

2026 CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Bridge Grant

Grant Project Period Length: 1 Year

Grant Funding Amount: \$125,000

Grant Availability: 2 awards (at least 1 focusing on JIA)

LOI Deadline: January 20, 2026

Data and Sample Share Request Deadline: January 20, 2026

Application Deadline: March 2, 2026

Project Period Start: July, August or September 1, 2026

CARRA's culture of collaboration focuses on facilitating, accelerating, funding, and performing research driven by academicians, clinicians, patients, and families to fulfill its mission: to conduct collaborative research to prevent, treat, and cure pediatric rheumatic diseases. CARRA's peer-reviewed grant program offers various funding opportunities to support investigators at all career levels and advance research that furthers our mission.

Program Description

The CARRA-AF 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.

The application must further the CARRA mission under the [2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#) and areas identified in the 2023-2025 Research Agenda and areas identified in the 2023-2025 CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Inflammatory Arthritis [Research Agenda](#).

Eligibility

- The project principal investigator (PI) must be a CARRA member in good standing (up to date on membership dues, a current and accurate member profile, and, if a current or past awardee, up to date on all reporting, including publication submissions).
- Applicants must hold an advanced degree (MD or equivalent, PhD, or MD/PhD)
- The following current CARRA members are eligible to serve as PIs on this grant:
 - Pediatric rheumatologists or research scientists
 - Fellows
- All applications must be submitted by or include a pediatric rheumatologist named as a co-investigator (co-I).
- While not eligible to serve as PIs, team members can include fellows, junior faculty, and students, research professionals who are regulatory or data coordinators, business and industry associate members, and nonprofit/government associate members.
- CARRA board members or those in executive leadership positions may not serve as study leadership.

- Previous and current CARRA awardees who wish to submit new grant applications must be up to date on all previous and current award deliverables at the time of submission.

Data and Sample Collection

Grant applicants who intend to utilize the CARRA Registry or CARRA-related data and/or samples must receive approval from the CARRA Data, Sample, and Publications Committee (DSPC) via a data and sample request before submitting their grant applications. Applicants will be required to provide documentation of DSPC approval.

The request must match the intended use outlined in the grant proposal. Failure to receive approval of the data and/or sample request before submission of the grant application will result in the administrative decline of the application.

Data and sample requests take approximately 4–6 weeks for review and approval. If you would like to know more about who can access CARRA data and biosamples, conditions of use, and the review process, please review the Data and Sample Share Policy on the [CARRA website](#).

For more information on requesting CARRA data and/or samples and to access the request form, please visit the Data and Sample Request page on the [CARRA Research Portal](#).

Materials for Submission

Step 1: Letter of Intent

Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due January 20, 2026 in Proposal Central and must include the following information:

- PI Name
- Institution and Contacts
- Key Personnel
- Application Keywords
- Biosketches

LOIs are non-binding and will be used to guide reviewer selection.

Step 2: Full Application

All application text should be Arial 11pt OR Times New Roman 12pt font. Margins should not be less than 0.5 inches on standard letter paper (8.5x 11 inches).

Applicant/PI

Institution and Contacts

PI's institution is pre-loaded as lead institution.

Other Key Personnel

Add emails for key personnel participating in the project.

Abstract

- Lay Summary: Please provide a general audience summary. Text only. No special characters or formatting (up to 300 words).
- Project Summary: Please provide a summary for a technical audience. Text only. No special characters or formatting (up to 600 words).

Patient Impact

Describe how your CARRA-funded award will ultimately directly or indirectly impact patients (up to 350 words).

Project Aims

- Identify two to five aims that outline the project's central objectives within the full funding period. Each aim should also be referenced and fully described within the main Research Proposal document. When inputting the short description of the aim in section 8, please start with the aim number (e.g., "Aim 1: Description of aim").
- Enter a short description of your Specific Aim and Associated Milestone. Explain how this aim relates to CARRA's mission and vision.

