

## Vanderbilt-wide Limited Submission Opportunity 2026 Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research- Career Development Award

***Applications due October 9, 2025***

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

Vanderbilt (VU+VUMC, collaboratively) may nominate **one candidate** for the 2026 [Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research Career Development Award](#). Rally Foundation aims to support the development of independent research of highly qualified individuals still early in their careers. Rally Career Development awards are intended to take an investigator from mentorship to independence by providing the opportunity to develop independent research through protected time.

The Career Development Award provides **up to \$300,000 over three years**. Up to \$100,000 may be used for the principal investigator's salary and fringe benefits. If the applicant chooses to include research support, up to \$25,000 of the award may be used for research support (i.e., support personnel, supplies, travel, contractual) with the remaining funds available for the principal investigator's salary and fringe benefits. Three-year grants will receive six funding installments, one every six months.

### **Applicant Eligibility Guidelines**

- Applicants must hold at least an M.D., D.O., Pharm.D., or Ph.D. degree and be within **seven years** of their first independent full-time faculty appointment at the time the award begins.
- Career Development grants are intended to support early career investigators' research to leverage larger awards in the future. At the time of award, principal investigators may not be recommended for funding or hold a funded NIH 'K' level award or an independent 'R' or 'P' level award as a PI or co-leader. An appointee to an institutional K12 award is eligible to apply.
- Principal investigators do not need to be U.S. citizens.

### **Research Priority Areas**

The application must address at least one of the following priority areas related to cancer in children (0-14), adolescents (15-19), and/or young adults (20-24)

- Innovative or novel approach to childhood and adolescent cancer research.
- Basic science studies likely to lead to a new discovery
- Under-studied cancer types
- Quality of life, survivorship and palliative care studies
- Personalized, targeted, alternative or integrative research proposals
- Data utilization through data standardization, collection, storage, analysis and sharing

The following will not be reviewed:

- Proposals that have no direct relevance to pediatric cancer nor fall within the scope of the Rally Career Development Award
- Human embryonic stem cell research
- Proposals for infrastructure programs

**Internal Selection Process:**

Anyone interested in being considered as Vanderbilt's nominee must submit the following (in PDF format) to [LSO@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:LSO@vanderbilt.edu) by **5:00 PM CST on October 9, 2025**.

1. Brief (2 page maximum) research plan including summary budget
  - a. Include a brief discussion on the following items in relation to your project: Significance, Innovation, Experimental Approach and Research Design, and Career Plan
2. Statement 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 5-page CV

Submissions should reference the award name in the subject line of the email. Vanderbilt will submit a short nomination form by October 24, 2025 and the selected nominee will submit the full application by January 6, 2026.

Please contact us at [LSO@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:LSO@vanderbilt.edu) if you have any questions about the program, foundation, or internal review process.