

Resident Research Grants

General Information

In an effort to enhance the development of research skills among physicians in training, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) administers the Resident Research Grant (RRG) Program. This program is designed to give pediatric residents with limited research experience an opportunity to initiate and complete research projects related to their professional interests. Grants of \$2000 (plus a \$1,000 travel stipend) are available.

All completed applications, which include the Resident's Application Form, letters of support, and biographical sketches, must be submitted by February 28, 2020. Applications will not be processed if any items are missing.

How It Works

1. Submit a completed Resident Research Grant Application located at the following link: https://fs25.formsite.com/aapmembership/lcwalkrpmp/form_login.html. **You will be prompted to create a username and password. This will allow you to save your progress and return to the form at a later time, if necessary.** Residents should NOT work together on proposals.
2. Upload a copy of your biographical sketch in standard National Institutes of Health (NIH) format limited to 5 pages at the link above. For an example of the NIH format, please refer to the following link: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketchsample.doc>.
3. Ask your research mentor to e-mail a letter of support to jhess@aap.org with his or her biographical sketch in standard NIH format limited to 5 pages. This sketch should include a list of the mentor's research funding.
4. Ask the chairperson or program director to e-mail a letter of support to jhess@aap.org.

You will receive confirmation of your completed application approximately one month after your application and all supporting materials have been received. If you have not received confirmation of your completed application by March 31, 2020, please contact Jeannine Hess. The applications will be reviewed by the Committee on Pediatric Research, Subcommittee on Resident Research Grants and approved by the Advisory Committee to the Board on Research. All applicants will receive a letter of determination in the mail by July 31, 2020.

If you have any other questions, after reading the instructions in full, please send an e-mail message to jhess@aap.org or call the Academy at 800/433-9016, extension 6176.

Program Description

The American Academy of Pediatrics Resident Research Grant Program is designed to give pediatric residents with limited research experience an opportunity to initiate and complete research projects related to their professional interests. Grants of \$2,000 are available to qualifying residents. Award winners are also provided a \$1000 travel stipend to attend a professional conference. Projects may be related to the full spectrum of child health research, such as behavioral sciences, biomedical sciences,

epidemiology, health services, perinatal/neonatal health, prevention, public health, quality improvement, quality measurement, or basic laboratory-based science. Residents must conduct their research under the supervision of a mentor within their own department or with other basic, clinical, or social scientists within the resident's institution. Research projects can be conducted for a maximum of 2 years and should be completed during the residency program.

The Committee on Pediatric Research Subcommittee on Resident Research Grants considers each application in light of the following criteria: proposed methodology, significance of the topic, feasibility to complete during residency, and relevance to the resident's career goals. It is of particular importance that the mentor provides a clear plan of mentorship and outlines explicitly what role he or she will take to support the resident in conducting the project. For an example of the score sheet please refer to following link: [RRG Score Sheet](#)

The most common reasons proposals are scored in the non-fundable range are 1) sample size not justified, 2) unclear conceptual framework, 3) unrealistic scope or timeframe to complete project, 4) weak mentor support, 5) resident's role not clearly defined, and 6) insufficient description of methods.

Priority is given to resident applicants who have limited research experience after medical school and to proposals most likely to advance the resident's research knowledge, skills, and interest. Dual degree applicants (MD and PhDs) are unlikely to be funded unless the proposed research is a major departure from their dissertation. One goal of this program is to encourage residents with limited research experience to apply and to begin academic careers in research.

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must be pediatric residents in a training program (categorical or combined) AND have a definite commitment for another year of residency or chief residency (not fellowship) in a pediatric program accredited by the Residency Review Committee. Canadian citizens are eligible to apply. Previous RRG recipients are ineligible to apply.

Research Training Mentor Responsibilities

IMPORTANT: Mentor must be a good-standing member of the AAP

The research mentor must have a research background and be knowledgeable in the specific field related to the project. The mentor's biographical sketch, in standard NIH format and limit to 5 pages, should include a list of the mentor's research funding and must be submitted with the resident's application. Mentors with funding from NIH or other national agencies are more likely to be experienced in quality mentorship and productivity.

The mentor's letter of support should explicitly answer the following questions:

1. How does the proposed project fit into the resident's career plans?
2. How was the topic selected by the resident?
3. What components of the proposed study will the resident perform directly?
4. What is the resident expected to learn from conducting the proposed research?

5. Is the proposed project feasible to complete during residency training (eg, elective time set aside during the residency to complete the project)?
6. What exactly is the mentor committed to do to ensure that the resident increases his or her research skills and successfully conducts the project?

Please note that the grant sent to the institution will be used specifically for the project. No indirect charges will be paid to the institution. **Funds from grant award should not be used for computer equipment.**

Chairperson/Program Director Responsibilities

The chairperson/program director must write a letter of support and commitment to be submitted with the resident's application. In the support letter, the chairperson/program director must state the time available for the resident to conduct the research project.

Important Dates

February 28, 2020 - Deadline for application and research proposal.

July 31, 2020 - All applicants will be notified and research grants will be awarded.

Responsibilities of the Applicant for the Resident Research Grant

1. Complete the Resident Research Grant Application located at the following link: https://fs25.formsite.com/aapmembership/lcwalkrpmp/form_login.html and upload your biographical sketch at this link by February 28, 2020.
2. Request a letter of support and commitment from the chairperson/program director.
3. Request a letter of support from the proposed research mentor with a copy of his or her biographical sketch, in standard NIH format and limit to 5 pages, which includes a list of the mentor's research funding.
4. All application materials and support letters must be submitted or e-mailed to Jeannine Hess by February 28, 2020.
5. Notify the AAP of any address change.

Important: Submit your proposal to your Institutional Review Board (IRB) as soon as possible. No RRG checks will be awarded without prior IRB approval.

Please note that grants may be used only for the approved study under the supervision of the approved mentor; a request to change study topic or mentor must be approved by the AAP and will be allowed only under special circumstances. If the approved project cannot be conducted or completed, the institution is expected to return all unspent funds to the AAP. For questions, write to [Jeannine Hess](#) or call 800/433-9016, ext. 6176.