosocial Standards may also be accessed via Wiley through the following link:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15455017/2015/62/S5>

Additional references include:

Wiener L, Canter K, Long K, Psihogios AM, Thompson AL. Pediatric Psychosocial Standards of Care in action: Research that bridges the gap from need to implementation. *Psychooncology*. 2020 Dec;29(12):2033-2040. doi: 10.1002/pon.5505. Epub 2020 Oct 21. PMID: 32748495; PMCID: PMC8447234.

Kazak, A. E., Barakat, L. P., Askins, M. A., McCafferty, M., Lattomus, A., Ruppe, N., & Deatrick, J. (2017). Provider Perspectives on the Implementation of Psychosocial Risk Screening in Pediatric Cancer. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 42(6), 700–710. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jpepsy/jsw110>

Scialla, M. A., Canter, K. S., Chen, F. F., Kolb, E. A., Sandler, E., Wiener, L., & Kazak, A. E. (2017a). Delivery of care consistent with the psychosocial standards in pediatric cancer: Current practices in the United States. *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.26869>

Scialla, M. A., Canter, K. S., Chen, F. F., Kolb, E. A., Sandler, E., Wiener, L., & Kazak, A. E. (2017b). Implementing the psychosocial standards in pediatric cancer: Current staffing and services available. *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*, 64(11). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.26634>

MMCF Research Grant

Letter of Intent (LOI) Guidelines

The Letter of Intent (LOI) requires the following information, with a limit of 1000 words, including the following information:

1. **Title:** Title of your project
2. **Background:** Brief description of the problem
3. **Relevance:** Relevance to pediatric hematology/oncology nursing
4. **Proposal Summary:** Please briefly describe study aim(s)/research questions and hypotheses. Give an overview of how study will be conducted including design and methods.

Format Specifications for LOI

1. **Font:** Double-spaced, 12-point
2. **Paper size:** 8 ½" x 11"
3. **Margins:** At least ½" margins (top, bottom, left, and right)
4. **Word Limit:** 1000 Words

Letters of Intent can be addressed to the **APHON Evidence-Based Practice/Research (EBP/Research) Committee and the MMCF Grant Team** and submitted via the LOI Form found on the [APHON Grant Page](#) no later than **March 9, 2026**.

STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE IS NECESSARY OR THE PROPOSAL WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.

Investigators who have specific questions or concerns not addressed in this packet or who would like a mentor to assist them in the development of an LOI or full grant proposal should contact the APHON Education Team at education@aphon.org.

Guidelines for MMCF Research Grant Projects

Focus Areas

Research project proposals must address the implementation of any of the Psychosocial Standards of Care or the [Matrix and Guidelines](#) for the Standards of Care.

Eligible Applicants

The principal investigator (PI) for the Research grant must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Be an active member of APHON and maintain membership through the completion of the project.
2. Be a registered nurse who is active in pediatric hematology/oncology and who demonstrates interest in making significant contributions to pediatric hematology/ oncology nursing.
3. Have a minimum of a master's degree or may be a doctoral degree student completing a dissertation project.

If the PI does not yet have a doctoral degree, it is expected that they will have a co-PI with research experience who at least has a doctoral degree.

Note: Members of the APHON Board of Directors or persons serving on the APHON EBP/Research Committee are not eligible to apply for this grant.

Project Leader Responsibilities

Responsibilities include:

1. Completion of the Research project within (1) one or (2) two years of initial funding, per identified project length;
2. Submission of a progress report to the APHON EBP/Research Committee every six months after funding is disbursed until the project is completed, and a final report submitted no more than 2 months after completion of the research project. APHON staff will facilitate the submission of reports;
3. Employment at an academic institution, children's hospital, or independent pediatric oncology practice;
4. Acknowledgement in any publication, paper, or poster that the project was supported by the Association of Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology Nurses and the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation.

