



National Kidney Foundation®

of Illinois

Innovations Grant 2020

The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) improves the health and well-being of people at risk for or affected by kidney disease through prevention, education and empowerment. In keeping with NKFI's mission, the Innovations Grant supports and funds new, innovative applications, research, technologies, and other novel processes that lead to more effective, equitable and sustainable solutions to improve the lives of those at risk for kidney disease and transplantation-related diseases, and/or improve the prevention, management and treatment or cure of these diseases.

You define the issue

We do not prioritize specific issues and instead are open to projects that address all sorts of kidney and transplant community needs.

Projects can be at various stages of the innovation process including identifying the need, increasing collective understanding of the issue, generating ideas or testing and implementing solutions. Proposals can focus on one area or span multiple stages.

Grant Selection Criteria

The Innovations Grant Committee selects proposals that follow these guidelines:

- The project uses inclusive, collaborative and resourceful processes to pursue an innovative solution to a challenge
 - Inclusive: meaningfully engage key stakeholders – thoughtfully identifying those needed to create the intended change and, whenever possible, including those directly affected by the problem.
 - Collaborative: a true joint effort, with a team willing to share ownership and decision-making as they pursue an innovation together.
 - Resourceful: using new resources and assets creatively to make the most of the proposal.
- The project must likely lead to an innovation – a breakthrough in addressing these issues that is more effective, equitable or sustainable than existing approaches.
- The project must be thoughtful, realistic and address the identified need.
- The applicant must have the capacity to execute the work effectively or have a plan to meet the needed capacity.
- The project must be likely to make a significant, sustainable difference, now or in the future.
- Projects must be conducted within Illinois for at least 75% duration of funding period.

- Research project must lead to more effective, equitable and sustainable solutions to improve the lives of those at risk for kidney disease and transplantation-related diseases, and/or improve the prevention, management and treatment or cure of these diseases.
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Deliverables Timeline

Applicants seeking and receiving NKFI funds must meet certain deadlines to fulfill requirements of this grant.

- **Completed Application Due:** January 27, 2020
 - **Notification of Award:** March 20, 2020
 - **Funds Disseminated:** March 31, 2020
 - **Final Report Due:** April 15, 2021
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Selection Process and Timeline

There are two stages in the NKFI Innovations Grant selection process:

Initial Review

Members of the Innovations Review team will evaluate applications and select finalists after the application deadline. We will communicate our decision via email approximately six to eight weeks from the date the application is submitted.

Finalist Review

A member of the Innovations Review team will schedule a phone call or in-person meeting with finalists to discuss the application. We may also request additional information during this stage. The Innovations Review team then makes its final decision and notifies the applicants.

For most applications, we estimate the entire selection process – from the date we receive the application to the date we make the final decision to award and Innovations grant – will take three months. Applicants can expect to receive their grant payment about one month following the final decision.

Secondarily, applicants who receive funding through this grant program must agree to present an update on their projects at one or more NKFI events or programs within the same 12-month period of the grant. Applicants who received funding **must** attribute any successful projects in part to the NKFI, and may be asked for informal updates for social media.

Directions

As you prepare your application for funding from the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, please read these instructions carefully.

Four separate components are required to apply for National Kidney Foundation of Illinois (NKFI) funding:

- Applicant information
- Narrative question attachments
- Resume/CV
- Budget

Your application will be evaluated by several members of the National Kidney Foundation of Innovation Review team. Unfortunately, NKFI staff and team members are not available to provide feedback or suggestions for any application in advance of submission.

An emailed submission of your application is due to research@nkfi.org by 5 p.m. on the day of the deadline.

Application materials submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Only emailed submissions of applications, and only one submission per person, are accepted. The total funding of the grant is \$50,000, without possibility of increase over that amount. The \$50,000 is to be considered a source of funding for exactly one year of the project. If the applicant does not provide a final report by the deadline above, the applicant will be required to return all funds.

NOTE: Only one applicant from each project may submit an application.

