



Virginia Tech – Children's National Pilot Award Program

Guidelines

Submission Deadline: Monday, December 1, 2025

The Virginia Tech - Children's National (VT-CN) Pilot Research Awards Program (PRAP) is designed to catalyze innovative collaborative research between VT and CN researchers and support pilot projects in preparation for subsequent federal funding. This program supports innovative team science research aimed at promoting collaborative high-impact federally funded research.

Two (2) one-year, \$100,000 projects will be awarded to teams consisting of (1) Children's National principal investigator (PI) and (1) Virginia Tech PI. This is a call for research ranging from basic to translational science to clinical research and population health.

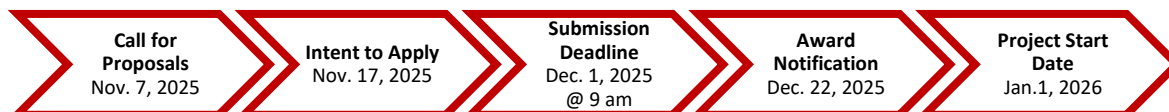
Critical Criteria

All applications must include multi-disciplinary collaboration and include consideration of how the proposed project would lead to a larger research effort and submission of a federal grant application at the end of the funding period. If the proposed project is related to an existing project or collaboration, applicants must include an explanation of how the proposed project constitutes a new area of exploration distinct from the primary work.

Eligibility

Principal investigators and co-investigators (if applicable) must be employed by VT or CN at the time of application and hold a full-time faculty appointment. All investigators including those at early-stage, mid-career and senior levels are encouraged to apply. This funding opportunity supports team science and requires at least one principal investigator each from VT and CN. No external collaborators are permitted. Eligible faculty may only serve as MPI on one proposal submission per cycle; however, faculty may participate as co-investigator on additional submissions provided they are scientifically distinct.

Timeline



Project Budget & Budgeting Guidelines

CN-VT Pilot proposals may request up to \$100,000 for a one-year (12 month) period of performance; \$50,000 will be allocated to each PI/institution from each PI's respective institution.

- **Personnel:** Salary effort for research staff, and hourly wage for other personnel categories are permissible. Salary support for PIs or Co-Is is not permitted. Support for personnel

should be well justified and include information regarding their role, position, and suitability as well as their specific role and commitment of effort (calculated in person-months) to the project.

- **Fringe Benefits:** Fringe benefit costs are required for full-time personnel and are based on respective institutions' current negotiated Rate Agreement.
- **Direct Research Expenses:** Patient incentives, research supplies, animal costs, research facility use, and other direct research costs typically allowed by federal sponsors are permissible.
- **Unallowable Budget Categories:** Unallowable costs include but are not limited to sub-recipients, indirect costs, travel, equipment, tuition, basic administrative and operational supplies, catering, meals, and gifts.

Application & Submission

The VT-CN Pilot Award application follows each institution's respective internal call for proposals process.

1. Interested applicants are asked to send one email to both institutions, _____ and proposals@childrensnational.org, with their intent to apply by close of business on November 17th, 2025.
2. Applicants must use the VT-CN Pilot Program template provided in Appendix I.
3. In a single email, VT-CN PIs will send the full application as a combined PDF document to scClinton@vtc.vt.edu and proposals@childrensnational.org by 9 am Monday, December 1, 2025. See VT-CN Pilot Program template for details on document order.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals are reviewed by an *ad hoc* committee of VT and CN researchers whose expertise closely aligns to the content areas as possible. Every effort is made to ensure at least two reviewers per submission, and to make the process fair and transparent. Children's Chief Research Officer and Virginia Tech's Vice President for Health Science & Technology will make the final award determinations.

Terms & Conditions

VT-CN Pilot Awards are made with the following understanding.

1. Acceptance signifies intent to continue employment at Children's National and Virginia Tech for the duration of the project period.
2. VT-CN Pilot Awards must comply with published research, patent, copyright, technology transfer, intellectual property, and publication policies at the PI's respective institution.
3. Children's National and Virginia Tech have no direction or supervision over the details of the research or activities to be performed, but it does require adherence to the original aims and strategy of the award.

Post Award

Award Administration: Awards to Children's PIs will be issued under the affiliated Research Center and managed by the Sponsor Projects & Business Services department. Future correspondence and post-award reporting should include the BearGrants award number and PeopleSoft project ID.

Awards to Virginia Tech PIs will be issued and set up through the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute that is funding the VT component of the program.

No-Cost Extensions: No cost extensions are not permitted.

Re-Budgeting: Requests for re-budgeting are not required; however, PIs are required to adhere to the original aims and strategy of the award.