



**CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH RESEARCH  
2021 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

[research@apraxia-kids.org](mailto:research@apraxia-kids.org)

### **Timeline for Clinical Research Applications**

11-15-2021	Letter of intent due
12-1-2021	Approval notifications out to applicants
3-15-2022	Full proposals due to Apraxia Kids
5-31-2022	Decision letters out to applicants
7-15-2022	Award Grant(s)
1-31-2023	6 month progress report due

### **Timeline for Summer Student Research Applications**

11-15-2021	Letter of intent for summer student proposals due
12-1-2021	Approval notifications out to applicants
1-31-2022	Doctoral and Undergrad/Masters Student summer proposals due
3-15-2022	Decision letters out to summer student applicants
5-1-2022	Award summer student grants
12-31-2022	6 month progress report due

## Timeline for Fall Student Research Applications

2-15-2022	Letter of intent for fall student proposals due
3-15-2022	Approval notifications out to applicants
6-1-2022	Doctoral and Undergrad/Masters Student fall proposals due
7-15-2022	Decision letters out to fall student applicants
9-1-2022	Award Fall student grants
3-31-2023	6 month progress report due

Apraxia Kids continues to emphasize an interest in clinical research projects aimed at the diagnosis and treatment of children with CAS across diverse populations including race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, language, age, and comorbidity. Additionally, Apraxia Kids is interested in early identification of CAS, etiologies of CAS, disparities in service delivery, as well as approaches which include biophysical evidence alongside behavioral evidence. Finally, Apraxia Kids is interested in quality of life research on children of all ages including teens/young adults with CAS or a history of CAS.

There are three different competitions, aimed at Principal Investigators (PIs) at different career stages. In addition to the traditional research grant competition for investigators with research doctorates, there are two competitions for student researchers. The student grant competitions are intended to foster development of research capacity in CAS to ensure a sustained long-term research focus on CAS. The first student grant competition is open to PhD students, and the second one is intended specifically for undergraduate and master's level students from underrepresented groups. This latter competition is a new initiative by Apraxia Kids in a concrete effort to contribute to diversifying our profession in the area of CAS research. For both student grant competitions, research proposals must focus on relevant aspects of CAS, and must include a mentor with appropriate experience and expertise in CAS to supervise the project.

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.

### PROCESS

**Letter of Intent:** Potential applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) from the principal investigator and a mentor's letter of support of student researchers via email to

**([research@apraxia-kids.org](mailto:research@apraxia-kids.org)) by November 15, 2021 for Clinical Research and Student Summer funding and by February 15, 2022 for Student Fall funding.** The letter of intent should include:

- which research grant the applicant is applying for (see list below under Applicant Requirements) and the time frame (summer or fall for student proposals)
- the title and brief description of the proposal
- name(s) of investigators (PI(s) and co-I(s), if applicable) and consultants and mentors
- mentor's letter of support for student researchers only

LOIs will be subject to review and Apraxia Kids will send an email that will indicate whether or not the LOI has been approved by December 1, 2021 for Clinical Research and Student Summer funding and March 15, 2022 for Student Fall funding.

#### **AWARDS:**

- Clinical Research Grant (for researchers with a PhD or equivalent research doctorate): up to \$50,000
- Doctoral Student Grant: up to \$10,000
- Undergraduate/Master's Student Grant: up to \$5,000

#### **APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS**

- **Clinical Research Grant:** Research teams must consist of at least one member with a PhD (or equivalent research doctorate) and at least one member with clinical expertise in CAS (one person can meet both criteria). 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 serve as mentor or co-investigator on the project.
- **Doctoral Student Grant:** Applications from Ph.D. students who are investigating appropriate areas on CAS will be considered separately for summer and fall funding. PhD students must indicate who their committee/advisor/mentors are. At least one member of the team/committee must show clinical expertise in CAS.
- **Undergraduate and Master's Student Grant:** Applications from undergraduate and Master's level students from underrepresented groups who are investigating appropriate areas on CAS for a research project will be considered separately for summer and fall funding. The mentor of the project must show clinical expertise in CAS and research experience.
- All applications:
  - 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 professionals are encouraged.
  - Collaborations across research groups and locations are encouraged.

- Previous successful applicants must wait two (2) full funding cycles to reapply. An applicant can be on more than one application in any single cycle. A person might be a PI on one or two, or a PI on one and a co-investigator on another.
- **Full Application:** Applicants with approved LOIs will be invited by email to submit a full application. In that invitation, specific instructions and a link to a google doc folder where the full application will be posted will be provided.
  - For **Clinical Research Grant Funding**, applicants will upload all required documents into the folder and then email Apraxia Kids saying it is complete by end of day **March 15, 2022** ([research@apraxia-kids.org](mailto:research@apraxia-kids.org)). Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by May 31, 2022.
  - For **Student Summer Grant Funding**, applicants will upload all required documents into the folder and then email Apraxia Kids saying it is complete by end of day **January 31, 2022** ([research@apraxia-kids.org](mailto:research@apraxia-kids.org)). Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by March 15, 2022.
  - For **Student Fall Grant Funding**, applicants will upload all required documents into the folder and then email Apraxia Kids saying it is complete by end of the day **June 1, 2022** ([research@apraxia-kids.org](mailto:research@apraxia-kids.org)). Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by July 15, 2022.
- The full application will include the following sections:
  - Title page
  - Research plan
  - Budget and justification
  - Qualifications of investigators (Biosketch)
  - Description of organization and capacity

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

PIs 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 (including a financial report) in addition to a separate “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.
- Notification to Apraxia Kids of any publication of articles regarding outcomes of the study along with a brief summary of the article is due within a month of the publication.

## **FUND DISTRIBUTION**

The first distribution of funds 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 six-month period pending satisfactory progress on the project.

## **APPLICATION REVIEW**

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. Reviewers will take into account the award type when reviewing applications (PhD, Doctoral Student, and Undergraduate/Master's student PI). 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 also provides an overall impact score, indicating the reviewer's 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 independent initial scores and reviews, a final score is awarded to each proposal. 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.