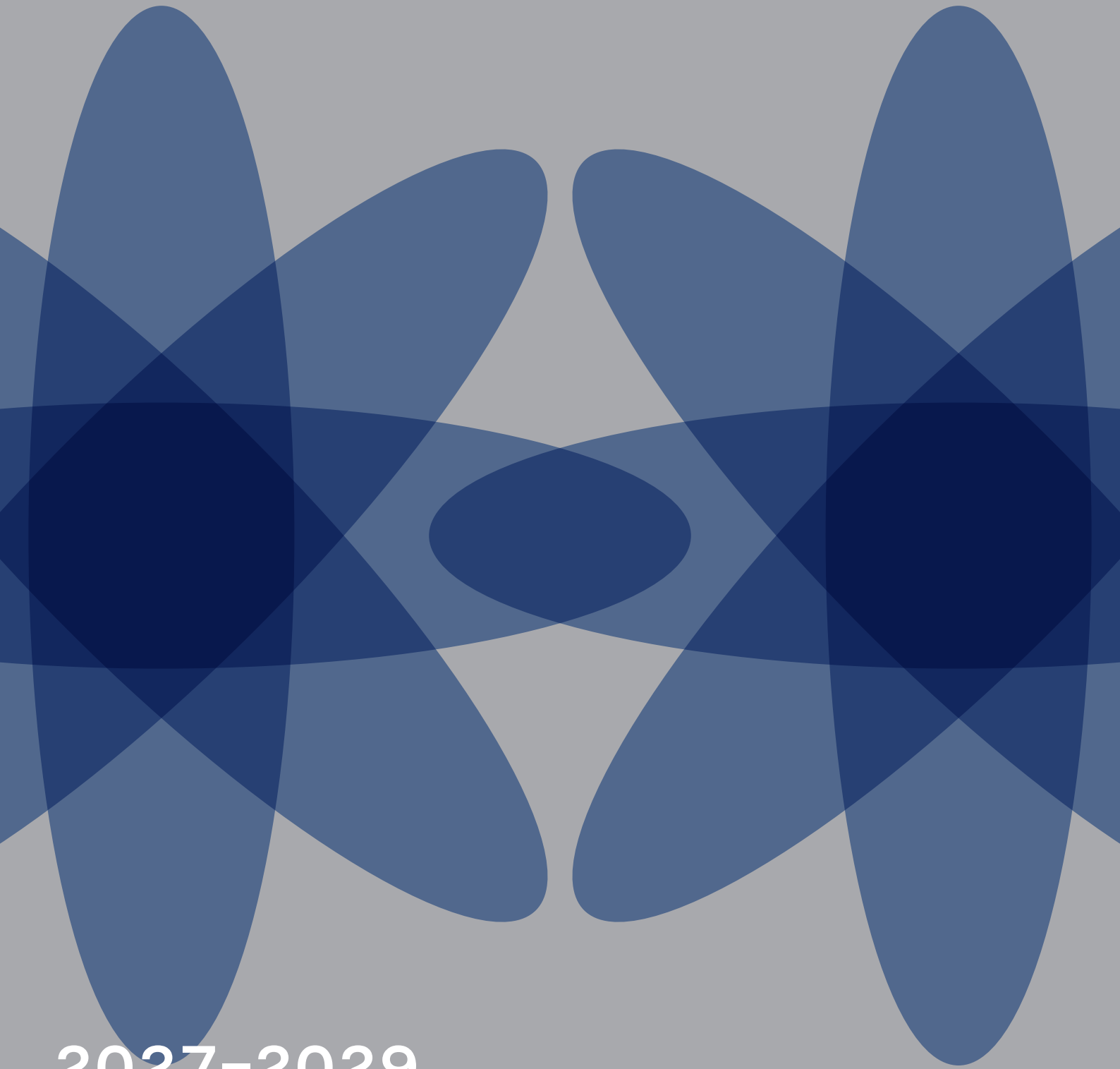
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Pediatric Research

RULES
FOR PARTICIPATION



2027–2029

Fondazione
Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo

Pediatric Research

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

Application deadline:
January 29, 2027

1 – INTRODUCTION

Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo, hereinafter the "Foundation", is launching this call for proposals in agreement with **Fondazione Istituto di Ricerca Pediatrica Città della Speranza**, hereinafter the "Institute", with the aim of promoting research into pediatric diseases

2 – OBJECTIVE

The objective of the call for proposals is to contribute to the development and enhancement of research conducted at the Institute through excellent scientific activities carried out by research groups active in the pediatric field.

