



**DEFEAT  
DUCHENNE  
CANADA**

THE JESSE DAVIDSON FOUNDATION  
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## 2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND FUNDING CONDITIONS

Defeat Duchenne Canada (DDC) is accepting Letters of Intent for research proposals for funding consideration.

Our primary purpose is to fund the most promising research leading to improved outcomes for individuals living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Projects with the greatest chance of translating to clinical practice in a timely and affordable manner will be prioritized.

Since 1995, Defeat Duchenne Canada has believed in developing strong partnerships with academics and clinicians to fund the most promising research for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Through their determination and love for their son Jesse, the Davidson family built a legacy endowment fund that has granted **more than \$17 million to research in Canada and worldwide.**

### GRANT CYCLE TIMELINE: (All times posted in EDT)

Submission portal opens:	<b>March 25, 2024 at 9:00 am EDT</b>
Letters of Intent (LOI) deadline:	<b>April 22, 2024 at 11:59 pm EDT</b>
Notification of LOI results:	<b>June 6, 2024</b>
Full application portal opens:	<b>June 8, 2024 at 9:00 am</b>
Full application deadline:	<b>September 13, 2024 at 11:59 pm EDT</b>
Notification of funding decision:	<b>December 2024</b>
Funding start date:	<b>January-February 2025</b>

### PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING MECHANISM:

Defeat Duchenne Canada is a partnership of science and families dedicated to improving the health, drug discovery, and treatments for individuals living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. To learn more about DDC, our mandates, and our activities you can visit our website at [www.defeatduchenne.ca](http://www.defeatduchenne.ca)

The organization invites research proposals of a **translational** or **clinical** nature focused on improving the health and quality of life for individuals living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.



*The organization places particular emphasis on the project's clear relevance to Duchenne and the potential to be translated into clinical practice. Therefore, successful proposals are expected to be of high scientific merit, demonstrate a probable and preferably timely path to clinical implementation that is cost-effective, and have the most significant impact on individuals living with Duchenne, particularly in areas of large unmet needs.*

Research groups funded by DDC are highly encouraged to be open to collaboration with other investigators and open to exploring additional partnerships with other foundations.

Projects may be 1-3 years in duration and the organization will no longer have a maximum limit on the funding amount. Larger projects are welcome and encouraged, including Phase I-III clinical trial proposals provided they are of outstanding scientific quality and merit, meet the organizations mandate described above, and would otherwise have no clear funding pathway for advancing the work. A detailed budget justification must be provided.

All applications will be reviewed by the organization's Research Funding Advisory Committee (RFAC) and their Duchenne Family Advisory Committee (DFAC). The RFAC is comprised of researchers and clinicians not otherwise affiliated with our organization, and scientists who sit on the organization's Board of Directors. The DFAC includes family members and individuals with Duchenne from various ages, stages, and geographies across Canada.

#### **CONDITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

1. The Principal Investigator must be formally affiliated with an eligible host organization (university, college, Biotech/Pharma, hospital, research institute or other qualifying not-for-profit organization). The Principal Investigator must have a doctoral degree (including MD, Ph.D. or equivalent), and have formal research training.
2. Proposals from both Canadian and International applicants are welcomed. Funding will be awarded in Canadian dollars.
3. **Applications are limited to only one (1) application from any given individual Principal Investigator.** Co-Investigators may participate in more than one application.
4. The Principal Investigator or Co-Investigators are not eligible to receive salary support from Defeat Duchenne Canada. Indirect/overhead costs not to be included.
5. Graduate students, medical students, post-doctoral researchers, and other trainees are not eligible to hold a research grant from DDC as a Principal Investigator; however, they may apply as co-applicants or receive salary support.
6. **Applicants must describe their project in a layman summary** to be reviewed and scored by the organization's Duchenne Family Advisory Committee. These are non-scientists with an excellent grasp of the lived experience for individuals effected by Duchenne, but very little to no knowledge of the science.
7. An acceptable application must describe the potential benefits for individuals living with Duchenne and include a clear timeline and proposed budget.
8. Acceptable applications will describe work to be carried out in compliance with standards established by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and comparable



national institutes in other countries regarding personnel, safety, the ethical treatment of human and animal research subjects and the publication of interim or end-point data.

9. Progress and results of investigations should be accessible to other researchers and/or have an intention to present to recognized scientific or medical journals for publication.
10. At such time that scientific findings resulting from successfully funded applications are presented and/or published by the investigator(s), the investigator(s) must recognize/cite Defeat Duchenne Canada as a source of grant funding for this work.
11. The open exchange of information among investigators is encouraged.
12. DDC will consider funding of investigations intended to produce private, patentable information or knowledge. However, the investigator must clearly and satisfactorily justify why this knowledge must be patented in order to be beneficial to the end goal of treatment/cure for Duchenne.
13. Investigators will be required to submit interim and final reports (as outlined in a granting agreement) to DDC for review of research progress. This must also include layman summaries that will be shared publicly with our Duchenne families, supporters, and/or to support our fundraising efforts.

### **REVIEW PROCESS:**

Defeat Duchenne Canada's application process involves two stages of submission and review:

**1) Letters of Intent:** LOI's will be rigorously reviewed by the RFAC and DFAC. All projects will be scored and shared between committees before final decisions are made.

Proposals will be assessed based on defined criteria and conditions, as described above.

Only a subset of applicants successful at accomplishing this first stage will then be invited to submit their full applications.

**2) Full Applications:** Selected applicants will be invited to submit full applications which will be rigorously reviewed once again by the organization's RFAC, DFAC, and an outside expert reviewer(s) specific to each application.

Final decisions on successful applications will be made by DDC's Board of Directors

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

Log on to the secure grant portal (**at 9:00 am EDT on March 25, 2024**).

Complete and submit the Letter of Intent application by **11:59 PM EDT on April 22, 2024**.

For additional information, please contact:

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