

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

Pediatric Research

2025



Fondazione
Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo

Pediatric Research

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

Deadline for application submission:
19 January 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo, hereinafter the “Foundation”, has drawn up this call for proposals in agreement with the **Pediatric Research Institute Città della Speranza**, hereinafter the “Institute”, with a view to promoting research into **pediatric conditions**.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the public notice is to **contribute to developing and qualifying the Institute's research by organising first-rate scientific initiatives** conducted by research teams working in the paediatric sector.

3. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

To be eligible, projects must be related to the **paediatric field** (translational medicine, clinical research, treatment, prevention).

Submitted projects shall have a **maximum duration of 36 months** and will be **executed on the Institute's premises**. The equipment available on site is listed in **Annex A**.

Projects not executed at the Institute will **not** be supported by the Foundation.

4. ELIGIBLE RESEARCHERS

Projects may only be submitted by researchers employed by the **Institute**, by the **University of Padua** or by **public health centers in the provinces of Padua and Rovigo**.

By the term “working” we mean any **professional employed** for research purposes, by the institute of origin, either:

- a) **permanently** - in such cases, the PI can keep his or her role within the research institute of origin, if different from the Institute,

- provided he or she guarantees the **scientific supervision** of the project and sets up a suitable **research team** c/o the Institute;
- b) **for a fixed term** - in such cases, if at the expiration of the fixed-term contract the project is not concluded, the Institution of affiliation will undertake to provide the PI with remuneration for the interval of time not covered by the contract and necessary to conclude the scientific supervision of the project. This commitment will have to be declared by the Institution of affiliation at the time of the PI's application for the call; in any case, the related expense cannot be covered by the Foundation's contribution.

The Principal Investigator, or PI, shall possess all the necessary prerequisites **as of 19 January 2026** and shall **send his or her project to the Institute to the email address: grantoffice@irpcds.org**. **The Institute will then forward the project to the Foundation**, attaching a letter from its Scientific Directorate confirming its willingness to approve and execute the project c/o the Institute due to its relevance to the paediatric field and to the requirement of instruments, spaces and services (see article 7 below).

Researchers who hold or have held research projects granted by the Foundation in previous editions of this Call of Proposals or in 2021 and 2023 editions of Ricerca Scientifica di Eccellenza Call for Proposals will **not be eligible** as PIs. They may, however, be part of the project team. Researchers may **submit only one project** each as PI.

However, they may take part in projects submitted by other researchers, dedicating at most 10% of their research time.

In case the PI, during the course of the project, is unable to continue scientific supervision at the Institute, or in case the termination of affiliation occurs, or in case the same PI plans to terminate his or her work before the end of the project term, he or she will have to propose a **suitable replacement** meeting the same requirements as the PI, which must be approved by the Institute and the Foundation.

5. GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Foundation has allocated a maximum **ceiling of 800,000 Euro** for this public notice.

However, a lower amount may actually be assigned in the event of the projects submitted not meeting the requirements of excellence underlying this call for proposals.

The Foundation will grant a maximum amount of **400,000 Euro** to each project for a maximum **three-year period**.

Projects may only be co-financed by **non-profit** organisations having legal personality.

6. ELIGIBLE COSTS

Eligible costs:

- *Consumables* (up to 40% of the total budget);
- *Equipment or components* (up to 20% of the total budget);
- *PCs and computer equipment*, excluding software programs which may be included in "other expenses" (up to 5,000 Euro);
- *Personnel* - remuneration of unemployed staff recruited for the project: additional notes should be provided, specifying the role and remuneration envisaged;
- *External services* (up to 15% of the total budget, unless authorised by the evaluating Committee in special and justifiable cases);
- *Travel expenses related to the research activity* (meetings, board and lodging, travel expenses, conference registration fees, submission of abstracts and posters, etc., as long as they are relevant to the project) within the limits provided by the provisions of the pertinent Entity in point of carrying out transfers and missions;
- *Italian and international patents*;
- *Conferences and seminars* (organised by the research team for the dissemination of the project results excluding expenses related to convivial and representational occasions);
- *Other expenses* (publication, e.g. for Open Access, reprints, magazine subscriptions, books and software required to carry out the research project);
- *Overheads* (up to 10% of the total budget).

Participants are specifically requested to **report any co-financing** at the time of submitting the project.

