



2019 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Childhood Apraxia of Speech Research

Apraxia Kids
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Request for Applications

Apraxia Kids announces the availability of funds to support research relevant to childhood apraxia of speech (CAS).

About the Funder

Mission:

Apraxia Kids is the leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech by educating professionals and families; facilitating community engagement and outreach; and investing in the future through advocacy and research.

The Organization:

Apraxia Kids was founded in Pittsburgh in 2000 as the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA). It has evolved from an online discussion group into a unique, highly respected national 501(c) (3) public charity. Apraxia Kids also serves families throughout the world through its conference, webinars, and social media presence. Since its inception, Apraxia Kids has increased awareness, provided information, support, education. It has also provided much-needed funds for research of CAS.

In 2007, Apraxia Kids launched its Apraxia Treatment Research Fund 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, Apraxia Kids Board of Directors noted the Committee finding on the paucity of published literature on effective speech therapy for this population of children. Apraxia Kids created the initial Research Fund to address this need.

Apraxia Kids recognizes 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. Apraxia Kids has since decided to expand the scope of the research grants to, in addition to treatment research, include grant funding for studies aimed at investigating diagnostic criteria for CAS as well as other areas of research specific to CAS.

Apraxia Kids continues to emphasize an interest in clinical research projects aimed at the diagnosis and treatment of children with CAS. Additionally, Apraxia Kids is interested in early identification of CAS, as well as approaches which include biophysical evidence alongside behavioral evidence. Finally, Apraxia Kids is interested in quality of life research on children with CAS or a history of CAS. Apraxia Kids will also consider applications from Ph.D. candidates who are investigating appropriate areas on CAS for their dissertation and new researchers who may not be as experienced in research proposal submissions. In all instances and in all potential study areas, Apraxia Kids primary interest is in high quality scientific research that, upon completion, will be suitable and acceptable to peer-reviewed publications (see further in the application packet 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.
- The applicant and/or mentor must demonstrate specific knowledge in the area of CAS and severe speech sound disorders 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 two (2) full funding cycles to reapply.

Intent to Apply:

Potential applicants must email research@apraxia-kids.org to inform Apraxia Kids of your intent to submit an application. In the email, potential applicants should indicate the names of any colleagues that will be co-investigators or consultants on your proposed project. The Intent to Apply must reach us **no later than March 1, 2019.**

Application Review and Award:

Applications meeting the technical requirements will be reviewed based on merit by scientific reviewers with expertise in childhood speech disorders. Final funding decisions will be based on review of scientific merit and the compatibility of the project with the stated goals of the Apraxia Kids Research Grant competition.

The review of applications is 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). Each reviewer, indicating the reviewers' judgment of the probability that the project will have a significant impact on clinical practice and research in CAS, also provides an overall impact score.

Once all reviewers have submitted their initial scores and reviews, a final score is awarded to each proposal based on 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 applications 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%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -How important is this research to the mission of advancing the clinical or basic knowledge base in CAS, including diagnosis, treatment, quality of life, or biophysical evidence? -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%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -How innovative is this project? -Does it use novel methods, treatment approaches, and/or theoretical concepts?
Approach (60%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 identification, diagnosis and/or treatment of CAS?
Environment (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 - Applications 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; however, no funds are released by Apraxia Kids 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 Apraxia Kids 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

Note: If awarded a grant, the investigator is required to get Apraxia Kids approval for budgetary changes to the approved plan. Investigators must explicitly acknowledge their understanding of this requirement in the budget section.

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 three pages (see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> for sample). The personal narrative portion of the biosketch should be used to describe prior experience with similar projects. Additionally, previous Apraxia Kids grantees should list publications in peer-reviewed journals that directly resulted from their Apraxia Kids project.
- *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 applications must present a progress report (including a financial report) to Apraxia Kids approximately 6 months after initiation of the project. Note: failure to provide the required progress report may result in cancellation of the project.

A final report and a “lay person” overview of the project will be due within 6 weeks of completion of the project. Basic information regarding the project may be shared via posting on the Apraxia Kids website.

Submission:

- Direct questions to research@apraxia-kids.org
- Submit final applications to research@apraxia-kids.org. Submissions will be acknowledged to verify receipt. Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. EDT (USA), **May 31, 2019**.

Fund Distribution:

The first distribution of funds will occur upon receipt of verification of IRB approval and will include ½ of total grant award. The earliest anticipated start date is **August 1, 2019**. 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 six-month period pending satisfactory progress on the project.