

Vanderbilt-wide Limited Submission Opportunity 2026 St. Baldrick's Foundation Grants

Applications due September 23, 2025

Vanderbilt (VU + VUMC): *This is a joint competition for VU and VUMC investigators. All investigators should follow these instructions.*

Vanderbilt (VU & VUMC combined) may submit Scholar (Career Development) Award and Research Grant proposals for the [St. Baldrick's Foundation spring grant cycle](#). Vanderbilt is limited to one submission per award program with the potential for a limited submissions policy exception, noted below. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a nonprofit organization raising funds for childhood cancer research. **All projects must have direct applicability and relevance to pediatric cancer.**

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Adolescents & young adults
- Survivorship, outcomes, and quality of life
- Supportive care
- Epidemiology and pediatric cancer predispositions
- Precision medicine
- Alternative & complementary therapies

There is particularly high interest in the following topics. (Research on these conditions may qualify for a **limited submission policy exception** allowing for one (1) additional institutional proposal submission to any grant type, and therefore may receive priority.)

- Brain tumors – all types, including rare forms, especially atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor (AT/RT), diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG)/diffuse midline glioma (DMG), and glioblastoma (GBM)
- Burkitt lymphoma – all types, especially sporadic
- Rhabdoid tumors - Extrarenal

Grant Types:

[Download full guidelines for each grant type here.](#)

*****Please note that you may only apply as a lead PI on one of the following Grant Types*****

Scholar (Career Development) Awards: This award is meant to help **develop the independent research of highly qualified individuals still early in their careers**. This award is granted for three years with an opportunity to apply for an additional two years of funding based upon the demonstration of significant accomplishment. Funding for years 1–3 will be up to \$110,000 per year (up to \$115,000 per year for years 4–5), to be used entirely for the Scholar's salary and fringe at the applicant institution.

Research Grants: These grants are for specific two-year research projects which are hypothesis driven and may be either laboratory, clinical, or epidemiological in nature. Please submit a realistic budget for the project. Grants will be \$100,000/year or less.

Eligibility Requirements:

General Applicant Eligibility

- Research projects must have direct applicability and relevance to pediatric cancer. They may be in any discipline of basic, clinical, translational, or epidemiological research.
- Applicants should hold a Ph.D., M.D., or D.O degree by the date the award becomes effective.
- No institutional overhead or indirect funding is provided under the terms of the grants.
- St. Baldrick's funds may not be used for human embryonic stem cell research.

For Scholar (Career Development) Awards

- Applicants must currently hold (for no longer than 7 years at the time the award begins), or will hold by start of the award, a title that is considered by the institution to be a fulltime, faculty position. (Contact ls@vanderbilt.edu with any questions about eligible positions.)
- This is an early-career award. The Scholar award is intended to develop the independent pediatric cancer research careers of highly qualified investigators, not to support well established or senior investigators.
- Scholars may receive funding from other sources to support their research. However, no other comparable or higher (monetary value) career development award may be held prior to or at the time the award begins. Scientific or budgetary overlap with other funded projects is not allowed.
 - In the event of comparable or higher (monetary value) career development funding after the LOI has been approved, the Scholar must give up the remainder of their St. Baldrick's award, unless otherwise approved by the St. Baldrick's Foundation.
- Applicants holding or awarded R01s or equivalent funding prior to or at the time of the LOI are not eligible to apply. Applicants holding or awarded a NIH K-award prior to or at the time of the LOI are not eligible to apply (institutional K12 funding is allowable).
- Applicants must have an appropriate Sponsor who provides supervision, facilities, and research support. If appropriate for the project, applicants may have more than one (1) Sponsor.
- Scholar awards are to be used entirely for the Scholar's salary and fringe at the applicant institution. Other personnel and/or non-personnel costs are NOT allowed on Scholar awards.
- The Scholar must devote no less than 40% effort to the funded project.

Applicants should review full eligibility and budget requirements in their respective award's guidelines, available for download [here](#).

Internal Selection Process:

Anyone interested in being considered as Vanderbilt's nominee(s) must submit the following (in a single PDF) to LSO@vanderbilt.edu by **5 p.m. on September 23, 2025**.

1. Research plan (2 page max)
 - a. If your research will focus on any of the six high-interest areas listed above, please identify the area
2. Letter of support from department chair/center director
 - a. Letter must additionally acknowledge that this grant does not allow indirect costs.**
This statement can be used/modified within the letter: "The Department recognizes that this grant does not allow indirect costs and will commit to covering any associated indirect costs per applicable school/institutional policy."
3. NIH Biosketch or brief CV (5 page max)

Please reference the Grant Type in the subject line of the email. Following internal selection, Vanderbilt's nominee(s) will submit a Letter of Intent to St. Baldrick's by December 8, 2025.

****Process for cost-sharing typically coordinated at the departmental level and approved by department chair and/or dean. Please consult LSO@vanderbilt.edu for further guidance.**