

CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Bridge Grant

Grant Project Period Length: no longer than 18 months

Grant Funding Amount: \$125,000

Grant Availability: 1 award – open to all disease areas

Application Deadline: March 15, 2024

Estimated Start of Project Period: July 1, 2024

CARRA's mission is to conduct collaborative research to prevent, treat, and cure pediatric rheumatic diseases.

This Bridge Grant is intended for primary investigators who have submitted a K (career development) or R equivalent (investigator-initiated) application to the NIH or similar funding body, received a funding decision, were not funded but received a priority score, summary statement, and funding decision, and intend to resubmit the revised application within the next 12-18 months. Preference will be given to applicants who have submitted a K-equivalent application. The revised application must further the CARRA mission under the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan (<https://carragroup.org/about/strategic-plan/>) and areas identified in the 2023-2025 [Research Agenda](#).

Eligibility

- The project PI must be a CARRA member in good standing (up to date on membership dues and membership information (location, contact information, and membership status) is current and accurate.
- The following current CARRA members are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators on CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Bridge Grants:
 - Pediatric Rheumatologists or research scientists
 - Fellows
- Awardees from previous grant cycles who wish to submit grant applications for the upcoming deadline must have all active CARRA-Arthritis Foundation grant projects completed, with no active No Cost Extensions (NCEs), and must have submitted a final progress report.

CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Bridge Grant Required Application Information

- Project Title: Title should be specific and the same as your initial funding application
- Lay Summary: Please provide a general audience lay summary below. Text only. No special characters or formatting. (up to 1000 characters)
- NIH Biosketch: Most recent biosketch. (attachment)
- Full Application: As initially submitted to the original funding source. (attachment)
- Patient Impact Statement: Describe how your CARRA-funded award will ultimately impact patients. (limit 1500 characters)
- Reviews: (attachments)
- Letter of Support from Institution: Updated from the original letter submitted with the initial application that confirms support during this period. (attachment).
 - A letter of support from the division chief of the applicant must be submitted documenting that the % effort is available and confirming the investigator's salary. If the PI is the division chief, a letter from the Department Chairperson is required.

- Resubmission Plan: Four pages maximum. This must be completed by the applicant and reviewed by the primary mentor. This document should outline the applicant's strategy for a comprehensive response to the reviews/critiques in a substantive way that will result in re-submission during the bridge funding period.
- Research Plan has a page limit of 3 pages.

Budget Period Detail

- The budget provided must indicate how funds are to be allocated for this bridge grant.
 - All Primary Investigators (PI) are required to dedicate effort to their projects, and this effort must be noted on the budget table.
- A letter of support from the division chief of the applicant must be submitted (attachment), documenting that the % effort is available and confirming the investigator's salary. If the PI is the division chief, a letter from the Department Chairperson is required.
- Salary support will be limited to a base salary cap of \$200,000 but can include payment of local fringe rates (in addition to the salary cap).
- Total salary support for the Principal Investigator(s) and all Co-Investigator(s) must not exceed 60% of total project costs.
- Please review [CARRA's statement of direct and indirect support](#).
- CARRA will allow up to 8% F&A (indirect) costs, and these must be incorporated into the project budget.

Budget Summary & Justification

- Present items in the same order as they are in the budget. Explain how the cost of items was arithmetically determined. Provide all consultants' names and organizational affiliations, the services they will perform, the expected compensation rate, travel, per diem, and other related costs. Provide the purpose and destination of each trip and the number of traveling. List all individuals/organizations with whom consortium or contractual arrangements have been made. List all consortium personnel, percent effort and roles on the project. (up to 8000 characters)

Organization Assurances

- Human Subjects

Applicants are expected to provide an IRB approval letter, a copy of the IRB application, or an exemption letter.

 - Does the proposed project involve Human Subjects?
 - If Yes, Status of IRB Approval
 - Approved or Pending Date
 - If Exempt, Type
 - Human Subjects Assurance Number (OHRP)
 - Human Subjects Assurance Date
 - Upload IRB Approval or filing documents
- Vertebrate Animals
 - Does the proposed project involve Vertebrate Animals?
 - If Yes, the status of IACUC approval
 - Approved or Pending Date
 - Animal Welfare Assurance Number (OLAW)
 - AWAN Date
 - AAALAC Accreditation Date

- USDA Inspection Date
 - Upload IACUC Approval or Copy of Filing
- Recombinant DNA
 - Does the Proposed project involve Recombinant DNA?
 - If Yes Status of Approval
 - Approved or Pending Date
 - Approved Agents
 - Approval Date
- Does the project require review for activities that have possible national security implications? If yes, explain.
- Are hazardous materials used or produced in the project? If yes, explain.
- Are genetically engineered organisms used or produced in the project? If yes, explain.
- Are Historical sites affected by the project? If yes, explain.
- Is human fetal tissue used in the project? If yes, explain.

Important Information for Bridge Grant Submissions

- Application deadline for the CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Bridge Grant: March 15, 2024.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in June 2024.
- Funds will be provided to the awardee’s institution in two payments to be used by the principal investigator according to the project budget.
 - As outlined in the budget justification, initial funding will be provided upfront.
 - Funding/payment as outlined in the budget justification will be distributed after submitting and approving an interim progress report at 6 months.
- If the PI cannot complete the project, any unexpended balance must be returned to CARRA.
- Awardees are expected to submit an abstract and attend the CARRA Annual Meeting(s) until the project is complete/final results have been presented.
- This grant is not renewable. If an applicant receives the original grant or another equivalent award during the bridge funding award term, the applicant must notify CARRA and return the unused portion of CARRA’s award.
- Recipients must notify CARRA when they re-submit their application to the original funding entity. Re-submission is expected during the bridge funding period – not after.
- Applicant must demonstrate significant progress in generating preliminary data and revising their grant proposal in the first six months to receive additional funding.
- Timely provision of progress reports is required to be eligible for future CARRA-Arthritis Foundation grants.
- All awardees of CARRA- Arthritis Foundation funding must abide by the procedures outlined in the current CARRA Authorship, Publication, [and Presentation Guidelines](#) when presenting/publishing findings from their projects. This includes submitting all abstracts and manuscripts to the CARRA Publications Committee for approval prior to submission and acknowledging the support of CARRA and the Arthritis Foundation by including the following language: “The authors wish to acknowledge CARRA, and the ongoing Arthritis Foundation financial support of CARRA.”

Applicants who have questions or need additional information can contact grants@carragroup.org for assistance.

Stated Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to CARRA's mission to improve the health of people with rheumatic disease
- Experience and productivity as a rheumatology fellow and/or pediatric rheumatologist or research scientist
- Having obtained a priority score and critique/summary statement from NIH/VA study section
- Strategy to address comments in the critique/summary statement
- Evidence of strong career mentoring
- Demonstration of institutional support

Peer Review Form

- Does the proposal show relevance to the Foundation's mission to improve the health of people with rheumatic diseases?
- Does the applicant have demonstrated experience and productivity as a Rheumatology fellow and/or junior faculty member?
- Did the applicant receive a priority score and critique/summary statement from the NIH/VA study Section?
- Does the applicant address their strategy to address the comments in this critique/summary statement?
- Is there evidence of strong scientific and career mentoring?
- Is there evidence of strong institutional support?