Research Funding Announcement

Pediatric MG Research Grant: Understanding and Treating Myasthenia Gravis in Pediatric and Adolescent Populations

Overview

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) requests submission of proposals focused on advancing the understanding and treatment of myasthenia gravis (MG) in pediatric and adolescent populations. Most pivotal trials for MG therapies enrolled few or no children, leaving pediatric use largely extrapolated from adult data, and no functional outcome measure such as the MG-ADL or QMG has been formally validated in pediatric populations.

MGFA is committed to supporting pediatric treatment strategies, safety, and long-term outcomes. This grant funds research across the full range of unmet pediatric MG needs; diagnosis and disease characterization, treatment safety and pharmacology, outcome measures and trial readiness, natural history, and psychosocial impact.

The proposal should be within the scope of the research agenda of the MGFA, which may be found at www.myasthenia.org and below.

Scope

Eligible research proposals may include, but are not limited to:

- Improved differentiation of juvenile MG from congenital myasthenic syndromes (CMS) in seronegative or antibody-indeterminate children, where the two conditions require fundamentally different management.
- Pharmacokinetic, dosing, and long-term safety data for MG therapies (complement inhibitors, FcRn blockers, B-cell depleting agents, and other standard-of-care treatments) in pediatric patients, given that most pivotal trials for these agents enrolled few or no children.
- Safety considerations unique to a growing child on immunosuppressive or biologic therapy, including effects on growth, bone health, immune system development, and vaccination timing.
- Comparative-effectiveness or optimal treatment-strategy research (e.g., steroid-sparing approaches, thymectomy timing and outcomes, treatment sequencing) specific to pediatric and adolescent MG.
- Validation or age-appropriate adaptation of functional outcome measures (e.g., MG-ADL, QMG) for use in pediatric populations, where no dedicated pediatric-validated version currently exists.
- Pediatric-appropriate trial designs and endpoints that could enable future pediatric-inclusive or pediatric-specific clinical trials of MG therapies.
- Predictors of spontaneous remission or long-term disease course in pediatric-onset MG, including successful transition from pediatric to adult neuromuscular care.
- Immunomechanisms

- The impact of MG and its treatment on a child's education, development, family functioning, and mental health, and interventions to mitigate that impact.

Out of Scope

- Adult-onset MG research with no distinct pediatric or adolescent focus
- Biomarker discovery or validation studies without a direct diagnostic, treatment, or management application for pediatric patients
- Purely animal-model studies with no plan to translate findings toward pediatric clinical care within the award period

Review Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated and prioritized on:

A. **Relevance**: the potential of the proposed research to significantly improve the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, or long-term management of MG in pediatric and adolescent populations, an area where pediatric-specific evidence is especially scarce.

B. **Strength of scientific approach and supporting data**: preliminary data supportive of the application, along with robust scientific rigor.

C. **Feasibility and strength of research plan**: study objectives paired with appropriate methods, a clear statistical analysis plan, and a realistic recruitment strategy given the rarity of pediatric MG.

D. **Qualifications of applicant/team and resources**: the scientific team and clinical environment are suited to pediatric human-subjects research. Applicants without existing access to a pediatric MG cohort are encouraged to contact MGFA in advance to discuss whether a collaboration might be facilitated.

E. **Appropriateness of budget.**

F. **Overall impact**: potential to make a meaningful difference in the diagnosis, treatment, or quality of life of children and adolescents with MG.

MGFA intends to fund two (2) meritorious awards of up to $125,000 each, of which no more than $12,500 may be allocated to indirect costs. Funds will be expended over two years from the time of the award.

Instructions

Applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent (LOI) by 11:59pm EDT on October 16, 2026 using the form provided in MGFA's grant portal, ProposalCentral. This form will be found by searching for Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America under "Grant Opportunities." (Note: You must create an account and log in to

access and submit all forms.) There, you will find additional documents and details regarding the application process. You will be informed on/by October 20, 2026 if you are invited to submit a full proposal.

