

Request for Applications
Childhood Apraxia of Speech Treatment Research

The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America
(CASANA)



Request for Applications

The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA) announces the availability of funds to support treatment research relevant to childhood apraxia of speech (CAS).

About the Funder

CASANA is a U.S. based nonprofit organization, designated as a 501c3 public charity by the Internal Revenue Service. Its exclusive mission is to improve the system of services and supports in the lives of children with apraxia of speech so that each child is afforded their best opportunity to develop to their full potential.

Overseen by an active Board of Directors and a distinguished professional advisory board, CASANA provides the following programs:

- A comprehensive website regarding all aspects of this childhood speech disorder
- Active e-communities, including moderated email listserv, web-based message boards, Facebook group and newsletter
- Information, referral, and public awareness
- Research support (formal and informal gatherings of researchers in CAS, including the first CAS Research Symposium in 2002)
- Multimedia educational DVDs about childhood apraxia of speech topics
- Educational workshops and annual conference for parents and professionals

In 2006, CASANA launched its Apraxia Treatment Research Fund in order to advance what is known about effective speech therapy treatment for children with CAS. Responding to the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Ad-Hoc Committee Report on Childhood Apraxia of Speech, CASANA's Board of Directors noted the Committee's finding on the paucity of published literature on effective speech therapy for this population of children. CASANA's Research Fund was created to address this need and, as funds are available, will fund pilot research studies on appropriate speech therapy treatment for Childhood Apraxia of Speech. The organization's first grant was awarded in 2008.

Applicant Requirements:

- Applicants must be associated with a U.S.-based corporate entity.
- Applicants must demonstrate research competence based on publication of at least one study in a peer-reviewed journal or provide evidence of a relationship with an established researcher who has agreed to mentor the project
- The applicant and/or mentor must demonstrate specific knowledge in the area of CAS through publications and/or scholarly presentations.
- Collaborations between clinical and academic submissions are encouraged.
- Previous successful applicants must wait 2 years to reapply.

Funding Available:

For 2009, one grant of up to \$12,000 will be awarded for 12 months. The award will cover direct costs only.

Application Review and Award:

Applications meeting the technical requirements will be reviewed on the basis of merit by scientific reviewers with expertise in childhood speech disorders who are blind to the identity of the applicant. Additionally, an advocate reviewer will assist in the evaluation of the relevance of the proposed research to treatment of CAS. Final funding decisions will be based on review of scientific merit and the compatibility of the project with the stated goal of developing new information regarding the effectiveness of treatment for CAS. Proposals will be judged by a team of reviewers, who will assign point scores on aspects of the proposal, including: 1) statement of problem and purpose, 2) scientific merit, 3) methods, and 4) projected outcomes. Proposals will be ranked and reviewer consensus will determine the proposal to be accepted.

Proposal Requirements:

All submissions should be in legible font such as Times Roman, 12 pt written in APA format and include all the required sections described below. Failure to fully complete all sections will result in removal of the project from consideration for grant funding.

Required Sections:

I. Title Page

Proposals should be submitted with the following information on a face page:

- Title of the Project
- Principal Investigator
- Co-Investigator(s)
- Principal investigator contact information: mailing address, phone number, fax number, email
- Institutional contact information: mailing address, phone number, fax number, email
- Verification statement that the project will be completed with Human Subject or Institutional Board approval. (Institutional approval of a human subject protocol is not required at the time of submission, but funds will not be released until proof of approval is provided.)
- Signatures: The principal investigator and co-investigators should sign and date this application.

[NOTE: Information referring to identity of researcher or institutional affiliation should be included in the title page and Attachment section only, with no identifying information in other sections of the application.]

II. Research Plan

The research plan should have all identifying information removed other than the title of the project. This plan will be limited to a 10-page description with references. Information **must** be provided for the areas specified below.

- A statement of purpose including:
 - Rationale for the proposed research
 - Brief summary of relevant literature as it relates to rationale presented
- A description of the research including:
 - Research question(s) being asked
 - Participants
 - Research design and methods to be implemented
 - Proposed analysis of the data
- Implications of the research including:
 - Explanation of proposed outcomes
 - Importance of the proposed outcomes to practice

III. Budget and Justification

Please note that CASANA funds will not support indirect costs. Budgets may include line items such as:

- Materials and supplies
- Participant payment/expenses
- Hourly personnel costs
- Minor Equipment and/or travel necessary to complete the project

IV. Attachments or Supplemental Material

Attach documents that provide evidence of relevant expertise and capacity to complete this project. This should include:

- Qualifications of Investigators (Biosketch):
 - A National Institutes of Health-style biographical sketch of the principal investigator (and mentor, as needed) should be provided. Information in the biographical sketch should include training, professional experience, relevant publications, current and pending grant support. This documentation should not exceed 3 pages.
- Description of Organization and Capacity
 - Explanation of organization
 - Experience with similar projects
 - Capacity to successfully complete the grant project

Reporting Requirements:

Investigators working on funded proposals must present a progress report to CASANA approximately 6 months after initiation of the project. A final report will be due within 6 months of completion of the project, with evidence of manuscript preparation for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Basic information regarding the project may be shared via posting on the Apraxia-KIDS website.

Submission:

Direct questions to Ruth Stoeckel, Ph.D., or submit proposals to research@apraxia-kids.org. Submissions will be acknowledged to verify receipt.

Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. EST, August 1, 2009

Applicants will be notified by: November 15, 2009

Fund Distribution

The first distribution will occur early in calendar year 2010 upon receipt of verification of IRB approval and will include ½ of total grant award. *Failure to obtain IRB approval will result in elimination of the project from the grant-funding process; no funds will be released to a project without verification of IRB approval.* Remaining funds will be distributed for the second 6 month period pending satisfactory progress on the project.

Proposal Guidance FAQ

What Proposal Details Will Be Important To The Review Committee?

In order assist applicants in preparing the best proposal possible, we have compiled a list of questions and answers regarding specific details that will be important to the Proposal Review Committee. Please review these questions and their answers prior to writing your proposal and prior to submission.

How is CAS defined in your study?

Reviewers will expect to see specific inclusionary/exclusionary criteria for children identified as having CAS, and how they are matched to children in other groups, if the proposed project uses a group comparison design. Diagnosis should take into account the characteristics included in the 2007 ASHA Technical Report on CAS. From a proposal evaluation perspective, credibility of diagnosis will be strengthened if there is confirmation of diagnosis (particularly if confirmation is by an SLP not directly connected with the study).

What is the rationale for the treatment?

There must be a clear theoretical rationale for the treatment being used in the study and description of how potential influences from other interventions will be controlled. Without these components, a proposal would likely be judged as weak.

How will treatment fidelity be assured?

Reviewers will be interested to know how you will be evaluating the consistency of treatment across participants (and across providers, if more than one person is engaged in treatment).

How is treatment defined?

The treatment protocol must be clear and specific regarding what skills are to be taught and how they will be taught.

Is the study an appropriate experimental or quasi-experimental design?

Funding is intended for studies that go beyond the lowest level of evidence (case studies). Examples of designs which would be well received include well-controlled single subject design with replication or a small group study that compares one group to another appropriately (e.g., treatment vs. no treatment or delayed treatment; comparison of groups receiving 2 different treatments; comparison of groups receiving different modifications of the approach under study). Other research designs are possibly appropriate as well.

How will data help to support or refute the hypothesis?

The outcome measures must go beyond standardized testing data and allow the experimenter to answer the research question(s) posed at the outset of the study.

How will potential for bias in pre- and post-test measures be reduced?

Review committee members will be looking for safeguards built into your project.