



REQUEST FOR RESEARCH GRANT LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

Submission Deadline March 1, 2025

The American SIDS Institute invites qualified investigators to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a research grant related to sudden unexpected infant death (SUID). Applicants must have a faculty appointment or the equivalent at a U.S. based university, hospital, research institution, or medical examiner office, with one exception. Graduate students enrolled in a postdoctoral program may also apply as the PI, BUT the faculty advisor must be a Co-Investigator, with a biosketch and letter of support included. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, pathology, physiology, neonatology, cardiology and epidemiology. The intent of this funding opportunity is to support innovative research leading to subsequent extramural grant funding regarding SUID or related causes of sudden unexpected death.

Priority will be given to research proposals related to one of the top ten US research priorities identified by the Global Action and Prioritization of Sudden Infant Death (GAPS) Project. These include:

1. Physiological mechanisms leading to death and how they interact with behavioral risk factors, e.g. prone (front)-sleeping.
2. The role of genetic factors in SUID.
3. Social and cultural factors affecting parental choices in sleep practices and responses to risk reduction campaigns.
4. Role of abnormal or immature brain anatomy and physiology.
5. Systematic collection and sharing of death scene data from SUID and non-SUID deaths to allow better case control studies
6. How infants control oxygen desaturation and arousal to allow a better understanding of SUID mechanisms.
7. Mechanisms for SUID at different ages.
8. Developing and evaluating new ways to make safe sleep campaigns more effective.
9. Identifying specific biomarkers to differentiate between natural causes, accidental asphyxia, and SIDS.
10. Better understanding of the risks of sharing any sleep surface with an infant, notably how it interacts with other factors, including feeding practices, to make it more or less risky.

Proposals related to the study of sudden unexpected intrauterine death, sudden death in children, or sudden death in epilepsy may also be responsive. However, applicants will need to clearly explain how their proposal will advance the understanding of SUID. Although priority will be given to human studies, animal studies may be responsive if justified and related to an animal model relevant to the research priorities listed above. Proposals for the development of new physiologic monitoring equipment or devices to facilitate safe sleep position or reduction of other sleep environment-related risks will not be responsive.

These grant awards are intended to be self-contained studies with a well-defined targeted hypothesis. Budgets may include technical salary support, but principal investigator salary support and indirect costs may not be requested. Awards will be for 2 years and limited to a total of \$80,000.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LOI

PROPOSAL

The proposal is limited to **2 pages**. Preliminary data are not required. Each proposal should include the following:

1. Title of LOI proposal and name of P.I.
2. Scientific rationale, specific aim(s) and hypotheses.
3. Approach (Methods)
4. Anticipated outcomes; how this research will advance the knowledge base of SUID

IN ADDITION TO 2-PAGE PROPOSAL

Biosketch using NIH format for PI and all Co-Investigators

When completing the personal statement section of biosketch, if applicable, please name and describe the roles of any mentors who will support you in the work.

SUBMISSION

The LOI including the proposal and other required items should be submitted as a single PDF email attachment to the American SIDS Institute at: research@sids.org.

REVIEW PROCESS

Submitted LOI will be evaluated by the American SIDS Institute Research Advisory Council. In addition to scientific merit, reviewers will also consider:

1. Responsiveness to requirements in this announcement
2. Potential for results leading to subsequent extramural research funding
3. Potential for subsequent peer-review publication

Applicants with well-defined, high priority LOI proposals will be invited to submit a complete research grant application.

AMERICAN SIDS INSTITUTE CONTACT

We encourage inquiries and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants. Contact Betty McEntire at bmcentire@sids.org.