3 – ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Only research projects in the pediatric field will be eligible **(translational research, clinical research, treatment and prevention**).

Submitted projects, with a duration of between 24 and 36 months, must be carried out at the Institute. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the withdrawal of the grant. The equipment available on site is listed in Annex A.
If a project is not actually started or is not carried out at the Institute, it will not be eligible for support from the Foundation.

4 – REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING PROJECTS

Projects may be submitted in the capacity of Scientific Coordinators (Principal Investigators or PIs) exclusively by researchers employed by the Institute, the University of Padua, or public healthcare institutions in the provinces of Padua and Rovigo.

For the purposes of this call, "employed researchers" means all staff who have an employment relationship for research purposes with their institution of affiliation:

a) **permanent employment**: in such cases, the PI may retain his or her position at the institution of affiliation, if different from the Institute, provided that the PI guarantees the scientific supervision of the project and establishes an appropriate research group at the Institute;
b) **fixed-term employment**: in such cases, if the project has not been completed by the expiry date of the fixed-term contract, the institution of affiliation **shall undertake to extend the PI's employment relationship, and provide the related remuneration**, for the period not covered by the contract that is necessary to complete the scientific supervision of the project. This commitment must be declared by the institution of affiliation when the PI submits the project. Under no circumstances may the related cost be covered by the Foundation's grant.

The PI must meet these requirements as of **29 January 2027** and must submit the project prepared by the PI to the Institute by that date. After verifying **that the project falls within the pediatric field** and reviewing the planned use of equipment, premises and services, the Institute shall forward the project to the Foundation together with a letter from its Scientific Directorate declaring its willingness to host and carry out the project at the Institute (see Article 7 below).

Researchers who are or have been PIs of research projects supported by the Foundation under the 2023 Scientific Research of Excellence Call, the 2026 Scientific Research of Excellence Call, the 2023 Pediatric Research Call, the 2024 Pediatric Research Call or the 2025 Pediatric Research Call may not submit an application as PI. They may, however, participate as members of a project team.

Each researcher may submit only one project as PI. The PI must devote at least 20% of his or her research time to the project, calculated in person-months.

The same researcher may also participate in projects submitted by other researchers, with a maximum commitment of 10% of his or her research time.

If, during the project, the PI is unable to continue the scientific supervision at the Institute, if the employment relationship ends, or if for any reason the PI expects to cease working before the project end

date, the PI must propose an appropriate replacement who meets the same requirements as the PI. The replacement must be approved by the Institute and the Foundation.

5 – FUNDING AVAILABLE AND GRANTS

The Foundation has allocated a maximum **total budget of €3,000,000** to this call for proposals.
A lower overall amount may nevertheless be awarded if the submitted projects do not meet the standards of excellence underpinning the call.

Individual projects, with a maximum duration of 36 months, may receive a grant from the Foundation of **up to €400,000**.

Projects may be co-financed exclusively by non-profit legal entities.

6 – ELIGIBLE COSTS

The budget must be strictly related to the implementation of the project and must be described and justified in detail, as illustrated in the Guidelines for Preparing the Project referred to in Article 7 below, which form an integral part of these Rules.
The following cost categories are eligible for funding:

- ***Consumables*** *(up to 40% of the grant requested);*
- ***Equipment or components*** *(up to 20% of the grant requested);*
- ***PCs and IT equipment*** *(up to €10,000);*
- ***Personnel:*** *remuneration of staff specifically recruited for the project;*
- ***External services*** *(up to 15% of the grant requested, unless otherwise authorised by the Evaluation Committee in specific and duly justified cases);*
- ***Travel:*** *travel expenses directly related to the research activities;*
- ***Patents:*** *costs relating to Italian and international patents;*
- ***Conferences and seminars*** *(up to 5% of the grant requested): events organised under the responsibility of the research group for the dissemination and discussion of the project results;*
- ***Other expenses:*** direct costs necessary for the project that cannot be assigned to the other budget categories;
- ***Overheads*** (up to 10% of the grant requested).

