2027 CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Bridge Grant

Grant Project Period Length: 12–18 months
Total Grant Funding Amount per award: $125,000
Letter of Intent Deadline: December 11, 2026
Application Deadline: March 15, 2027
Project Period Start: July, August, or September 1, 2027

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 unite the pediatric rheumatology community to drive research and transform the lives of children with 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-Arthritis Foundation Bridge Grant is intended to support principal investigators who have submitted a K-equivalent (career development) or R-equivalent (investigator-initiated) application to the National Institutes of Health, Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, or similar funding agency; received a scored but unfunded application with a priority score, summary statement, and funding decision; and intend to resubmit a revised application within the next 12–18 months. The application must further the CARRA mission under the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan and Research Agenda.

Eligibility
- The project principal investigator (PI) for all grants must be a current CARRA member who is up to date on membership dues and has ensured that all membership information is current and accurate.
- 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.
- Applicants must hold an advanced degree (MD [or equivalent], PhD, or MD/PhD).
- 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.

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, to be submitted through the Letter of Intent (LOI).

The LOI will collect the information needed for CARRA to conduct a feasibility review of the proposed data and/or sample request as part of the LOI review process.

If the grant is funded, CARRA staff will follow up with the awardee to collect any additional information required to complete the data and/or sample request and facilitate access to CARRA resources. If the grant is not funded but the applicant still wishes to pursue access to CARRA data and/or samples, the applicant must submit a complete Data and Sample Share Request to pursue access to CARRA data and/or samples.

To learn 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, 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 non-binding and will be used to guide reviewer selection.
LOIs are due December 11, 2026, in Proposal Central and must include the following information:

- Title Page
- Enable Other Users to Access This Proposal
- Applicant/PI
- Institution and Contacts
- Use of CARRA Resources
- Abstract & Keywords
- Attachments
    - Biosketch
    - Sample Table (if applicable)
- Print LOI

Step 2: Full Application
Completed application packages, with all required attachments and supporting documentation, must be submitted through Proposal Central by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on March 15, 2027.

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

Title Page
Provide the project title and indicate whether this application is a new submission or a resubmission.

Download Templates and Instructions
Access and download all required templates and application instructions in this section. Refer to the downloadable documents for additional instructions and requirements.

Applicant/PI
Provide the requested information for the principal investigator (PI).

Institution and Contacts
The institution's information will be automatically populated by Proposal Central. Please ensure that the institution's information is correct. Enter the email address for institutional contacts:

- Signing official
- Financial officer
- Technology transfer officer

Other Key Personnel
Enter the names, roles, and relevant information for all key personnel involved in the project.

Abstract
Provide a lay summary (up to 2,400 characters) and a scientific project summary (up to 4,800 characters). Select the relevant disease areas, research interests, diseases, program areas, and strategic/research plan priorities that align with the proposed project.

Patient Impact
Describe how the proposed CARRA-funded project will directly or indirectly benefit patients and advance outcomes for children with rheumatic diseases (up to 2,800 characters).

Organization Assurances
Provide information on the project's regulatory compliance, including required approvals and applicable research assurances.

Project Aims
Identify two to five aims that outline the central objectives of the project within the full funding period. Explain how the aim relates to CARRA's mission and vision (up to 1,000 characters).

Milestones and Deliverables
Provide at least one milestone and one deliverable for each aim, with a brief one- to two-sentence description of each.

Budget Period Detail
Provide a detailed budget breakdown outlining how funds will be allocated across the project period.

Budget Summary and Justification
Enter budget amounts and provide a summary of the proposed budget and justify how requested funds will support the successful completion of the project (up to 8,000 characters).

Application Attachments
Upload all required application documents and supporting materials in this section. Refer to the below downloadable documents for additional instructions and requirements.

- **NIH Biosketch**
  - In this section, the applicant can upload documents for the application. NIH-formatted Biosketches for all PI(s), and co-PI(s). Please limit five pages per Biosketch.
  - Applicants should highlight any past CARRA Registry publications in their Biosketch (if applicable).
- **Research Plan**
  - Provide a detailed description of the proposed research, including the background, methods/activities, timeline, type of study, and type of analysis.
  - Limit is three pages.
- **Full Original Application (including Score)**
- **Original Application Reviews**
- **Resubmission Plan**
  - Describe how you will address reviewer feedback and revise your application for resubmission during the bridge funding period. Please refer to the instructions in the template.
  - Limit is four pages.
- **References Cited**
  - Provide citations for all references included in the application.
- **Letters of Support**
  - Provide required and/or recommended letters of support.

PI Private and Demographic Information
Provide the requested demographic information for the principal investigator (PI).

Validate
Use this section to check for missing required information or attachments before submission. Validation does not submit your application.

Required Signature Page
The applicant and institutional official must sign the required signature page before the application can be submitted.

Submit
Review your application to ensure all required information is complete, then click the submit button to finalize and send in your application.

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 (FAQ's).
- Still need help with Proposal Central? Reach out to Proposal Central's Support Desk.

Contact Information:

Program or Administrative Questions:
Emily Klein
Senior Manager, Grants & Awards
grants@carragroup.org

Technical Questions:
proposalCENTRAL
pcsupport@altum.com
800-875-2562