

ADDITIONAL **VENTURES**

**Additional Ventures 2024 Request for Proposals
Single Ventricle Research Fund**

Letter of Intent Deadline: February 1, 2024

Invited Full Proposal Deadline: May 1, 2024



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2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Single Ventricle Research Fund (SVRF) is an annual research award program that is solely focused on accelerating research and improving care for those with single ventricle (SV) heart defects through multi-year, high-impact grants. The SVRF is a program of Additional Ventures, a nonprofit established to identify and address the critical gaps in understanding and treating SV heart disease. The SVRF grants awards annually to support research projects over up to three-year periods, and provides up to \$600,000 in direct costs.

In its fourth cycle, the SVRF is hosting an **open call**, and welcomes **any research with relevance to SV**, including genetics, basic cardiovascular development, tissue engineering, and computational modeling. Resubmissions from previous cycles will also be accepted.

KEY DATES

Letter of Intent Due	February 1, 2024, 5 pm PT
Invitation to Submit Full Proposal	By March 1, 2024
Full Proposal Due	May 1, 2024, 5 pm PT
Awardees Announced	By August 1, 2024
Award Begins	September 1, 2024

DESCRIPTION

The SVRF supports research efforts aimed at advancing the understanding of and treatment paradigms for SV heart disease. Historically, award cycles have selected 14-17 proposals each year (~20% award rate) and have collectively awarded over \$22M to support SV research. In this 2024 cycle, we anticipate funding up to fifteen (15) research grants; however, we reserve the right to fund any number of grants based on the quality, number, and diversity of applications received.

Each grant will provide up to \$600,000 USD in funding to be utilized over three (3) years to support research projects lead by doctoral-level investigators (e.g. PhD, MD, PsyD) at qualifying research-based institutions. Indirect costs up to 10% will be provided **in addition** to the total funded amount (select international institutions may qualify for an indirect rate of 15%; please consult our [policy](#) for more information).

See below for details on the application and review processes.

PROGRAM FOCUS

Through the SVRF program, Additional Ventures aims to accelerate research that will lead to both improved care and novel treatments based on a mechanistic understanding of SV. We have developed a [Research Roadmap](#) in partnership with investigators across disciplines that identifies strategic solutions to address these gaps and challenges, which is intended to guide a decade’s worth of research efforts and serve as a framework for coordinating global resources to advance SV research and clinical care. For more information, visit our [website](#).

The 2024 SVRF welcomes research efforts relevant to SV heart disease and aligned with any specific focus areas and strategic topics in the Roadmap, listed below. If your team has a compelling topic to propose that is not currently represented in the Roadmap, we encourage you to contact our team and submit an LOI.

Note: This award exclusively supports projects focused in basic and translational science. Registry builds will not be considered.

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|---|--|
| <p>I. Understand Single Ventricle Origins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Deep Phenotype-Genotype Analysis II. Biological Mechanisms Underlying SV III. Environmental & Risk Factors of SV | <p>III. Establish Predictive and Preventative Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Biomarkers of End-Organ Function II. Therapeutics for Sequelae III. Non-Invasive Interventions |
| <p>II. Define Biological Mechanisms of Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Etiology of Outcome II. Factors Leading to Resilience III. Risk Factors of Outcomes: Modifiable & Non-Genetic | <p>IV. Introduce Functional Cures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Bionic & Mechanical Approaches II. In Utero Interventions III. Transplant Availability & Decision Making |

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Proposed projects must be led by principal investigator(s) (PIs) who hold doctoral degrees (e.g. PhD, MD, PsyD, or equivalent doctorates). Eligible PIs include independent investigators of all levels (including those with Instructor or Assistant Professor status), non-tenure track or research faculty, and those designated as early career.
 - a. For purposes of this RFP, an “early career investigator” is an individual that has had an independent lab or clinical research position for no longer than seven (7) years past their post-doctoral position or medical fellow position. If an investigator has achieved independence directly following graduate school, an “early career investigator” is considered one who has had an independent research position for ten (10) years or less.
 - i. Exceptions to this timeline include, and are not limited to: 1) childbirth or adoption (one (1) year automatic extension), 2) extenuating circumstances related to child, elder, or family care, 3) periods of part-time work or leave, 4) period of time after receipt of terminal degree requirements when the investigator was not conducting research (including required clinical training/activities, or time away due to medical issues, military service, natural disasters, or family care), and 4) significant change in field of study. Contact Additional Ventures for more information.
2. All applicants must be affiliated with a nonprofit academic or research institution, including domestic and non-US nonprofit organizations, domestic and non-US public/private academic universities or institutions of higher learning (including colleges, universities, medical schools, and other related academic research institutions); certain qualified governmental agencies with active biomedical research programs may also apply.
3. In the instance where a project is collaborative in nature (i.e., includes multiple lead investigators who make significant contributions), one principal investigator must be selected. Other lead investigators should be listed as co-investigators. The selected principal investigator will be the primary contact during the course of application and through post-award management (if awarded), including contracting and progress reporting.

