



# Charlies Foundation for Research Bright Ideas Grant Program 2026 - 2027 Round 1

Charlies Foundation for Research generously fund several grant programs annually for research at the Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group (SCGOPHCG) to be completed within 12 months. The Bright Ideas Grant (up to the value of \$10,000) aims to foster **new and emerging researchers**.

## Grant program

The priorities for Charlies Foundation for Research (CFR) in supporting research through this grant program are:

- Supporting **early career researchers** whose focus is on improving patient outcomes, ensuring a healthier, longer life for all West Australians.
- Growing **research capacity**, particularly by supporting early career researchers to gain grant writing experience in areas including budget allocation and consumer engagement, while building momentum with their research (including pilot data) to secure future larger grants from research funding bodies.
- Supporting researchers' development, with potential for research impact to the Chief Investigator (CI)'s career.

## Dates

Opening **Monday 8 June 2026**

Closing **Wednesday 22 July 2026 5pm**

Outcomes for the Round 1 Bright Ideas Grant Funding Program will be announced on **17<sup>th</sup> September 2026 during Research Week**.





## Eligibility Criteria

1. Available to researchers (in the role of CI) employed within SCGOPHCG for at least **0.25 FTE**. The research must be conducted at SCGH or OPH.
2. Applications are only open to Early Career Researchers defined as
  - a Applicants (CI) have **received less than \$35,000** in research funding to opening date of application **AND**
  - b are entering their research career up to
    - maximum five years post conferral of a PhD or
    - maximum five years post conferral of a Master by Research or
    - maximum five years **combination of relevant research training, skills, and experience** and does not hold a Higher Degree by Research.
3. Commercial research projects (such as clinical trials sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, or other research with a commercial benefit to a third-party) are not eligible for CFR grant programs.
4. Applicants are limited to **one application per round as CI**.
5. Applicants are eligible to apply if they have not been a successful awardee in either of the two most recent Bright Ideas Grant funding rounds.
6. Applicants can be a CI and an Associate Investigator (AI) on up to two other applications. If a CI is also an AI on another application, they must show evidence of availability for project support.
7. Applicants will need to provide a copy of their Good Clinical Practice (GCP) certification.
  - a. GCP certification is mandated for clinical trials in Australia and is applicable to all human research. The Department of Research recognises the importance of GCP training and supports grant applications adhering to this standard.
  - b. This qualification is free for WA Health employees through the Western Australian Health Translation Network Research Education and Training Program. It is expected to take 4.5 hours to complete your initial certification, or 90 minutes for your refresher course.
8. If GEKO (Governance, Evidence, Knowledge and Outcomes) approval has been granted the applicant **must demonstrate** that the proposed activity **does not** meet the definition of research requiring ethical review. Acceptable justifications may include confirmation that the project constitutes quality assurance, audit, or service evaluation, as defined by national guidelines.





9. If ethics is required, please be aware of timelines for approval and ensure these can be met within the grant timeframe. Ethics applications must be submitted to the WA Health Central HREC.
10. Researchers, as CI, can secure a CFR grant in the 2026/27 financial year if they have no other active CFR grant of the same category. The CI can concurrently hold one CFR grant of different categories i.e. one Bright Ideas and one Mid-Range grant.

## Research Grant Agreement

Successful applicants will be sent a grant award letter and will need to attend a meeting with the Research Grants and Partnerships Coordinator to discuss the terms and conditions of the award, project timelines and milestones, reporting requirements, and any support available to ensure the successful delivery of the project.

Following this meeting, the Research Grant Agreement will be sent by DocuSign and must be signed within 14-days. If not completed within this time, the grant is liable to be withdrawn. The Bright Ideas Grant program requires a progress report 6 months after starting and a final report 4 weeks after the conclusion of the grant.

## Grant Extensions

No extensions are permitted for the Bright Idea Grant scheme, barring extenuating circumstances. Grant holders are encouraged to engage with the Department of Research early in their grant duration if problems arise. For current CFR grant holders, new requests for extensions will be reserved for extenuating circumstances only and considered on a case-by-case basis. Extensions beyond 6 months will not be accepted.

Please contact the SCGOPHCG Department of Research if you have any questions

### SCGOPHCG Department of Research

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