



CYSTINOSIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION (CRF)

Spring 2026 Call for Research Proposals and Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

The Cystinosis Research Foundation is pleased to announce its Spring 2026 Call for Research Proposals and Fellowships. The objective of the Cystinosis Research Foundation is to find better treatments and a cure for cystinosis. Research and fellowship applications must be consistent with the mission and goals of the foundation to be considered. Global calls for grant applications will be made twice each year. Research and fellowship grants are awarded for 1-2 years.

CRF FUNDING PRIORITIES:

- CRF is prioritizing research that has a clear and feasible path to clinical application, with the goal of advancing new treatments and dramatically improving quality of life.
- Early-stage basic research applications lacking translational development, e.g. proposing broad-based screening, or focusing primarily on methods development, will not be prioritized.
- CRF is interested in supporting new investigators and encourage applications from research fellows and early-career scientists, either independently or as co-principal investigators.

Currently, the Cystinosis Research Foundation has \$2 Million available for research and fellowship grants. The number of awards and the awarded amount will depend on the number of outstanding proposals and the funds available at the time.

The deadline for the Spring 2026 Grant Proposals and Fellowship Applications is **Thursday, March 12, 2026**. The successful grant applicants will be notified in June 2026. Please note that the earliest start date for research projects submitted for this cycle is September 1, 2026.

Research Proposals

The Cystinosis Research Foundation is prepared to fund proposals to improve the immediate care of children and adults with cystinosis and to develop a new understanding and treatment of cystinosis to help these patients in the future.

CRF supports laboratory, clinical, and translational research that may directly impact patient care and advances the understanding of cystinosis pathogenesis, particularly in areas that remain under-studied, including neurological and endocrine complications, myopathy, hypogonadism, and bone disease. All proposed studies must demonstrate a strong rationale for how the findings could be translated into clinical benefit.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Cystinosis Research Foundation created a postdoctoral research fellowship program to attract qualified, promising investigators to establish careers in cystinosis research. The fellow's stipend should be the usual amount for such a trainee at the given applicant's institution. The total award cannot exceed \$75,000 per year including overhead. Awards will generally be for a period of 1-2 years.

Priority will be given to "named" postdoctoral trainees. However, investigators who are already studying cystinosis can apply for a fellowship position with the expectation of attracting a suitable postdoctoral fellow within a year. Pre-doctoral students, who are already studying cystinosis, will be considered if funding is available.

REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals are evaluated by the Cystinosis Research Foundation Scientific Review Board (SRB), which is comprised of leading experts on cystinosis who determine the scientific validity and merit of the proposed research based on the NIH scale of standards. The SRB then advises the Cystinosis Research Foundation on the scientific merit of each proposal. The Foundation will balance the eventual funding to support bench, translational and clinical research, and fellowships. Applicants will be notified in writing via email regarding the final status of their application.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL GUIDELINES AND FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

We encourage concise proposals. The research proposals and fellowship applications should describe the rationale and importance of the project and should include the specific aims and research design and methodology. Please include sufficient detail in a concise manner to facilitate evaluation of the proposed work.

Research Grant Proposals: Maximum length for a new application is **nine** one-sided pages, single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font with 1-inch margins (2.54 cm) on all sides including figures, diagrams, and drawings. Cover sheet, documentation, budget and budget justification and curriculum vitae (CV limit is 5 pages maximum or a bio sketch) are not included in the 9-page limit. **Longer applications will not be evaluated.**

Fellowship Grant Applications: Maximum length for a new application is **six** one-sided pages, single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font with 1-inch margins (2.54 cm) on all sides including figures, diagrams, and drawings. Cover sheet, documentation, budget and budget justification and curriculum vitae (CV limit is 5 pages maximum or a bio sketch) are not included in the 6-page limit. **Longer applications will not be evaluated.**

Cover Sheet Information: Names and Affiliations of Principal and Co-Principal Investigators and/or Research Fellow – **It is mandatory that the Cystinosis Research Foundation cover sheet is included as part of your application.** Please download and attach the applicable cover sheet – either the [**Research Grant Proposal Cover Sheet**](#) or [**Fellowship Grant Proposal Cover Sheet**](#).

Please format Grant and Fellowship Applications as follows:

1. Abstract/Summary of project – Explain the relevance to cystinosis. What problem does the project or fellowship address? Why is the work important to children and adults with cystinosis? How will the project be accomplished?
2. Specific Aims – List the study or fellowship objectives and describe the specific goals of the research, including any hypotheses to be tested.
3. Preliminary Studies/Progress reports – Proposals should include preliminary data to support the objectives and goals of the study.
4. Research Design and Methods – Describe the research design and methodology that will be used to accomplish the study or fellowship aims.