Up to five (5) co-investigators may be added to each project, and each must meet the same eligibility requirements as the principal investigator.

ADDITIONAL REVIEW CRITERIA

When evaluating the overall impact of submissions, Additional Ventures may consider the following:

- ◆ Collaborative projects led by PIs across multiple institutions, disciplines, or scientific arc (e.g. collaboration between clinical and basic research scientists)
- ◆ Proposals led by women and underrepresented minorities
- ◆ Proposals from investigators new to SV and associated conditions



- For the purposes of this RFP, “new to SV and associated conditions” identifies a principal investigator who has not authored a publication relating to SV and associated conditions and has not been the PI on a grant related to SV and associated conditions awarded from a grant-making agency, non-profit, foundation, or other grant-awarding organization.
- ◆ Proposals from early career investigators (defined in eligibility criteria)

With the exception of information relating to collaborations, applicants are not required to disclose the information above. Responses will be visible only to Additional Ventures; outside reviewers will not have access to this information.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

All applicants will submit their completed LOI and Full Applications through the Additional Ventures online grant portal (see below for submission details). All application materials should be single-spaced and formatted in a sans-serif, 11-point font with 0.5-inch (or larger) margins as a PDF file, except where provided templates or fillable forms apply.

*Please visit the **application portal for the most up to date information** and log in to start your application. Login to ProposalCentral by visiting www.proposalcentral.com and select the Single Ventricle Research Fund in the Grant Opportunities tab, or access the portal via this [direct link](#). To revisit an application already in progress, select your draft under the Proposals tab.*

All applicants will first submit an LOI to be reviewed by Additional Ventures. Eligible applicants who propose competitive projects within the scope of this RFP will then be invited to submit a full application.

LETTER OF INTENT

LOIs will be submitted through the online grant portal. The LOI will require the applicant organization’s legal name, PI name, degree, position, contact information, and the primary organization’s tax ID number (US), registered charity number, or non-US country’s equivalent. If the proposal is a collaboration, information including the co-investigator(s) name, degree, position, and organization will also be collected.

- ◆ LOIs are due on **Thursday, February 1, 2024** by 5 pm PT.
- ◆ Within the portal, information about the applicant team and associated institute(s) will be collected, including financial and signing official contact information.
- ◆ Applicants will be asked to provide a selection of key words relevant to the project, and to select the primary [Research Roadmap](#) category addressed by the proposed work.
- ◆ The LOI includes responses to the following prompts (submitted within ProposalCentral):
 - **Project Summary (500 characters maximum)**
 - Provide a lay summary of your proposed research project.
 - **Scientific Goals & Strategy (2500 characters maximum)**
 - Describe the central question that your project seeks to address and the methods that will be used to interrogate your hypotheses. Describe whole-animal models, primary human datasets, and/or primary human experimental paradigms you will use and what features you will measure. Provide information (references, rationale, or preliminary data) to justify your selected experimental model(s)/paradigm(s). Describe research tool and model (animal, iPSC, human tissue, etc.) availability and status (e.g., source, breeding programs, tool compounds, viral vector generation). If using genetic methods, indicate the approach (e.g., siRNA, viral vector overexpression, knockdown). If using single cell analyses, indicate type and rationale for use (e.g., snRNAseq, ATACseq, etc.). If using



pharmacological methods, provide information on the intended molecular target and readout to indicate the ability of the compound to reach and engage the target *in vivo*.

○ **Statement of Impact and Alignment with SVRF Focus (500 characters maximum)**

- Explain how the proposed work will advance our treatment or mechanistic understanding of single ventricle congenital heart disease (including but not limited to: disease etiology, outcomes, treatment of comorbidities and complications, and/or cures). Describe what unique value your proposed research will add to the field that does not already exist, and further, how this proposed research aligns with the RFA goals and scientific focus areas.
- ◆ Applicants will be notified via email **by March 1, 2024** of AV's decision to invite a full proposal, primarily on the basis of 1) eligibility and 2) project scope (e.g., the proposed project's fit within the outlined scientific topic areas).