The full application consists of:

- **A five-page research proposal**, which must be strictly formatted according to the NIH standard for applications (the format used by the U.S. National Institutes of Health for federal grant review, in which reviewers expect information organized into four specific, labeled sections rather than a free-form narrative): **Specific Aims** (a one-page summary stating the hypothesis and the concrete objectives the project will accomplish), **Significance** (why the problem matters and what gap in knowledge or practice it addresses), **Innovation** (how the proposed approach differs from or improves on existing methods, models, or paradigms), and an **Approach** section (the detailed research plan) which includes preliminary data (any results already in hand that support feasibility), the experimental design, and interpretation sections (how results will be analyzed and what alternative outcomes would mean). The Approach section should explicitly address the planned validation strategy for any proposed biomarker or diagnostic approach, including how seronegative status (i.e., a confirmed absence of the antibody or marker in question) will be confirmed in the study population, and the statistical approach to establishing sensitivity, specificity, or predictive value, as applicable. There is no limit to the reference section (citations may be listed beyond the five-page proposal limit and do not count against it).
- **A separate single page** describing how the funds will benefit the goals of the MGFA, and also describe the plan for future support.
- **A separate Lay Summary** of up to ½ a page in length or approximately 200 words.
- **A detailed budget and budget justification** in the NIH format. All aspects of the budget must be clearly justified.

Applicants are required to include the following. Templated materials are available on the Proposal Central portal.

- Letter of Intent Form [1pg]
- Cover Sheet [2 pg]
- Lay Summary [1/2 pg / 200 words]
- Research Proposal Form [5 pg]
- NIH Budget & Budget Justification [no page limit]
- Development of Future Support [1 pg]
- NIH Bio-sketch Form [5 pg]
- Institutional/Grants Agent Signature Required
- *Letter from Department Chair if PI Salary Support Requested [1 pg]

All components should be submitted via MGFA's grants portal, ProposalCentral, no later than 11:59pm EST on November 18, 2026. A preliminary review to ensure compliance with guidelines will be performed. Submissions that do not follow the required NIH formatting will not be reviewed. Proposals will be reviewed by a study section comprised of the MGFA research committee as well as ad hoc reviewers when required. Funding notification is expected in December 2026 and funds provided in January 2027.

Participation in MGFA key activities, such as presentations on funded work at the MGFA Scientific Session at the AANEM Annual Meeting and the MGFA National Conference, are expected from award recipients. Recipients may also be asked for interviews on their project and its relevance to the MG community for MGFA's lay-oriented website and/or newsletter at both the start and completion of the project.

Eligibility

The RFA is open to established and new investigators. Applications will be accepted from U.S. and international principal investigators with confirmed faculty status. If you are unsure about your status and confirmation necessary, please reach out to Jenny McCue at jmccue@myasthenia.org for clarity and guidance. Applications are not open to for-profit or small business submissions.

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Call for Proposals Opens	September 21, 2026
Letter of Intent Deadline	October 16, 2026
Notification of Invitation to Proceed with Application	October 20, 2026
Application Deadline	November 18, 2026
Funding notification	December 2026
Funding provided	January 2027
Progress Report / Final Study Report	To be determined; details stipulated in Notice of Award letter (typically at 1-year and at the end of the grant award period)

Additional Expectations

Publication and Resource Sharing

In accordance with generally accepted standards applicable to scientific publication, award recipients agree to submit for publication any results arising from this award that would be useful to scientists or clinicians working on pediatric MG-related research, and are encouraged to do so through an open-access option or

by depositing an electronic copy in an open repository such as PubMed Central. MGFA further encourages recipients to make available nonproprietary research materials; such as protocols, instruments, or research tools developed in the course of the funded work, with as few restrictions as possible.

Data Sharing and Management

MGFA supports adherence to the FAIR (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) guiding principles of data stewardship, consistent with the NIH 2023 Data Management and Sharing Policy. Applicants are required to provide a concise Data Management and Sharing plan describing the type of data expected to be generated, how and where it will be preserved and made findable, and how compliance with the plan will be monitored. MGFA recognizes that some data may be proprietary or otherwise restricted; applicants should provide justification for any proposed restrictions on sharing.

Funding Restrictions

MGFA grants are available to scientists and researchers worldwide. However, as a U.S.-based charity, MGFA adheres to U.S. laws and regulations and will not provide funding to any individual or entity that is subject to U.S. sanctions, appears on the U.S. List of Specially Designated Nationals, or is otherwise restricted under U.S. laws related to combating terrorism.

Contacts for Questions

For technical inquiries such as system access or site navigation related to ProposalCentral, please email Jenny McCue at jmccue@myasthenia.org.

More information about how to register and apply using ProposalCentral:

- How to Register as a ProposalCentral user
- How to Create an Application using ProposalCentral
- User FAQs (proposalcentral.com)

For inquiries related to the MGFA, this proposal, or similar, please email jmccue@myasthenia.org.

For more information about the NIH application or scoring guidelines adopted by the MGFA, including templates and examples, refer to grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html.