

Call for Research Proposals

The National PKU Alliance (NPKUA) works to improve the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria (PKU) and to pursue better treatments. As a part of this mission, NPKUA supports an annual grant program to advance the science of PKU by funding the most promising research that will lead to enhanced management, new therapeutic approaches and ultimately a cure to improve the lives of individuals with PKU. The goals of the program are to:

- Make substantial grants to projects each year that focus on a new management strategy, new drug development, new treatment(s) and/or a cure. A variety of management and treatment solutions need to exist for PKU patients because it is not a one-size-fits-all disease.
- Support development and validation of clinical outcome assessment tools to support drug development and to improve treatment decisions in optimizing the day-to-day management of PKU.
- Fund the most critical projects that have the potential to raise the quality of life of an individual with PKU on a day-to-day basis, including understanding the aging process in PKU, so they can live the best life possible.

NPKUA is seeking proposals that will help us meet the above strategic goals, promote and encourage investigators into PKU-related research, close existing gaps in the knowledge and science of PKU and further support existing PKU-related projects.

Eligibility of Applicants

Eligible applicants must have an advanced (e.g. PhD, MD, SW, GC, RD) or equivalent degree(s) and hold a position at an established clinical/academic/research institution. Both United States and international academic institutions will be considered. Investigators from centers with a history of research in metabolic diseases are strongly encouraged to apply. The average award is \$50,000; however exceptional applications may be funded at higher amounts if the budget request is justified. Grant projects are awarded for one year. In addition, NPKUA supports some strategic projects on an on-going basis.

Applicants are encouraged to use the funding to support innovative seed or pilot projects to produce preliminary data that would facilitate more substantial funding from federal agencies, foundations or corporations.

Application Guidelines

Applicants are invited to submit a **full proposal** via the [GoodGrants application portal](#). A checklist of required application criteria can be [found here](#). All application guidelines must be followed to be eligible for review. While the application portal is designed to flag any submission components that fall outside of the application guidelines, a member of the NPKUA staff will alert the applicant that their proposal is ineligible for review, and it will be removed from the application cycle.

Applicants without a faculty appointment (e.g. post-doctoral level, clinician) must also submit a letter of support from their project mentor or employment supervisor.

The award requires that funds be used for the support of up to 20% of institutional indirect or overhead costs. IRB or IACUC approval must be obtained prior to distribution of NPKUA funds.

Timeline:

Full proposals should be received no later than **Monday, June 16th, 2025**. Award notices will be given by September 2025 with funding to begin October 1st, 2025. For projects requesting greater than \$50,000, payment will be given in two milestone payments.

Each application is reviewed by the NPKUA Scientific Advisory Board and decisions are made based upon medical and scientific merit that are in line with the goals of the organization. The NPKUA Board of Directors reviews all decisions made by the Advisory Board and makes the final decision based on available resources and strategic research priorities.

Proposals will be funded by NPKUA for one year and the submission of a progress report will be required within 6 months after the grant has been awarded, along with goals for renewal funding consideration. A final report will be due 90 days after the end of the funding period. Failure to submit this report by the given deadline will disqualify the grant awardee from applying to the NPKUA research grant cycle for the following year.

If an extension is needed to complete the proposed project within the given timeline, extension requests can be submitted via GoodGrants. If an applicant requests an extension, they are ineligible to apply for additional funding until their original project is complete.

NPKUA also expects grant recipients to communicate the findings of their research, whether or not the results of the study are favorable, published in a scientific journal or presented at a scientific conference, so that others may benefit from their work.

Any publication or presentation related to the study should be shared with the NPKUA for our reference, and acknowledgement of NPKUA funding should be included.

All proposals can be [submitted here](#). Please direct any questions to grants@npkua.org.