



## ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation Game Changer Grant Application

---



## About ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation

We at ChadTough see a world where kids diagnosed with DIPG/DMG have a bright future and can live out their dreams. To make this vision a reality, we are committed to funding the most innovative, promising research on childhood brain cancer.

The foundation's founding families, the Carrs and the Mosiers, lost their sons, 5-year-old Chad and 6-year-old Michael, in 2015 to DIPG. Now, also fueled by other parents who have faced a pediatric brain cancer diagnosis, our Family Partners, and guided by a Scientific Advisory Council made up of the leading experts in the field, the ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation ensures that every dollar is directed toward funding the most innovative and promising research available globally.

## Game Changer Grant Description

The ChadTough Defeat DIPG Game Changer Grant provides three years of funding for hypothesis-driven research projects. The proposed research must represent an innovative approach to a major challenge in DIPG/DMG research. The funded projects must have the potential to lead to groundbreaking discoveries in the field and transform our understanding of the tumorigenesis process or our ability to treat or detect DIPG.

We welcome both single investigator and collaborative, multi-institutional research proposals. For collaborative proposals, a Primary Investigator must be identified with other participants listed as collaborating researchers. Both single-investigator and collaborative proposals will be evaluated based on their scientific merit. The ChadTough Defeat DIPG Game Changer Grant is up to \$600,000 over 3 years (maximum of \$200,000 per year).

## Key Dates

LOI Due: January 12, 2026

Invitations for Full Submission: Feb 23, 2026

Full Application Due: April 6, 2026

Awarded: June 2026

Start: August 1, 2026

First Interim Progress Report Due: July 1, 2027

Second Interim Progress Report Due: July 1, 2028

Grant End Date: July 31, 2029

Final Report Due: Oct 1, 2029

## Review and Selection Process

- Each application is reviewed by the ChadTough Defeat DIPG Scientific Advisory Council.
- The Scientific Advisory Council makes recommendations to the ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation, and the foundation makes the final funding decision.
- All application evaluations are considered confidential and are available only to the Scientific Advisory Council and the foundation's Board of Directors and staff.
- When an application is approved for funding, the grant award is contingent upon all legal documents being signed and approved by the foundation and the applicant's institution.



### Conditions of Grants

- We fund research to better understand the causes of DIPG/DMG and to advance its treatment and cure. To help achieve this goal, we expect researchers to publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals and to make their data available to other researchers.
- All grants are payable to the grant recipient's institution or laboratory.
- No funds may be used for indirect costs.
- Overlap in funding is not permitted. This includes scientific, budget, and commitment overlap, as defined by the National Institute of Health.
- Requests for transfers to another institution while the grant is in effect will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Grant recipients will work with the foundation to coordinate a joint press release to announce the grant.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant must hold an M.D. and/or Ph.D. by the application deadline.
- Applicant must be employed by an academic institution, nonprofit research institution, or laboratory.
- Applicant need not be a U.S. citizen or based at a U.S. Institution.

### Grant Reporting and Publications

- The second and third years of funding are contingent upon a noncompetitive review of the interim progress report. The report must demonstrate satisfactory progress toward completion of proposed research objectives and appropriate budget expenditures.
- A final report must be submitted within 60 days of the end of the grant period.
- No Cost Extensions may be requested by emailing [grants@chadtough.org](mailto:grants@chadtough.org). Requests must state the amount of funds remaining, provide a progress report, an explanation of why the extension is necessary, and the length of time requested.
- If a No Cost Extension is not requested or approved, grant recipient must return any unexpended funds at the termination of the grant period.
- Publications, presentations, and posters featuring results of the experiments funded by this grant should acknowledge (1) ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation, and (2) if applicable, any Research Partner who has committed funds to us to support the grant. We will inform you of any Research Partner(s) that should be acknowledged. Copies should be sent via email to [grants@chadtough.org](mailto:grants@chadtough.org).



## Application Package

### LOI Contents

All detailed instructions, templates, and submission requirements for the LOI are provided within Proposal Central and will be accessible once you begin the LOI application.

Please combine application contents #1-4 below into a single PDF.

#### 1. Cover Page

Please use our template, which is available here or within the Proposal Central application system. Cover Page must be signed.

#### 2. One Page Project Overview

Provide a scientific overview of the project, including the problem to be addressed, the hypothesis(es), and the specific aims including a brief summary of scientific approaches to address each aim. The overview should also describe how the project represents an innovative approach to a major challenge in DIPG/DMG research, with potential to lead to discoveries that transform understanding, detection, or treatment of DIPG.

#### 3. Biographical Sketches

Provide the NIH biographical sketches for the Primary Investigator, key personnel, and any collaborating researchers.

#### 4. Letter(s) from Collaborating Researcher(s) (If Applicable)

For multi-institutional applications, each collaborating researcher should provide a letter describing his/her role in the project. The letter should provide the collaborating researcher's contact information, including institution.

### Full Application Contents (by invitation only)

All detailed instructions, templates, and submission requirements for the Full Application will be provided within Proposal Central upon approval of the LOI.

Please combine all parts of the application contents #1-11 below into a single PDF.

#### 1. Cover Page

Please use our template, which is available within the Proposal Central application system. Cover Page must be signed.

#### 2. One Page Project Overview

Provide a scientific overview of the project, including the problem to be addressed, the hypothesis(es), and the specific aims including a brief summary of scientific approaches to address each aim. The overview should also describe how the project represents an



innovative approach to a major challenge in DIPG/DMG research, with potential to lead to discoveries that transform understanding, detection, or treatment of DIPG.

### 3. Biographical Sketches

Provide the NIH biographical sketches for the Primary Investigator, key personnel, and any collaborating researchers.