Milestones and Deliverables

- Provide a brief description of at least one milestone (timepoint that delineates a key phase in a project schedule) and at least one deliverable (final outputs) per aim.
- Deliverables may include, but are not limited to, the development of new models, knowledge generation, publications, other knowledge mobilization activities, technical advancements, provisional patents filed, etc.
- Input a brief description (one or two sentences) for each milestone/deliverable.

Budget Period Detail

- The budget provided must indicate how funds are to be allocated.
- All PIs must dedicate effort to the project, which must be noted on the budget table.
- A letter of support from each of the PIs' division chief(s) must be submitted, documenting that the percentage of effort is available and confirming the investigator's salary. If the PI is the division chief, a letter from the department chairperson is required.
- The funding limit for this award is \$125,000.
- Salary support should be calculated based on the current salary up to a cap of \$200,000 and fringe at the investigator's institutional rate. No cap on effort from PIs, co-PIs, or co-Is.
- CARRA will allow up to 10% Facilities & Administration (indirect) costs, and these must be incorporated into the project budget. If indirect costs are requested, total costs for this project must not exceed the amount awarded per year by the grant.
- Funds are only designated to support the proposal directly.
- Funds cannot be used for cost sharing or matching.
- Funds cannot be used for computers or related hardware.
- Publication costs are permitted.

Budget Summary and 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 amount of time spent traveling. List all individuals/organizations with whom consortium or contractual arrangements have been made. List all consortium personnel, the percentage of effort, and the roles in the project.

Organizational Assurances

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

Application Attachments

NIH Biosketch

- In this section, the applicant can upload documents for the application. NIH-formatted Biosketches for all PI(s), co-PI(s), and all co- I(s). Please limit 5 pages per Biosketch and combine all Biosketches into one PDF with the PI(s) Biosketch listed first.
- Applicants should highlight any past CARRA Registry publications in their Biosketch (if applicable).

Research Plan

- No more than 3 pages

Full Original Application

Original Application Reviews

Resubmission Plan

- The resubmission plan (no more than 4 pages) must be completed by the applicant and 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. Resubmission is expected during the funding period, not after. This section should address the recommendations of the reviewers of the original application. Please refer to the instructions below.

References Cited

- Formatting guidelines: Use Arial 11pt OR Times New Roman 12pt font. Margins should be no less than 0.5" on all sides. No page limit.

Letters of Support

- Required for budgets that include investigator salary/effort. A letter of support from the division chief of the applicant must be submitted, documenting that the percentage of effort is available and confirming the investigator's salary. If the PI is the division chief, a letter from the department chairperson is required.
- Up to 2 letters of support from collaborators, mentors, and institutions are highly recommended. They must reflect the PI's ability to lead this effort and complete the study in one year (no extensions will be entertained).

PI Private and Demographic Info

- The applicant should provide basic demographic information in this section:
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Primary Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Citizenship

Required Signature Page

The applicant and institutional official must sign the application before it can be submitted.

Online Submission through Proposal Central

CARRA uses an electronic grant submission process. All applicants must submit their full application packages through Proposal Central's online grants management system. Paper applications will not be accepted.

- All applicants must register as users on Proposal Central [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for Proposal Central's guide on how to set up an account.
- Click [here](#) for Proposal Central's frequently asked questions (FAQs).
- Still need help with Proposal Central? Reach out to [Proposal Central's Support Desk](#).

Evaluation of Proposals

CARRA has procedures for assessing the technical and scientific merit of applications to provide for an objective review and to assist you in understanding the standards against which your application will be reviewed. CARRA has indicators for each review criterion to assist you in presenting pertinent information related to that. Generally, at least two scientific reviewers and one caregiver reviewer will assess every application that passes the initial administrative review. The NIH 9-point review system will be utilized.

Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

Contact Information:

Program or Administrative Questions:

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Technical Questions:

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pcsupport@altum.com
800-875-2562