



Call for Pilot Grant Proposals

The Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation (PRRF) encourages proposals from vision scientists, as well as ophthalmologists, to advance knowledge and address important questions in pediatric retinal research. Together, we can make meaningful contributions to the field and pave the way for future extramural funding opportunities.

The PRRF is pleased to announce a call for translational pilot grant proposals to support retinal research projects that could be valuable to a pediatric population. Proposals should have the potential to translate into clinical relevance and should not overlap currently funded research projects, unless where outlined in the Eligibility criteria below. Faculty, vision scientists and ophthalmologists affiliated with Oakland University's Eye Research Institute (OU ERI), Oakland University William Beaumont Eye Research Center (OUWB ERC), and Beaumont Eye Institute (BEI) are welcome to apply.

This funding opportunity aims to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation in vision research. In addition to vision scientist proposals, faculty and ophthalmologists are encouraged to share their translational pilot proposal ideas. The PRRF Research Advisory Committee will make a concentrated effort to match any faculty and ophthalmologist applicants with a vision scientist to execute the pilot project, if awarded.

Funding Amount: Up to \$20,000

Eligibility:

- Principal Investigators (PIs) must be faculty members or ophthalmologists affiliated with OU ERI, OUWB ERC or BEI.
- Collaboration between ERC/ERI vision scientists and ophthalmologists is encouraged.
- Projects must have the potential to collect data that can contribute to extramural funding opportunities.
- Projects must be clinically relevant/translational in nature.
- Proposals should align with the objectives and priorities outlined above.
- A statement of no overlap in funding from other research projects is required (with exception of 2025 Grant awardees as outlined below).
- 2025 Grant awardees may request funding for a new project, project renewal or project expansion. A technical evaluation of outcomes from the 2025 grant, explanation of use of 2025 funds, and expenditure update will be required.
- Applicants must comply with all institutional policies and guidelines related to research conduct and funding.
- Acknowledgment of the Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation (PRRF) on publications resulting from the funded research is required.
- The Foundation does not support indirect expenses. All grant awards are restricted to direct expenses.

Application Guidelines

Proposal Format: Proposals must be submitted as a PDF document and include the following sections:

- Title and Abstract: 250 words
- Specific Aims, Background and Significance: one page
- Research Plan: Maximum 2 pages
- Budget and Justification. Salary is permitted as a budgeted expenditure. Percent of salary to the total pilot grant budget is required in the justification.
- Timeline
- References



Submission Deadline: June 30, 2026

Submission Process: Proposals should be submitted electronically as a PDF file to Stephanie Saville at stephanie@prrf.org.

Review Process: Proposals will undergo a peer-review process by experts in the field serving on the PRRF Research Advisory Committee. Evaluation criteria may include scientific merit, innovation, feasibility, interdisciplinary collaboration, relevance to PRRF's mission, and potential for extramural funding.

Notification: Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by September 1, 2026. Funding will be awarded by October 1, 2026.

Funding Period: The funding period for awarded projects is one year. All funds must be expended within this period, and a final report detailing project outcomes and expenditures must be submitted at the end of the funding period.

For more information or inquiries regarding this call for proposals, please contact Stephanie Saville, Foundation Executive Director, at (586) 434-0429 or stephanie@prrf.org.