### 4. Letter(s) from Collaborating Researcher(s) (If Applicable)

For multi-institutional applications, each collaborating researcher should provide a letter describing his/her role in the project. The letter should provide the collaborating researcher's contact information, including institution.

### 5. Specific Aims (0.5 page)

Describe the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s).

### 6. Research Plan (4 pages)

#### A. Significance (0.5 page)

Explain the importance of the problem addressed and how the proposed research project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, or clinical practice for DIPG/DMG.

#### B. Innovation (0.5 page)

Describe how the application will advance, or challenge, the current DIPG/DMG research and clinical practices. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or methodologies.

#### C. Approach (3 pages)

Describe the overall strategy to accomplish the aims of the project. Describe the methods and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Address potential difficulties and limitations and how these will be overcome or mitigated. Provide a work plan (including timetable) for completing the project. Provide an account of the applicant's preliminary studies relevant to the project.

### 7. Literature Cited

Provide a list of publications relevant to the project. A maximum of 20 references are allowed.

### 8. Proposed Budget

Please prepare a budget outlining the proposed expenditures using our provided template. The budget should not include indirect costs and must not exceed \$200,000 per year. You can access the template within the Proposal Central application system.

The following items may NOT be included:

- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
- Office and laboratory furniture
- Office equipment and supplies



- Patient services
- Professional association membership dues
- Recruiting and relocation expenses
- Scientific publication subscriptions
- Secretarial/administrative salaries
- Student tuition
- Travel costs

#### 9. Statement of Other Support

Provide a list of: (1) active support; (2) applications and proposals pending review or funding; (3) applications and proposals planned or being prepared for submission. Include all federal, nonfederal, and institutional grant and contract support. For each item give the source of support, identifying number, project title, name of principal investigator, applicant's time or percent of effort on the project, annual direct costs, and entire period of support. This should be provided for both the Primary Investigator and Collaborating Researcher (if applicable).

#### 10. IRB Approval

If the project includes human subjects or otherwise requires IRB approval, provide the IRB approval letter. If IRB approval is not required, state that no IRB approval is necessary.

#### 11. Potential or Actual Conflicts of Interest

Provide a description of any financial interest (e.g., ownership or investment interest, compensation arrangement, opportunity) or other actual or potential conflict of interest Primary Investigator has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family relationships in the proposed research.

#### Submission Instructions

Applicants are required to submit their proposals electronically via Proposal Central, an online grant submission platform, at <https://proposalcentral.com/>.

- A. After logging in, go to the Grant Opportunities tab and search “ChadTough Defeat DIPG” to find our active grant opportunities. To start the application, select “Apply Now”.
- B. You may save your application to complete later. When you return to Proposal Central, select the “Proposals” tab at the top to navigate to your applications. You can filter your application based on Proposal Status in the upper right-hand corner. Select “In Progress” to return to your existing applications.
- C. Once completed, select “Submit”. Within ten minutes, you will receive a confirmation email. If the application deadline has not passed, you may unsubmit your application to make changes by clicking the “Unsubmit” on the “Proposals” tab.

#### Format Instructions

Follow NIH format guidelines by using Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts in



11-point size or larger, with at least ½ inch margins. Ensure the application follows the specified order and adheres to the maximum page limits for each subsection as indicated in parentheses.

## **Post Award Reporting**

### **Interim Progress Report Requirements**

Grant recipients must submit a progress report in the second year and third year of the project. The report should include but is not limited to the following:

#### **1. Accomplishments**

- A. How was your progress toward the objectives stated in the proposal?
- B. Did the research lead to any publications, conference papers, and/or presentations?
- C. Provide a brief UPDATED lay summary of your research project and your results.

#### **2. Plans for the Upcoming Year**

- A. Do you still plan to do the work contemplated in the proposal for the upcoming year?
- B. Will you be modifying the work in any way? If so, please provide a brief explanation of the reason(s) for changes.

#### **3. Budget Update**

- A. Did you spend the funds as contemplated in the proposed budget? If not, please provide a brief justification.
- B. Do you plan to spend the funds for the upcoming year of the grant as contemplated in the proposed budget. If not, please provide a brief justification.

### **Final Report Requirements**

Grant recipient must submit a final report within 60 days of the end of the grant period. The final report should include the following:

#### **1. Lay Summary**

Provide a brief UPDATED lay summary of your research project and your results. The update will be used on ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation's website and may be used in various publications.

#### **2. Scientific Report**

- A. Specific Aims: Restate the original aims of the project.
- B. Results: Discuss progress to date and identify obstacles or delays.
- C. Significance: Explain how the results obtained so far are significant for DIPG/DMG.
- D. Future Plans: Discuss plans for the next phase of the research project.
- E. Resource Sharing: List the unique resources generated in this project and how you plan to share them with other researchers.
- F. Publication/Presentations: List publications, meeting presentations or posters for which you have acknowledged funding from this grant and submit copies of your



publications.

- G. Intellectual Property: If applicable, list invention disclosures, patent applications and any patents issued that resulted, in whole or in part, from this funded project. List any industry-related activity, such as the founding of a company or ongoing or completed sponsored research agreements with an industry partner.

### 3. Financial Report

Please submit a financial report detailing how the funds were spent. If the expenditures differed from the approved budget, provide a brief explanation. If there are any remaining funds, please remit them to the ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation.

### Contact

If you have any questions about the Game Changer Grant or the application process, please email [grants@chadtough.org](mailto:grants@chadtough.org). If you have any difficulties logging in or creating your application, contact Proposal Central Customer Support at 1-800-875-2562 or email [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com).