PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY GROUP OF ONTARIO

Research Grant

Information Package

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Our Mission

We partner to achieve the best childhood cancer care system for children, youth, survivors, and their families in Ontario and beyond.

Our Vision

A valued partner. An excellent childhood cancer care system.

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POGO Research Grant

POGO is offering a Research Grant which funds research relevant to patients, families, and survivors throughout Ontario and expands childhood cancer research capacity in the province.

The research **must be** within one or more of the following categories:

- Health System Performance and Quality Improvement in Pediatric Oncology
- Improving Cancer Care and Outcomes for Indigenous Children, Youth and Families
- Mental Health Care for Children with Cancer and their Families Across the Care Continuum (diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and bereavement)
- Pediatric Oncology Survivorship Care
- Symptom Management and Supportive Care in Pediatric Oncology
- Transitions in Oncology Care from Pediatric to Adult Healthcare Services

If you are unsure if your project complements the POGO Research agenda, please email research@pogo.ca prior to submission.

Funds Available

The maximum amount available per grant for this funding opportunity is **$75,000**. All awards will be paid to the institution of the Primary Investigator.

Application Deadline

The deadline for submission of the ***full application*** is **December 15, 2026** by **5:00 p.m. EST**. Hardcopy applications are not required. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Eligibility to Apply

While the competition is open to all applicants, primary consideration will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents living in Ontario. Projects must be conducted at a hospital, research institute or university in Ontario, although applicants do not have to be permanent residents of Ontario.

The Primary Investigator should be on staff at an Ontario university, teaching hospital, or equivalent institution and be able to hold research funds or be affiliated with an Indigenous non-governmental organization operating in Ontario with a research and/or knowledge translation mandate.

When scientific merit is considered comparable, preference will be given to projects that include investigators and patients from more than one pediatric oncology program in Ontario.

Notification

Successful applicants will be notified by **March 2027**.

Policy on Deferring Awards

Deferrals are not supported by POGO Research although they may be considered under exceptional circumstances. Should a deferral be granted, it may be for no longer than one year.

Review Process and Evaluation

Applications will be adjudicated by the Research Grant Review Panel, which consists of established researchers in pediatric oncology who are not in any way involved with the project.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The extent to which the application aligns with one or more of the categories listed.
- The extent to which the project includes meaningful contributions from investigators in more than one university (or geographic region) in Ontario and/or is directly relevant to patients, families or survivors from more than one geographic region in Ontario.
- Feasibility of the proposed research approach, timelines and deliverables.
- Consideration of potential barriers or difficulties that may be encountered in the research and the inclusion of strategies to manage them.

Expectations of Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Provide POGO with a brief, one-page update on the work related to this project by the end of each fiscal year (March 31)
- Acknowledge funding from POGO on all outcomes (publications, presentations, posters, etc.) relating to the project, including affixing POGO logos to abstracts, posters and presentations
- Prepare and present a poster or presentation on the project at the annual POGO Symposium
- Be available for donor stewardship purposes
- Provide copies of all publications resulting in whole or in part from the POGO research funding (at least 60 days prior to publication)
- Submit a final report (up to three pages) no more than two months after the project's completion, including an indication of next steps in the development of the research (where the grant provided preliminary or feasibility data)

About POGO

POGO works to ensure that everyone affected by childhood cancer has access to the best care and support. We partner to achieve an excellent childhood cancer care system for children, youth, survivors, their families, and healthcare teams in Ontario and beyond. POGO champions childhood cancer care and, as the collective voice of this community, is the official advisor to Ontario's Ministry of Health (Ministry) on children's cancer control and treatment. POGO provides leadership and support for regular, province-wide consultations, resulting in long-range system plans that have been enormously effective in shaping and coordinating childhood cancer care in Ontario, including the current Childhood Cancer Care Plan, endorsed by the Ministry.

POGO ensures access to high-quality, coordinated care and support through various activities including:

- A unique database on childhood cancer (POGONIS - Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario Networked Information System)
- Satellite Clinics bringing patient care closer to home in communities across Ontario
- Interlink Nurses providing excellent nursing support to young cancer patients and helping families identify useful resources and services in the community, including the POGO Financial Assistance Program
- Development of clinical practice guidelines, which provide a way to translate scientific evidence into clinical practice and help optimize outcomes and improve patient quality of life
- The POGO Financial Assistance Program*, which provides much-needed financial support to families for out-of-pocket costs while their child is in cancer treatment
- AfterCare Clinics across Ontario monitoring survivors regularly for long-term effects from cancer treatment
- School and Work Transitions Counsellors* who help survivors get the support and assistance they need to finish high school and move on to post-secondary education or work
- Education events* providing educational opportunities for health care professionals, including the annual POGO Symposium, Satellite Education Days, AfterCare education days, webinars, and more
- An analytic centre, POGO Research,* with a mandate to stimulate and promote pediatric oncology research; engage in collaborative multi-disciplinary investigations of childhood cancer; conduct research in the areas of tracking and forecasting within the childhood cancer population; undertake program evaluations (including utilization of health care resources); and assess the burden of illness in the form of long-term health status and health-related quality of life

**Funded in part or in full by private donations*