

# Request for Applications Childhood Apraxia of Speech 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 research relevant to childhood apraxia of speech (CAS).

### About the Funder

CASANA is a U.S. based nonprofit organization, designated as a 501(c)(3) 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 groups and newsletter
- Information, support, referral, and public awareness
- Research support, including direct funding of research and a Research Registry
- Multimedia educational DVDs about childhood apraxia of speech topics
- Educational workshops, webinars and annual conference for parents and professionals

In 2007, 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 initial Research Fund was created to address this need.

In recognition of the long-standing obstacle to scientific progression (including treatment research) presented by the lack of reliable and validated diagnostic criteria (also noted in the ASHA Ad-Hoc Committee Report) as well as the limited funds available from national and international institutions, CASANA has since decided to expand the scope of the research grants to also include studies aimed at investigating diagnostic criteria for CAS as well as other areas of research specific to CAS. CASANA continues to emphasize an interest in clinical research projects aimed at the diagnosis and treatment of children with CAS. Additionally, CASANA is interested in early identification as well as approaches which include biophysical evidence alongside behavioral evidence. Finally, CASANA has expanded the program to include consideration of applications from Ph.D. candidates who are investigating CAS for their dissertation. In all instances and in all potential study areas, CASANA's primary interest is in high quality scientific research that, upon completion, will be suitable and acceptable to peer-reviewed publications (see below for review criteria).

### Applicant Requirements:

- 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. Ph.D. students must demonstrate advisement or involvement from a mentor or committee member with specific knowledge of CAS.
- 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. Collaborations across research groups and locations are encouraged
- Previous successful applicants must wait 2 years to reapply.

## Funding Available:

Grants may range from \$25,000 (U.S. Dollars) to a maximum of \$50,000 and will be awarded for 12 months. The award will cover direct costs only. Ph.D. candidates may propose projects for grants of up to \$5,000 (U.S. Dollars).

## 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. Additionally, an advocate reviewer will serve on the review panel and will assist in the evaluation of the relevance of the proposed research to diagnosis and/or treatment of CAS. Final funding decisions will be based on review of scientific merit and the compatibility of the project with the stated goals of the CASANA Research Grant competition.

The review of proposals will be conducted by a team of expert reviewers, who will independently assign point scores on aspects of the proposal similar to the review system used by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This system combines scores in five categories: Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, Environment (see Table 1). An overall impact score is also provided by each reviewer, indicating the reviewers' judgment of the probability that the project will have a significant impact on clinical practice and research in CAS. Once all reviewers have submitted their initial scores and reviews, a final score is awarded to each proposal on the basis of a reviewer meeting. Applicants will receive scores and narrative review comments with the notification of funding decisions. Investigators of promising proposals may be invited to submit revised proposals with a response to the reviews before final funding decisions are made.

**Table 1.** Description of review categories (adapted from NIH), and relative weighting of each in the overall evaluation.

Category	Description / Considerations
Significance (20%)	How important is this research to the mission of advancing the clinical or basic knowledge base in CAS? Are the purpose, research questions, and hypotheses clearly stated and motivated? How will the findings of the project improve identification, diagnosis and/or treatment of CAS?
Investigator(s) (5%)	Is the investigator (team) adequately prepared to conduct this project? What are the investigator qualifications and training (clinical and research)? How likely is it that the investigator(s) will successfully complete the project and disseminate the findings? For collaborative projects, is there evidence for a productive collaborative relationship?
Innovation (5%)	How innovative is this project? Does it use novel methods, treatment approaches, and/or theoretical concepts?
Approach (60%)	Are the research methodology and design appropriate to accomplish the stated goals? What are inclusionary/exclusionary criteria for participants? Are relevant potential confounds considered and controlled for? Are reliability and fidelity adequately addressed? Is the data analysis plan adequate? How likely is it that the project will yield valuable, interpretable data relative to diagnosis and/or treatment of CAS?
Environment (10%)	How feasible is this project given the institutional environment? Is there adequate support from the institution? Is there adequate availability of population, resources? Is the proposed time frame realistic to complete the project? Is the budget appropriate and realistic to accomplish the project?

## **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 separate face page:

- Title of the Project
- Principal Investigator
- Co-Investigator(s) and/or Mentor(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, co-investigators, and mentor(s) should sign and date this application.

**II. Research Plan** This plan will be limited to a 20-page (double-spaced) description with references. Information **must** be provided for the areas specified below.

Specific Aims and Background, including:

- Rationale / purpose for the proposed research
- Brief summary of relevant literature as it relates to the rationale presented
- Specific aims to be addressed by the project
- Research questions, and hypotheses and/or predictions

Research Design and Methodology, including description of:

- Participants
- Research design and methods to be implemented
- Proposed analysis of the data and relation to research questions and hypotheses

Implications and Significance, including description of:

- Explanation of proposed outcomes, consideration of alternative outcomes
- Importance of the proposed outcomes to clinical 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 SEPARATE 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, co-investigator(s), and mentor (if applicable) 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 (see <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/> for sample). The personal narrative portion of the biosketch should be used to describe prior experience with similar projects.

- Description of Organization and Capacity
  - Explanation of organization
  - Capacity to successfully complete the grant project
  - A collaboration plan, if applicable

### **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 Edwin Maas, Ph.D. (emaas@arizona.edu), or **submit proposals to [research@apraxia-kids.org](mailto:research@apraxia-kids.org)**. Submissions will be acknowledged to verify receipt. **Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. EDT (USA), August 1, 2013.** Applicants will be notified by September 15, 2013.

### **Fund Distribution:**

The first distribution will occur 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.