

Firefly Children's Foundation invites Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from established and early-career researchers in South Australia for research grants commencing in 2027, investigating conditions affecting children's health, education and/or welfare.

Applications are submitted online via Submittable (free account required).

You can save progress and return later.

Before lodging, you must liaise with your Administering Institution's Research Administration Office (RAO).

How the process works (2 Steps)

1. Expression of Interest (EOI)

Open: 2 March 2026 (9:00am ACDT)

Close: 6 April 2026 (11:59pm ACDT)

- Late or incomplete submissions won't be accepted.
- Submit using the Chief Investigator email address (and you can use Submittable "collaboration" to share access with your team).
- To avoid missing messages, safelist Submittable notifications: notifications@email.submittable.com and notifications@email.auth.submittable.com
- EOI outcomes sent to Submitters + RAOs by 19 May 2026 (via Submittable).

2. Full Grant Application (invited applicants only)

Open: 19 May 2026 (9:00am ACST)

Close: 20 July 2026 (11:59pm ACST)

- Late or incomplete submissions won't be accepted.
 - Firefly Children's Foundation may request further information (including relevant funding applications submitted elsewhere).
 - Outcomes (under embargo) to Submitters + RAOs by mid-October 2026.
 - Public announcement event: 5 November 2026
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Who can apply (Eligibility)

- Established and early-career researchers based in South Australia are eligible.
- Research must be led from South Australia (CI + Administering Institution located in SA).
- National collaboration is encouraged where needed, but Firefly Children's Foundation prefers the team be SA-based where possible.

What Firefly Children's Foundation will fund

Research Categories

Firefly Children's Foundation will consider research in:

- **Basic Science:** Research to acquire or confirm new knowledge by testing a hypothesis using scientific methodology in a primary laboratory environment.
- **Clinical Studies:** Research conducted with human subjects or human material in which the investigator interacts directly with human subjects. Such research may include the mechanism of human disease, clinical trials, therapeutic intervention, the development of new technology and epidemiology.
- **Community Based Studies:** Research based in a community setting with the objective of providing the community with the tools and information necessary to enact change.

Duration

Projects may be **1 year** or **2 years**.

The Grant Funding Period runs from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027 or 31 December 2028 (depending on 1–2 year project).

Early Career Grants (ECR option)

ECRs can apply for a full grant, but may choose the Early Career Grant pathway. ECR includes:

- PhD held ≤ 5 years (plus eligible career disruption allowances, incl. up to two extra years per dependent child for parental care absences)
- Medical applicants undertaking a PhD or MD
- Non-medical applicants with Honours/Masters, or undertaking a PhD/MPhil
- Plus: applicants must not have been Lead CI on a significant peer-reviewed grant (NHMRC/ARC/Firefly Children's Foundation/Cancer Council)

Budget rules (What you can/can't spend it on)

- ECR grants: up to 50% may be used for salary.
- All other grants: funds can't be used to pay salaries for any investigator on the project or stipends to postgraduate students.
- Only travel directly associated with the project is eligible; conference travel isn't supported.
- Publication fees may be claimed (with evidence), capped at \$3,000.

How Firefly Children's Foundation assesses applications

Applications are assessed by the independent Firefly Children's Foundation Research Committee on scientific merit and relevance to children's health/education/welfare.

You'll nominate two independent expert referees (non-associates), and you may also list people you request Firefly Children's Foundation not approach (with reasons).

After award (Important requirements)

- Ethics approval must be received before any grant payments can be processed (where relevant).
 - Once pre-commencement requirements are completed, the Administering Institution may invoice Firefly Children's Foundation quarterly; final instalment is withheld until acquittals are finalised.
 - If you have outstanding acquittals or unexpended funds from a previous grant, these must be finalised before applying.
 - Publications and outputs must acknowledge Firefly Children's Foundation; copies should be forwarded to Firefly Children's Foundation for 24 months after the funding period ends.
 - Media: Firefly Children's Foundation must be advised 48 hours prior to general release of media about Firefly Children's Foundation-funded findings.
 - IP/royalties may apply and are negotiated case-by-case.
 - Submitting an application indicates acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of Funding.
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Quick links & Support

- Submittable submissions: crf.submittable.com
- PDF previews and Terms & Conditions: firefly.org.au/research/grants/how-to-apply
- Questions about submission: contact your RAO first.