Enduring Hearts Direct Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of this grant? Atlanta-based Enduring Hearts launched in 2013 with a mission to fund research that increases the longevity of pediatric heart transplants, improves quality of life for transplant recipients, and eliminates pediatric heart diseases that may result in transplant.

What are the specific areas of research that will be considered for funding? Enduring Hearts’ Scientific Advisory Committee seeks to fund projects that have a combination of the best science, innovation, and potential for impact.

1. Transplant Longevity—Identification of early, accurate onset of rejection, development of non-invasive methods to detect rejection, strategies, and techniques to improve long-term graft survival.

2. Technology Application – Development of new technologies or applications that would improve the care of transplant patients, and thereby impact outcomes.

3. Transplant Immunology – Research and development of novel immunotherapies, identification of novel targets, improving the side-effect profiles of these agents, as well as better monitoring and measurement of immunosuppression.

4. Organ Matching – Strategies and innovations that would allow better organ matching and allocation.

5. Nutrition and Exercise Physiology – Strategies and studies aimed at the development of new nutrition and exercise guidelines that improve the long-term outcomes of solid organ transplant recipients.

6. Medication Compliance – Strategies to improve medication compliance, especially in adolescent patients and young adults.

7. Education – Improving patient and family education, related to transplantation.

Are there any additional priorities that are weighted in the decision? Additional weighting is afforded to those research studies that have the potential to translate within the next five years, directly involves pediatric heart transplant recipients and their families or would promote the standardization of post-transplant care.

What is permissible to include in the budget request?

1. Enduring Hearts maximizes every dollar raised toward funding research. Indirect costs may be included in the grant proposal of no greater than 5%.
2. Grant with a budget range of $25,000-$160,000 will be considered.
3. No awards will be made for projects that receive overlapping funding from other sources (unless supplementary in nature) or that duplicate other projects already funded.

What are the requirements for the investigator to receive the award?

1. If any member of the Enduring Hearts Scientific Advisory Committee should become materially involved with this research, your Institution should provide an acceptable conflict of interest mitigation plan for review to the officers on Enduring Hearts. This plan should address whether the doctor(s) involved with Enduring Hearts that are also participating in the research will receive any other non-monetary benefits because of their participation in the research; it should address the process or procedure the Institution will use in overseeing the proposed conflict of interest mitigation plan, if applicable.

2. Enduring Hearts and your Institution will agree upon a milestone schedule for the release of funds.

3. Primary Investigator agrees to provide periodic, informal updates no less than once a quarter on pertinent findings and publications from work performed under this award. Information shall be treated as confidential, unless otherwise discussed/agreed.

4. Acknowledgment of Enduring Hearts support should be made in any publication or presentation resulting from this award, with logo as appropriate. Acknowledgement should read as follows: "This work was supported by an Award from Enduring Hearts."

5. A copy of any publications should be sent to our grants administrators via e-mail: (grants@enduringhearts.org).

6. Enduring Hearts receives your biannual scientific progress reports with an accompanying lay summary.

7. Enduring Hearts may publish your name, project title and institutional affiliation except in purchased media advertising.

8. No awards will be made for projects that receive overlapping funding from other sources (unless supplementary in nature) or that duplicate other projects already funded.

9. Enduring Hearts and the Institution acknowledge and agree that specific terms and conditions regarding title to inventions and discoveries made by applicant resulting from research performed with support from the Award may be subject to further negotiation by Enduring Hearts and applicant or his/her legal designee. The results of any negotiations shall in no way have any bearing or influence on the award decision.

10. Notification of Enduring Hearts of the receipt of other financial support for this project or the intent to submit a proposal for such funding.

11. We strongly encourage the submission of at least one abstract and/or manuscript during this project and related to this project as proposed.

How will funds be dispersed?

The total award will be distributed in three installments to your institution where the research is being conducted. The first installment of 20% will be available to the recipient upon receipt of the following: a letter of acceptance signed by the PI and by the appropriate institutional representative; letter of exemption or approval by the institutional IRB; a lay summary of the project that would be understandable by parents of pediatric heart recipients; and a clear enumeration of the research progress that would be anticipated. The second installment of 40% of project will be sent on receipt of the mid-term progress report also with a lay progress report. Contingent on receipt of these progress reports, the final installment of the remaining 40% of project funds will be provided on receipt of the final progress report with a lay summary, due no later than 30 days before the end of the research.