

2026 Program Guidelines

The SickKids Technology Advancement Program (TAP) is an initiative led by the Industry Partnerships & Commercialization (IP&C) office to advance late-stage pre-clinical health care innovations through project funding, structured advice, project governance, and strategic networking opportunities. TAP strengthens IP&C's ability to develop and de-risk SickKids innovations beyond basic proof-of-principle.

This initiative is supported by the [SickKids Commercialization Advisory Board \(CAB\)](#), a panel of experienced commercialization and investment professionals who provide tailored feedback and guidance to help refine each project's pathway to impact. The CAB selects projects to receive up to \$350,000 in funding to facilitate proposed de-risking and commercialization activities.

Funding Details

Applicants may request funding per the award threshold below for a project period of up to **12 months** to support de-risking and commercialization activities. Funding for successful projects will be released in installments as the project progresses and meets its agreed-upon milestones.

Medical Device/Clinical Software/Diagnostics	Maximum \$150,000
Pharma/Biotech	Maximum \$350,000

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project consumables Research materials Applicable service fees (e.g. core facility fees, statistical services, clinical services, etc.) SickKids personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer and equipment purchasing Capital or overhead costs Travel Principal investigator or external collaborator salaries

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the SickKids Technology Advancement Program (TAP), projects must demonstrate clear potential for real-world impact, along with early evidence supporting further development. The Principal Applicant must hold a current appointment as a *Scientist, Senior Scientist, Associate Scientist, Senior Associate Scientist, Associate Scientist-Track Investigator, Senior Scientist-Track Investigator, Project Investigator* or *Technology Innovation Investigator* at The Hospital for Sick Children.

Projects must meet the following criteria to be considered for the 2026 TAP:

Unmet Clinical Need

- Addresses a clearly defined unmet clinical need

Development Stage

Review the [2026 TAP TRL Information Sheet](#) for additional details.

- Minimum Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 completed; elements of TRL 4 preferred.
- Biopharma:** Evidence of efficacy in a validated animal model, or strong justification for an in-vitro model.
 - Medical Devices:** Demonstrated safety and effectiveness.
 - Diagnostics:** Working prototype with demonstrated sensitivity and specificity.
 - Software:** Early clinical validation (e.g., retrospective testing, prospective study plans, regulatory considerations).

Intellectual Property (IP)

- IP is assessed and well-positioned.
 - **Biopharma:** Patent filed.
 - **Medical Devices:** Provisional filed or in progress.
 - **Diagnostics:** Patent filed or unique know-how defined.
 - **Software:** Unique know-how defined; copyright where appropriate.

Feasibility

- TAP funding must meaningfully advance the project toward a value inflection point.

Previous Funding

- Prior commercialization-focused funding (e.g. SK PoP, TIAP, LAB150, SK Foundation, CIHR) is acceptable.

Market Potential

- Defined primary market, known barriers, and potential for market expansion

Selection Process

The SickKids TAP follows a **multi-stage selection process**:

1. Expression of Interest (EOI)

All EOIs will be evaluated by a review committee comprised of subject matter experts and representatives from the Industry Partnerships & Commercialization (IP&C) Office. EOIs will be assessed to verify [Technology Readiness Levels \(TRLs\)](#) and determine overall TAP eligibility.

- **Call for EOIs:** February 5, 2026
- **EOI Submission Deadline:** 5:00PM EST, February 17, 2026

Submit your completed EOI as a [PDF](#) using the naming convention “SKTAP2026_FirstnameLastname” to ask.ipc@sickkids.ca, or submit through the [Microsoft Forms](#) version.

2. Invitation to Apply

Projects that have been deemed eligible via their EOI submission will receive an invitation to submit a full project proposal. Proposals will be assessed for their technical merit, potential for translation, and fit with current TAP objectives. Applicants may be requested to meet with the review committee if additional context is required.

- **Invitation to Apply:** Early March, 2026
- **Application Deadline:** 5:00PM EST, March 23, 2026

3. Pitch Presentations

The top three applicants will be invited to further develop their project proposal into a 10-minute presentation, with assistance from the IP&C Business Development team and external key opinion leaders. Final presentations will take place on **Pitch Day**, during which the [SickKids Commercialization Advisory Board \(CAB\)](#) will evaluate each project’s scientific merit, commercial potential, and advancement potential to determine the 2026 TAP funding recipient.

- **Selection of Top Projects:** Early April, 2026
- **Pitch Day:** May 28, 2026