Applicants are expressly required to disclose any co-financing when submitting the project.
The following are **not considered co-financing**: the salaries of staff already employed by the institutions involved in the project and engaged in its implementation; the assigned value of assets owned by the Institute or other institutions involved in the project; and, more generally, the assigned value of in-kind contributions.

7 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

Projects must be prepared using the dedicated template available on the Foundation's website on the call page (https://www.fondazionecariparo.it/iniziative/bando-ricerca-pediatrica-2027) and may not exceed 20 pages (Times New Roman, 12-point font, single line spacing, including charts and figures).

Instructions for completion and the list of mandatory attachments are provided in the Guidelines for Preparing the Project, published on the same page.

The template includes a questionnaire on the project's ethical implications. If specific activities require compliance with particular legal obligations in this area, such as obtaining a favourable preliminary opinion from the relevant Ethics Committee, the Foundation will assess the project but will not make any grant available until all such requirements have been fully met.

Projects must be submitted to the Institute by **29 January 2027** at grantoffice@irpcds.org.
After completing the preliminary checks referred to in Article 4, the Institute shall forward the projects to the Foundation by **5 February 2027** through the dedicated Online Applications procedure. The Institute shall attach a letter from its Scientific Directorate confirming its willingness to host and carry out the project at the Institute on the basis of the planned use of equipment, premises and services, and confirming that the project falls within the pediatric field.

Projects will not be assessed if they are submitted through methods other than those specified in these Rules, received after the deadline, concern topics other than those listed in Article 3 above, or are not accompanied by the declaration from the Scientific Directorate described above.

8 – ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

The assessment and selection of projects will be entrusted to an independent Scientific Committee appointed by the Foundation.
To ensure an appropriate assessment of the specialist aspects of each project, the Committee will draw on the opinions of international reviewers selected from among experts in the project's relevant scientific field.

The assessment will give particular weight to the excellence and intrinsic quality of the proposals.

The **assessment criteria** will be:

- **project innovation and impact in the pediatric field** (30%);
- **activity planning, scientific approach and methodology** (30%);
- **project sustainability and adequacy of the budget** (25%);
- **expertise of the PI and the project team** (15%).

The assessment and selection of applications and the determination of the grant amount will be carried out at the Foundation's sole discretion.

Upon request, the PI may receive feedback on the assessment of the project.

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

9 – PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The selection results will be published on the Foundation's website, on the page dedicated to the call for proposals, **by July 2027**.
For all projects supported under this call, the project start date is set at **1st October 2027**.
The Foundation reserves the right to change the timetable where necessary, giving adequate notice on its website. Applicants are therefore required to check the Foundation's website, particularly the page dedicated to the call, for any notices.

10 – PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments will be governed by an agreement between the Foundation and the Institute. The Institute will coordinate the financial reporting for the supported projects and provide overall supervision of the projects within the framework of its scientific activities.

The Foundation will pay the grant to the Institute as follows:

- within 60 days of signing the agreement, 30% of the grant will be paid as an advance to cover start-up costs, which must subsequently be reported. The advance will be offset when the final balance is paid;
- at the end of each year, an amount corresponding to the eligible expenditure incurred during that project year will be paid, subject to reporting in accordance with the Foundation's requirements.

The Institute will be the Foundation's sole administrative counterpart. Accordingly, expenses incurred by partner institutions may be covered only through reimbursements made by the Institute under specific agreements.

11 – MONITORING OF APPROVED PROJECTS

The PIs of approved projects must submit an annual scientific report on the progress of the project and, upon completion, a final report on the research activities carried out and the results achieved. These reports must be prepared in accordance with the Foundation's instructions, will form an integral part of the project's financial and activity reporting, and may be submitted to the Scientific Committee and/or national or international reviewers for assessment.

If the project is not carried out at the Institute and in accordance with the conditions set out in the call, the Foundation reserves the right to withdraw the grant awarded and/or request repayment of funds already disbursed.

During the project, in order to assess the effectiveness of its support, the Foundation may monitor the progress of the research, including through site visits to the laboratories.

12 – INFORMATION

For information about the call for proposals, please contact the Foundation by telephone:
+39 049 8234847 (Dr Vittoria Marchese)
or by email at ricerca@fondazionecariparo.it

For information and contacts concerning the laboratories operating at the Pediatric Research Institute, please call:
+39 049 9640137 (Dr Maria Pisano)
or email grantoffice@irpcds.org