Additional Information NOT part of the maximum length requirement for the Research Grant and Fellowship Grant Applications:

1. Detailed Budget – The Cystinosis Research Foundation will generally provide up to 10% of indirect costs. Requests for higher amounts must be carefully justified but are not guaranteed to be approved. Funding requests must be submitted in U.S. dollars.
2. Currency exchange rates will be established at the time the grant contract is issued.
3. The Cystinosis Research Foundation will not cover travel expenses as part of a grant or fellowship budget.
4. Budget Justification – Please explain items that might be confusing or unusual to the review committee.
5. Key Personnel - Please include a current CV or a bio sketch (maximum of 5 pages) and indicate the percent of effort that each person is expected to devote to the project.
6. Statement detailing all other available resources including other grant support available or other grant applications pending. Indicate the amount and granting organization for any other sources (current or pending) of funding for the study.
7. IRB (human subject) approval and consent forms or plan to obtain such approval, if applicable. Animal subject approval if applicable. Funds for awards will not be released until all necessary approvals for human and/or animal studies are received.
8. A statement as to why funding from the Cystinosis Research Foundation is essential for the execution of this project. Please include other funding support for this study if applicable. If you have submitted an application for the same study or a similar study to another funding source and are awaiting notification from that source, please include information about the potential funding source and timeline.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS

In addition to the above, fellowship applications must provide a CV or a bio sketch (maximum of 5 pages) of the proposed candidate and a statement outlining his/her career goals. Please discuss why this fellowship is important to the applicant. It should be clear who the fellow's mentor(s) will be. The mentor must provide a CV or a bio sketch (maximum of 5 pages) as well as a statement of the plan for training the fellow.

In the case of a fellowship application for a fellow to be named, the same type of CV will be required before final approval.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY APPLIED

If this grant is a revision of a previous grant that was not funded, please provide the title of the previous grant, the date of submission as well as a detailed and thorough response to the reviewers' comments. Please clearly describe how the grant has been modified in response to the comments, and whether additional preliminary data are included.

Additionally, if appropriate, explain why other concerns could not be addressed. This response ("Response to Reviewers' Comments") should be no more than 2 pages and should be placed at the beginning of the grant application. It does not count toward the 9-page grant limit.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN FUNDED

If this grant is a continuation of work previously funded by the CRF, please provide the title of the grant, the date of submission as well as a summary of the work that was completed during the prior funding period, including, if appropriate, any barriers that prevented completing the work proposed in the prior grant. This response ("Summary of Prior CRF Funded Work") should be no more than 1 page and should be a separate page that should be placed at the beginning of the grant application. It does not count toward the 9-page grant limit.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants are invited to submit their grant proposals in **one PDF document** to nstack@cystinosisresearch.org by **Thursday, March 12, 2026 by 5:00 PM PT**. A confirmation of receipt of the application will be sent within 24 hours.

Successful applicants will be notified in June 2026.

Please contact Nancy Stack if you have any questions nstack@cystinosisresearch.org

PARTIAL LIST OF GRANTEE OBLIGATIONS

By submitting this application, the applicant acknowledges and agrees that any award will be subject to CRF's standard terms and conditions of grant that impose certain obligations on the grantee, including without limitation:

1. The recipient of any grant award from the CRF must use the funds for the specific purpose for which they were originally intended in the grant or fellowship application. *The study must commence by the stated start date and end within the time frame given.* If the study is delayed, the CRF must immediately be notified and a detailed explanation of the reasons for the delay must be explained and sent to the CRF by email as well as a hard copy via regular mail. If an extension of time is required, the awardee must notify the CRF in writing 60 days before the scheduled end date of the study.
2. Progress reports are required at regular intervals for the duration of the study and a final report is required and due within sixty days after the completion of the date of the award. The final grant payment will be made to the award recipient(s) upon receipt of the final report. These progress reports should be an executive overview of the study's progress against key milestones and should include any personnel updates. The progress reports must also include a budget report which shall be a one-page detailed accounting of budget receipts and expenditures. All progress reports should be sent electronically to Nancy Stack at nstack@cystinosisresearch.org. The progress and budget reports will be reviewed and if approved, the next scheduled grant payment will be issued.
3. Payment for all CRF awards will be made payable to an institution, university, company, or equivalent organizational entity. CRF will not make checks payable to an individual, whether that person is the principal investigator or someone within the awardees' institution. The CRF will issue grant payments in U.S. dollars only.
4. If the research proposal funded is clinical in nature and requires recruitment of volunteers for the study, the recruitment letter must acknowledge CRF as the source of funding and such recruitment letter must be sent to Nancy Stack, nstack@cystinosisresearch.org to be posted on the CRF web site.
5. Publications, Presentations and Study Publicity – In all publications and presentations in which Study results are included, credit shall be given to CRF for its funding of the Study. For the sake of uniformity, it is requested that the following acknowledgment be used with all such publications and presentations, "This investigation was supported in whole or in part by [a] grant[s] from the Cystinosis Research Foundation."

If the study was supported by multiple sources but CRF was the major contributing source, language acknowledging that fact must be used. Once published or presented, a copy of the publication or presentation must be sent to Nancy Stack, President of the Cystinosis Research Foundation via email at [\(nstack@cystinosisresearch.org\)](mailto:nstack@cystinosisresearch.org) or mailed to CRF at 19200 Von Karman, Suite 920, Irvine, CA 92612 Attn: Nancy Stack.

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