Format Specifications for Grant Proposal

1. **Font:** Double-spaced, 12-point
2. **Paper size:** 8 ½" x 11"
3. **Margins:** At least ½" margins (top, bottom, left, and right)
4. **Page Limit:** Four pages in addition to included appendices
5. **Citations:** References included in proposal using APA format 7th edition.

Required Information

All applicants must complete the **MMCF Research Grant Application Form** regarding the contact person(s) for the grant funding agreement and disbursement of funds should the application be selected and PI information. (Available via online application)

All accepted grant proposals must include a submission packet containing the following sections. This packet may be submitted as a single collated PDF or in separate PDFs within the online application. Clearly label each section and appendix item with a header so the review panel can easily navigate the project proposal:

1. **Abstract:** On page 1 of the proposal, complete an abstract of 350 words or less.

Abstract should include brief background, study aim/purpose, study methods including design, participants, intervention (if done), and measurements, and data analysis plan.

2. Starting on page 2 of the proposal, sections should include the following and be limited to 4 pages or less:

- **Background/Relevant Literature:** Statement of the problem/issue, what is known about it, and any gaps in the literature. Explain the significance of your proposal.
- State the **Specific Aim(s)** of your proposal.
- **Project Alignment:** Clearly state how the proposal addresses the [Psychosocial Standards](#) and the specific Standard(s) being addressed.
- **Methods:** Provide details on the following:
 - Study Design
 - Study Setting
 - Study participants, their eligibility criteria, and recruitment plan
 - Research procedures including a description of the intervention if there is one, and study measurements.
- **Data Analysis:** Include sample size and power analysis (if appropriate) and plan for analysis.
- **Completion Plan:** Provide a narrative description for completing your study. You may refer to the added timeline that is in the appendix.

3. To be included in the proposal Appendices:

- **References:** Cite any references included in the proposal using APA format 7th edition.
- **Measurement Instrument/Tools:** Include copies of any self-report measurements such as questionnaires or surveys that will be collected from participants.
- **Personnel Biosketches:** On a separate page, specify the team members with their credentials and each person's role. Include the [NIH Biosketch](#) of the PI, all co-investigators, and consultants. If the PI does not have a doctoral degree, it is strongly recommended that a team member is doctorally prepared and can serve as a mentor.
- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Please include a CV for the project leader.
- **Timeline:** On a separate page, develop a timeline table with what will be accomplished each month. Clarify the length of the project (1 year or 2 years).

- **Letter of support:** Please include a letter from an institutional leader stating that you have support to conduct the project and will be given the time to complete it.
- **IRB Correspondence:** If the proposal has IRB approval, include that document. If the proposal has been submitted (but not yet reviewed) to IRB, include document showing submission. If the proposal has not been submitted, include a document explaining the project submission plan.
- **Budget:** A **Project Budget** for the entire project must be submitted.

This section must specify the direct costs associated with the Research project. Indirect costs are not funded by MMCF. The budget must represent sufficient funds to complete the project. Please see below for allowable and non-allowable use of funds.

Key Budget Components Allowable:

1. **Supplies:** Itemized list of study related consumables (instruments/measures e.g. NIH Toolbox, analysis software.) No office supplies may be included.
2. **Participant Reimbursement:** Incentives for research participants
3. **Equipment:** Cannot exceed \$500. (e.g, digital recorders, participant wearable device) itemized with model/make, justification, and maintenance. Laptops etc are not-allowable - see below
4. **Travel:** Budget for travel to present research at a professional conference cannot exceed 20% of the total budget. Conference registration is not allowable – see below

Key Budget Components NOT Allowable:

1. **Personnel:** PI effort (percentage of time), salaries for staff, tuition for students, fringe benefits.
 2. **Equipment:** Laptops and other office equipment
 3. **Travel:** Conference registration is not allowable
 4. **Indirect Costs (F&A/Overhead):** A percentage of direct costs, defined by your institution
- **Appendices:** Applicants must provide Appendices that include the following supportive materials:
 - Appendix A – References
 - Appendix B – Measurement Instrument/Tools identified for measuring project outcomes
 - Appendix C – Project personnel as described above
 - Appendix D – Curriculum vitae for project leader.