Amounts relating to the **remuneration** of staff already employed by the institutions involved in the project and committed to its execution **are not considered co-financing quotas**, and neither are amounts relating to the conversion into monetary value of **assets owned** by the Institute or other entities involved in the project, or in general to the conversion into monetary value of **contributions in kind**.

7. PARTICIPATION AND DEADLINES

Projects shall be drawn up using the standard **template** available from the Foundation's website on the page dedicated to the call for proposals (<https://www.fondazionecariparo.it/iniziativa/bando-ricerca-pediatria-2025>) and shall be at most 15 pages long (text in Times New Roman, font size 12, single-line spacing, graphs and figures included). The fields to be filled in and the list of **mandatory attachments** are specified in the ***Guidelines for drawing up the Project***, published on the same page.

The template includes a questionnaire on the **ethical implications** of the project. It should be noted that, in the event of having to meet specific legal requirements in this regard (e.g. obtaining the opinion

of the relevant Ethics Committee), the Foundation will still take the project into account, but will **not** make any grants available until said requirements have been fully met.

Projects must be submitted **to the Institute by 19 January 2026** to the email address grantoffice@irpcds.org.

The Institute will then forward the project **to the Foundation by 26 January 2026**, following the specific **procedure for Online Requests** and enclosing a letter from its Scientific Directorate confirming its willingness to approve and execute the project c/o the Institute due to its pertinence to the paediatric field and to the instruments, spaces and services required.

Projects submitted not in compliance with these Rules, received beyond the deadline or regarding other topics than those listed above specified, or not accompanied by the aforementioned statement from the Scientific Directorate shall **not** be taken into account.

8. ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION

The **assessment** and **selection** of projects will be entrusted to an **independent Scientific Committee** appointed by the Foundation.

In order to best assess the specialistic details of individual projects, the Committee may also consult of **international referees** in the project's specific scientific field.

The assessment process will focus on the excellence and quality of the proposals.

The **assessment criteria** are:

- Innovation and impact in the paediatric field (30%);
- Work programming, scientific approach and methodology (30%);
- Project sustainability and budgeting (25%);
- Curriculum and track record of the PI and of the project team (15%).

Requests will be assessed and selected, and the relevant grant determined at the **sole discretion** of the Foundation.

In any case, upon request, the PI may receive feedback on the project assessment.

All Committee members are required to comply with the provisions of the Foundation's **Code of Ethics**, available on the website, which includes specific confidentiality clauses.

9. RESULTS OF THE SELECTION

The **results of the selection** will be published on the Foundation's website, on the page dedicated to the call for proposals, **by July 2026**.

The Foundation reserves the right to change the deadlines should the need arise, providing adequate notice via its website. Participants, the-

refore, are invited to check for any notices on the Foundation's website and in particular on the page dedicated to the call for proposals.

10. PAYMENT OF GRANTS

The payment of grants will be ruled by an **agreement between the Foundation and the Institute**. The latter will report on the projects granted and will guarantee the overall supervision of the projects within the framework of its scientific activities.

Grants will be paid by the Foundation to the Institute in the following manner:

- **within 60 days of signing the agreement, 30% of the grant** will be paid as a **down payment** to cover start-up expenses, which must later be accounted for. The down payment will be accounted for when the balance is paid;
- **at the end of each project year a sum** will be paid corresponding to the project expenses incurred during that year, which must **be accounted** for in the manner prescribed by the Foundation.

Please note that the Foundation's only administrative counterpart will be the Institute. Therefore, any **expenses by partner institutions** may only be reimbursed by the Institute under specific side agreements.

11. MONITORING OF APPROVED PROJECTS

The PIs of approved projects must submit an annual **scientific report** on the progress of the project and, at the end, a **final report** on the research activities carried out and the results obtained. These reports, which must be drafted in accordance with the requirements of the Foundation, will be considered an **integral part of the project's reporting process** and may be submitted to the Scientific Committee and/or to **international referees** for their assessment.

If the project is not carried out in line with the provisions of the call for proposals, the Foundation reserves the right to revoke the assigned grant and/or to demand reimbursement of the grant amount already paid.

During the project, in order to assess its actual implementation, the Foundation will be entitled to monitor the progress of the research, also through **site visits**.

12. INFORMATION

For more **information on the call for proposals**, please contact the Foundation by email at ricerca@fondazionecariparo.it.

For more **information on to the laboratories** of the Pediatric Research Institute Città della Speranza, email grantoffice@irpcds.org