



ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation
Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowship
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.

Fellowship Grant Description

The ChadTough Defeat DIPG Fellowship Grant is intended to attract and support promising scientists embarking on careers involving DIPG research. By providing funding to outstanding fellows under the guidance of a mentor, we seek to assist in the development of the next generation of leaders in the field of DIPG research. The ChadTough Defeat DIPG Fellowship Grant is available to pre-doctoral and post-doctoral researchers. The amount of the grant is up to \$200,000 over 3 years (maximum of \$67,000 per year) for pre-doctoral fellows, and up to \$300,000 over 3 years (maximum of \$100,000 per year) for post-doctoral fellows.

Key Dates

LOI Due: June 8, 2026
Invitations for Full Application Submission: July 22, 2026
Full Application Due: September 2, 2026
Grant Awarded: November 2026
Grant Start Date: January 1, 2027
First Interim Progress Report Due: December 1, 2027
Second Interim Progress Report Due: December 1, 2028
Grant End Date: December 31, 2029
Final Report Due: March 1, 2030

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 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.
- The post-doctoral grant is to cover salary and fringe benefits only. The pre-doctoral grant is a stipend to cover living expenses and for the cost of tuition and fees. No funds may be used for indirect costs.
- Grant is limited to covering the applicant's research time, not clinical time.
- 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.
- No-Cost Extensions may be requested by emailing grants@chadtough.org.
- Grant recipients will work with us to coordinate a joint press release to announce the grant.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant need not be a U.S. citizen or based at a U.S. institution.
- Applicant must not have received more than one prior fellowship.
- Applicant must commit at least 75% of full-time effort to research.
- Applicant must identify a mentor who will provide supervision, facilities, and research support.
- For pre-doctoral applicants:
 - Applicant must be enrolled in a research doctoral degree program at an accredited academic institution.
- For post-doctoral applicants:
 - Applicant must hold an M.D. and/or Ph.D. by the application deadline.
 - Applicant must be no more than 6 years post-completion of last degree.
 - Applicant must be employed by an academic institution, nonprofit research institution, or laboratory.

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. 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.

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. Only the materials specifically requested for the LOI should be submitted. Letters of support or other supplemental materials will not be accepted or reviewed.

Please combine application contents #1-3 below into a single PDF.

1. Cover Page

Please use our template, which is available within the Proposal Central application system on the “Download Templates and Instructions” tab. 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. Schematics, graphs, or figures may be included but are not expected or required.

3. Biographical Sketches

Provide the NIH biographical sketches for the Applicant and Mentor.

4. Layman’s Summary (requested in ProposalCentral and should not be included in the PDF)

Provide a brief summary (up to 250 words) of your project that can be understood by those without a background in the field. If your grant is selected for funding, this summary may appear on the ChadTough Defeat DIPG website and may be shared with potential funding partners.



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 on the “Download Templates and Instructions” tab. 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. Schematics, graphs, or figures may be included but are not expected or required.

3. Biographical Sketches

Provide the NIH biographical sketches for the Applicant and Mentor.

4. Specific Aims (0.5 page)

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

5. 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.

6. Literature Cited

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



7. Proposed Budget

Provide a budget outlining proposed expenditures. You can access the template [here](#) or within the Proposal Central application system. Budget cannot include any indirect costs. For a post-doctoral applicant, the budget must be limited to salary and fringe benefits and cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. For a pre-doctoral applicant, the budget must be limited to a stipend (up to \$35,000) and tuition and fees, the total of which cannot exceed \$67,000 per year.

8. 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.

9. Mentor's Letter of Support

A signed Letter of Support must be submitted by the mentor, describing his/her role and commitment to advancing the career independence of the applicant. The letter should address the following:

- The mentor's commitment to mentoring the applicant and plan to support the applicant's career development during the grant term.
- The applicant's potential for success as an independent investigator.
- The resources to be provided to the applicant to support the research project.
- The mentor's experience mentoring pre-doctoral and post-doctoral level researchers.
- Verification that the applicant is eligible for the fellowship grant.

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.

12. Layman's Summary (requested in ProposalCentral and should not be included in the PDF)

Provide a brief summary (up to 250 words) of your project that can be understood by those without a background in the field. If your grant is selected for funding, this summary may appear on the ChadTough Defeat DIPG website and may be shared with potential funding partners.



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. Reports are submitted through the Proposal Central platform. 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. Reports are submitted through the Proposal Central platform. 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. Any remaining funds should be remitted to the ChadTough Defeat DIPG Foundation.

Contact

If you have any questions about the Fellowship Grant or the application process, please email grants@chadtough.org.