Applicant Information

First Name:

Last Name:

Email Address:

Current employer:

Current job title:

What issue area does your project address? :

Location where innovation process will take place:

Project Information – Narrative Questions

Context

- Project Title: Provide a title for the work you are proposing. Maximum of 250 characters.
- In 3,000 characters or less (approximately 500 words), provide a brief introduction to:
 - Yourself and any people or organizations working closely with you on this project. As the applicant, describe why you are well positioned to lead this work.
- What is the problem that you’re trying to solve with the work proposed in this application? How did you decide to focus on this problem? Who informed, or was involved in, identifying the problem that you are working on solving? Maximum of 900 characters (approximately 150 words)
- Why is it important to address this problem? How is the identified problem typically addressed? Describe the current “status quo” approach and why something different is needed. Maximum of 900 characters (approximately 150 words).

The Problem-Solving Process

- In 1,800 characters or less (approximately 300 words)
 - Provide a short overview of the problem-solving process you will use to pursue a breakthrough (two or three sentences).
 - Provide a numbered list of key activities you are proposing during the grant term.
- Describe the work that brought you to this point and how it has informed the activities you’ve proposed for this grant.
- WHO will you engage in the problem-solving? We are looking for processes that are meaningful and engage key players – thoughtfully identifying those needed to create the intended change and, whenever possible, including those directly affected by the problem. Maximum of 900 characters (approximately 150 words).
- HOW will you work with others through the problem-solving process? Describe the group that has come together to work on this project, the various roles of the people

and organizations involved and how you will make decisions together. Maximum of 900 characters (approximately 150 words).

- WHAT assets and resources will you build on as you pursue a solution to this problem? We are looking for processes that are resourceful: use existing and new resources and assets creatively. Maximum of 900 characters (approximately 150 words).

Outcomes and Innovation

We know that innovation takes time. In the questions below, we want to learn about both the progress you'll make during this grant term and the innovation you ultimately imagine.

Progress during grant term

- Provide a numbered list of key outcomes you anticipate achieving by the end of the grant term. What will increase, decrease, improve, etc. because of the work you've proposed? This is the place to be practical about what you hope to accomplish during this grant period. Maximum of 1,800 characters (approximately 300 words).

Your long-term vision

- This is the place to dream. You're building toward innovation – a breakthrough in addressing a high need that is more effective, equitable or sustainable than existing approaches. What is the breakthrough you imagine one day? What will become different because of it? How will this change things? Maximum of 1,800 characters (approximately 300 words).

Attachments

Your resume or CV (required) – An application without a resume or CV of the lead on this project is not considered complete and will not be reviewed or considered.

Project budget (required) – An application without a project budget is not considered complete and will not be reviewed or considered. A sample budget is listed at the end of this application.

We will not review or consider any documents besides those listed above.

Assurance Statement

NOTE: **This section is required for your application to be considered.** It must be signed by the applicant applying for funds.

I hereby certify: (1) that the information submitted within the application, and during the award period, is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge; (2) that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties; and (3) that I agree to accept responsibility for the conduct of the project and to provide the required reports if a grant is awarded as a result of this application.

Signature:

Print or type name:

Date:

Sample Project Budget

This sample project budget is provided for reference. If you have a project budget in an existing format, please feel free to use it.

All of the line items below are examples of sources of support and expenses which may or may not apply to your particular project. They're provided solely as a guide to the type of information we're looking for from applicants.

Here are a few things that we'd recommend you keep in mind when creating your budget:

- Clearly identify funding status (ex. Pledged, committed, received, pending, under review).
- If the proposed project will be for more than one year, include a column showing funding and expenses for each year, as shown below.

Applicant Name
Project Title

	Year 1	Year 2	Notes/Funding Status
SOURCES OF SUPPORT			
National Kidney Foundation of Illinois	\$ -	\$ -	
In-kind contributions			
Other funding			
TOTAL SOURCES			
EXPENSES			
Resources/Assets	\$ -	\$ -	
Rentals			
Technology			
Materials			
Consultant			
Operating Expenses/Overhead			
Staff positions			
Rent			
Travel			
Pilot/Implementation Expenses			
Other Expenses			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	