

Competition Overview

The SickKids Proof of Principle (PoP) Grant Competition provides targeted funding and strategic support to help advance discoveries and inventions toward commercializable technologies. The goal is to enable the development of innovations with strong potential to attract investment, catalyze high-value licenses, or lead to the creation of science-based companies.

Selection Process

The SickKids PoP Grant Competition follows a two-stage selection process:

1. Internal Review

All submitted applications will be evaluated by a review committee comprised of subject matter experts and representatives from the Industry Partnerships & Commercialization (IP&C) Office. Projects will be assessed for their technical merit, potential for translation, and fit with the PoP program objectives.

2. Pitch Day

Applications selected from the internal review will advance to the Pitch Day stage. At this point, applicants will receive support from an IP&C Business Development representative to refine the project scope and commercialization strategy. Projects will be scored based on the following criteria:

1. Science & Innovation

- Evaluates the novelty of the technology, its alignment with a defined unmet need, the quality of supporting evidence, and the soundness of the proposed development approach.

2. Commercialization Potential

- Assesses market opportunity, competitive positioning, intellectual property strategy, and awareness of the regulatory pathway required for successful translation.

3. PoP Potential

- Examines team capacity, feasibility of the project plan, appropriateness of the budget, and the alignment of de-risking activities with TRL advancement.

Funding Details

Applicants may request funding per the award threshold below for a project period of up to **12 months** to support work that demonstrates proof of concept, reduces development risk, or otherwise advances the technology toward translational readiness. 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 \$75,000
Pharma/Biotech	Maximum \$125,000

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 PoP Grant Competition, projects must demonstrate clear potential for real-world impact, along with early evidence supporting further development.

Projects must also fulfill the following conditions:

- An invention disclosure for the technology must be on file with the IP&C Office.
 - If one is not already on file, applicants should submit a new disclosure via the [Inventor Portal](#) before the SK POP application cycle closes.
- The proposed project should have fulfilled the requirements for [Technology Readiness Level \(TRL\) 2](#).
- The proposed project must not already be supported by other PoP-type or industry funding.

Additional Details:

- The Principal Applicant must hold a current SickKids appointment at one of the following levels: *Technology Innovation Investigator, Scientist-track, Scientist, Associate Scientist, Senior Scientist, Senior Associate Scientist, or Project Investigator*.
- An individual may serve as Principal Applicant on only one submission per funding cycle. A Principal Applicant may be named as a Co-Applicant on other submissions.
- Research Associates, Clinical and Research Fellows, and Residents are not eligible to apply as Principal Applicants but may be included as Co-Applicants.

How to Apply

Submit an application form via the Microsoft Forms link by 5:00 PM EST, May 18, 2026.

Note: Microsoft Forms only enables the save-and-edit function after an initial submission. To avoid losing work, prepare your responses separately and paste them into the form when ready. Preview the application questions below.



Submission Deadline: 5:00 PM EST, May 18, 2026

Access the Application Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/xZ7gaKtQjs>

Application Questions

* = required

Project Overview

1. Project Title*
2. Project Description*
 - Provide a concise lay summary of the unmet need and proposed solution. (Max 1000 characters)
3. Project Objectives/Outcomes*
 - List 1-3 primary objectives/outcomes.
4. Keywords*
 - Provide at least five keywords describing the scientific, technical, and clinical areas central to your project. These will be used to assign reviewers.
5. Invention Disclosure*
 - Provide the title and submission date of the Invention Disclosure for the proposed technology.

Applicant Information

6. Principal Applicant*
 - Please provide the Principal Applicant's Full Name, Position, and Department at SickKids.
7. Co-Applicants
 - List up to 5 co-applicants, including Full Name, Position, and Organization.

Funding Information

8. Funding Amount*
 - Specify the total PoP funding requested.
9. Other Funding Sources
 - List any previously received, pending, or other anticipated funding for the project.

Science & Innovation

10. Needs Analysis*
 - Describe the unmet need your project addresses and current solution gaps. *(Max 2000 characters)*
11. Technology Details*
 - Describe the novelty of the technology and summarize evidence supporting completion of TRL 2. Include any additional progress to date. *(Max 2000 characters)*

Commercialization Potential

12. Intellectual Property Strategy*
 - Describe the IP strategy and status of any filings. Include inventors, pre-existing obligations, and ownership details. *(Max 2000 characters)*
13. Market Analysis*
 - Describe the target market and highlight the technology's competitive advantage. *(Max 2000 characters)*

PoP Potential

14. Team Capacity*
 - Describe each team member's expertise, role, and contributions. *(Max 1500 characters)*
15. Development Plan*
 - Outline the key steps and de-risking activities planned during the 12-month funding period. Describe expected outcomes and identify milestones, decision points, and relevant regulatory considerations. *(Max 2500 characters)*

Supplementary Materials

16. You may upload any supplementary figures or references here.
 - File number limit: 2, File size limit: 1GB, File type: PDF, Word

Application Cycle Dates

April 6, 2026 12:00 p.m. EST	2026 SK PoP Application Cycle Opens
May 18, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST	2026 SK PoP Application Cycle Closes



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