FULL PROPOSAL

If invited, a formal proposal outlining the intended project should be submitted to Additional Ventures by **May 1, 2024**, 5 pm PT, via the online grant portal. The proposal must contain the following elements, following the formatting guidelines, entered into the grant portal fillable forms, or using downloadable templates (available within the portal) where applicable. Required elements should not exceed the page or character limit, where applicable. Detailed application instructions will be made available to invited applicants within the portal, and will include the following major elements:

Project Overview

- ◆ Project Title
- ◆ Applicant Information and Biosketch(es)
- ◆ Institution information
- ◆ Project Summaries (Lay, Technical, Impact)
- ◆ Team Contributions, Collaboration, and Data Sharing Statements

Detailed Budget (fillable form)

- ◆ Categorical Budget
- ◆ Budget Justification
- ◆ Other Funding Sources

Scientific Narrative

- ◆ Specific Aims (1 pg)
- ◆ Major Milestones (1 pg)
- ◆ Scientific Approach (6 pgs maximum)
- ◆ References Cited

COVID-19 & DISASTER POLICY, SUPPORT

As a foundation, Additional Ventures is deeply committed to supporting our scientific communities. We are sensitive to how COVID-19 and other disasters are affecting the wellbeing of our grantees, and are dedicated to supporting scientists, clinicians, and academics through these unprecedented times.

We anticipate that COVID-19, global disasters, and other unforeseen challenges will cause delays and changes to planned research activities, through the introduction of both professional and personal difficulties. The Additional Ventures team is cognizant that no standard plan will work for all grantees or apply to all situations; as such, we are willing to work with our grantees on a personal basis to discuss options and find appropriate solutions. These may include, and are not limited to: budgeting revisions, revisions to timelines and due dates of deliverables, personnel



changes, shifts to remote work (e.g. computational approaches), allowances for child/dependent care or transportation, and mental health support. Please contact our team to discuss how we can help; we know that allowing flexibility means a greater chance of success.

REVIEW PROCESS

The Single Ventricle Research Fund utilizes a two-step review process. First, LOIs are reviewed to assess eligibility and fit within the scientific focus and scope of the grant program. LOI submissions are evaluated by internal reviewers, and decisions will be communicated by March 1, 2024. Selected investigators will be invited to submit full proposals that will be reviewed by external committees, described below.

Upon LOI assessment and invitation to submit full proposals, AV forms review committees comprised of independent expert reviewers to accommodate the specific expertise required each year. External review committees evaluate full length proposals based on scientific and technical merit, team capabilities and competencies, realism of cost, and the commitment to the scientific community. While reviewers make recommendations to Additional Ventures for funding, all decisions are at the sole discretion of Additional Ventures. Decisions will be communicated by August 1, 2024.

Additional Ventures will provide feedback for all proposals not selected for funding. Receipt of feedback is an important part of the scientific process, and it is our intention to provide written critiques and comments for all applicants. However, we reserve the right to prioritize full-length, detailed feedback for early career investigators if the number of applications received is considerable. In this case, senior investigators may receive a summary of reviewer feedback.

ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Grantees funded by this effort will be expected to engage in the activities and provide deliverables described below:

- ◆ Annual progress reporting, including updates given via teleconference, presentations at virtual meetings, and/or written reports. Regardless of format, progress reports may include the following:
 - Description of scientific progress towards project goals,
 - Annual description of milestones achieved or postponed,
 - Annual budget update and expenditure report,
 - A report of annual participation in community, leadership, and mentoring activities (template provided).
- ◆ Attendance at the Bi-Annual Additional Ventures Single Ventricle Investigator Meeting (SVIM); presentations at bi-annual meetings are encouraged to be made by postdoctoral research associates or pre-doctoral students on behalf of the research team.
- ◆ Active participation in Additional Ventures-led meetings or workshops that bring together grantees to share progress and results, or to promote leadership, professional, or community enrichment (participation in no fewer than two (2) activities per year are required).
- ◆ Response to reporting inquiries requested by Additional Ventures, relating & not limited to: publications and presentations, patents, collaborations, external award of additional funding, students and postdoctoral associates trained in association with work funded by Additional Ventures.

TERMS OF GRANT / USE OF FUNDS

Each funded organization will be required to sign and agree to the SVRF's grant terms within thirty (30) days from receipt of notice of the award and prior to the funds being released. The grant terms will be available upon submission of a full proposal.



FUNDING AWARDED AT ADDITIONAL VENTURES' DISCRETION

Responding to this RFP, submitting an LOI and/or submitting a full proposal does not entitle any individual or institution to receive funding from Additional Ventures. Funding, if any, would be provided at Additional Ventures' sole discretion pursuant to the terms of a written grant agreement executed by Additional Ventures and the selected grantee organization, the terms of which Additional Ventures may require to be acknowledged by the PI.

QUESTIONS?

For all inquiries, please contact our team at grants@additionalventures.org.

ABOUT ADDITIONAL VENTURES

Additional Ventures is a nonprofit foundation that aims to accelerate research progress and improve clinical care for children born with complex congenital heart defects so that they have a normal duration and quality of life. Although one in one hundred children are born with a congenital heart defect, there are limited options for those with the most complex forms, including single ventricle (SV) heart defects. For these children, there is no cure. With rapid advances in areas like genomics, single-cell technologies, and tissue engineering, now is the time to coordinate concerted efforts to understand how to overcome this devastating, complex disease.