- Appendix E – Project timeline as described above
- Appendix F – Institutional letter of support
- Appendix G – IRB correspondence
- Appendix H – Budget Form

** Appendices do not count in the 4-page limit.*

Grant Proposal Submission Guidelines

The EBP/Research Committee reviews EBP/Research grant proposals once a year.

An e-mail confirmation will be sent within 72 hours of receiving your LOI. Exceptions or extensions will not be granted due to a failure to submit a complete LOI application by the designated deadline. Projects PI's invited to submit a full application will be notified on April 10, 2026.

Evaluation Procedures

Proposals will be reviewed by the EBP/Research Committee and an independent peer review panel. Outside content experts may be asked to assist in reviewing all applications. The EBP/Research Committee will use predetermined weighted criteria to inform the funding decisions.

All project leads will be notified of the disposition of their proposals after action by the EBP/Research Committee. Project leaders will receive a summary critique of their proposal from the APHON EBP/Research Committee.

Notification of Award

Grant recipients will be notified by **July 15, 2026**. Public announcement of the grant recipients will be made by the EBP/Research Chair at the APHON national conference. Recipients are strongly encouraged to attend the conference and are expected to present their progress informally to the EBP/Research Committee during one of the concurrent sessions.

Funds will be awarded to the institution, agency, investigator, or project director at the discretion of the EBP/Research Committee. The strategy for funding proposed by the project leader(s) will be considered in the decision.

Questions

For specific questions or concerns not addressed in this packet or if you would like a mentor to assist you in the development of an LOI or full grant proposal, contact the APHON Education Team at education@aphon.org.

Submission Checklist

Section 1—Abstract (Limit: 350 words or less)

Include:

- ☐ Brief background
- ☐ Study aim/purpose
- ☐ Study methods
 - ☐ Study design
 - ☐ Participants
 - ☐ Intervention (if applicable)
 - ☐ Measurements
- ☐ Data analysis plan

Section 2 — Main Proposal (Starting on Page 2, Max 4 Pages)

Background & Relevant Literature

- ☐ Statement of the problem/issue
- ☐ What is known, and gaps in the literature
- ☐ Significance of the proposal

Specific Aim(s)

- ☐ Clear statement of study aims

Project Alignment

- ☐ How the proposal addresses the Psychosocial Standards
- ☐ Identify specific Standard(s) addressed

Methods

- ☐ Study design
- ☐ Study setting

- ☐ Participant eligibility criteria
- ☐ Recruitment plan
- ☐ Research procedures
- ☐ Intervention description (if applicable)
- ☐ Study measurements

Data Analysis Plan

- ☐ Sample size & power analysis (if applicable)
- ☐ Data analysis plan

Completion Plan

- ☐ Narrative describing how and when the study will be completed
- ☐ Refers to included timeline in appendices

Section 3 — Required Appendices (Not Included in 4-Page Limit)

Appendix A — References

- ☐ APA 7th edition citation list

Appendix B — Measurement Instruments/Tools

- ☐ Copies of all participant-completed questionnaires, scales, or surveys

Appendix C — Personnel Biosketches

- ☐ Names and credentials for all team members
- ☐ Role of each individual
- ☐ NIH Biosketch for:
 - ☐ PI
 - ☐ Co-investigators
 - ☐ Consultants

Appendix D — Curriculum Vitae

- ☐ CV for the project leader

Appendix E — Project Timeline

- ☐ Month-by-month table of activities
- ☐ Project length clearly stated (1-year or 2-years)

Appendix F — Letter of Support

- ☐ Institutional leader letter confirming project support and protected time

Appendix G — IRB Correspondence

Include one of the following:

- ☐ IRB approval
- ☐ Proof of IRB submission
- ☐ Plan & timeline for IRB submission

Appendix H — Budget Form

- ☐ Complete project budget covering entire duration
- ☐ Specifies direct costs only (indirect costs not allowed)