

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).

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 messageboards, helpdesk 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
- Educational workshops and annual conference

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 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 will fund pilot research studies on appropriate speech therapy treatment for Childhood Apraxia of Speech.

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.

Funding Available:

Two grants of up to \$12,000 will be awarded for 12 months. Awards 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. An advocate reviewer will evaluate 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 proposals 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 that the project will be completed with 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:
 - Question(s) being asked
 - Participants
 - 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, 2008

Applicants will be notified by: November 21, 2008

Fund Distribution

The first distribution will occur in calendar year 2009 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.

.