

Guidelines for Grant Applicants 2026

The Päivikki and Sakari Sohlberg Foundation supports medical research that promotes the well-being of children, youth, and people in old age. The next grant application period is from September 1st to September 30th, 2026.

What do we fund?

We support medical research that promotes:

- The well-being of children and youth
- The well-being of people in old age

The foundation supports both clinical research and basic research. We support research after basic studies, such as doctoral dissertations, post-doctoral research, and research groups. The foundation primarily supports researchers' leave of absence, the hiring of assistants, and direct research costs such as laboratory and similar expenses. We emphasize post-doctoral research. The research must take place in Finland.

Grants are project-specific. Therefore, in principle, we do not support scientific units in general or participate in administrative overhead costs. Also, it is no longer possible to apply grants for third-sector projects. Instead, the foundation has launched a funding program in which it has selected various third-sector organizations.

What do we not fund?

The foundation does not generally support travel or conference expenses or printing costs.

Please note that the applicant must be able to demonstrate the connection of the research to promoting the health and well-being of children, youth, or people in old age.

Grants are project-specific. Therefore, we do not generally support scientific units in general or participate in administrative overhead costs. Grants can only be applied for medical research that promotes the well-being of children and youth or people in old age. Also, it is no longer possible to apply grants for third-sector projects. Instead, the foundation has launched a funding program in which it has selected various third-sector organizations.

How to apply for a grant?

Grants are applied for through the grant's online service during the application period. Fill in the application forms in the online service, complete the required information and attachments, and submit the application through the online service. The application does not need to be completed all at once. You can return to complete and finalize the draft within the application period until you have submitted the application. We do not accept late or email-submitted applications. We will inform all applicants of the grant decisions at the beginning of December. The grant is paid in one installment. We can pay the grant at the earliest by mid-January of the following year and no later than in October.

Who can apply?

Grants can be applied for by individuals, working groups, and organizations with a business ID. The foundation's grants can be applied for work carried out in Finland or projects implemented in Finland.

How much can be applied for?

The foundation has not defined specific amounts for grants. When planning the amount to apply for, a detailed and well-justified budget is key. However, a maximum of 60,000 euros can be awarded to a single applicant for one year of use. We mainly award one-year grants. In some cases, we may award a few multi-year grants.

For what period can one apply?

We mainly award one-year grants but may award a few multi-year grants based on discretion. Grants are primarily awarded to be used during the calendar year following the award in December. The grant must be withdrawn by October of the year following the award. Grants which have not been withdrawn before October of the year of following the awarding are considered canceled unless otherwise agreed with the foundation. You can apply separately for an extension of the grant. However, the foundation also has the right to refuse an extension request and cancel the grant. If the grant recipient is unable to carry out the project, they must return the already paid grant to the foundation.

What information is requested in the online service?

Applicant

When applying for a grant for a research or working group, the group leader acts as the main applicant. If you are applying for personal grants for group members, specify the names, dates of birth, or personal identification numbers of the group members and the amounts applied for in the application. We ask for the personal identification number because providing it already during the application phase

speeds up the process if the grant is awarded. Also, indicate how many months each personal grant recipient intends to work with the amount. This information is needed for arranging the statutory social security for grant recipients.

Grant

Specify the number of possible personal grants applied for and the use of the grant for other expenses.

Summary

In the "summary" section of the online application, you should summarize your research objectives, scientific and/or societal significance, and what you intend to use the grant for (living expenses, equipment, or something else). A good rule of thumb is that the evaluator should get an overview of your project through the summary and then delve into it further in the attachments. It might help you to structure the summary by answering the questions "What?", "How?", and "Why?".

Other Funding

In the application, you must also report any previously granted funds for the project, any other grants the applicant may have received from the Päivikki and Sakari Sohlberg Foundation, and any open applications to other funding sources for the same purpose.

Attachments

See the next section.

Commitment

The grant applicant must commit to certain requirements related to the management, use, reporting, and handling of personal data of the grant during the application phase.

What attachments should be included in the application?

As an individual or working group

- **Work plan**
Present the scientific or societal significance of your project, the implementation schedule, and the funding plan.
- **CV**
Include the CVs and publication lists of the applicant/group members. In a possible concise CV related to the applicant, the publication list should include, at most, ten of the applicant's most relevant publications for the application.

As an organizational applicant

- **Work plan/Project plan**
Present the scientific or societal significance of your project, the implementation schedule, and the funding plan.

- Auditor's report

In which language can the application be submitted?

You can submit the application in Finnish, Swedish, or English. If you are proficient in Finnish or Swedish, prepare the application summary in one of these languages, even if the work plan and other attachments are in English. The online application must include a summary of the project or research. The summary should be written in Finnish or Swedish. If your native language is other than Finnish or Swedish, you can also write the summary in English. The attachments can be in English.

What makes a good application?

Ensure that your project is eligible for funding by the foundation. Please note that, for example, you must be able to demonstrate the connection of your medical research to promoting the health and well-being of children, youth, or people in old age. Read carefully the sections "What do we fund?" and "What do we not fund?".

A good application is carefully prepared and realistic. In the application, you should demonstrate the scientific impact of your project and your ability to carry it out. In the summary, explain how your project serves the foundation's goals. The application or its attachments should clearly explain the significance of the grant requested from the Päivikki and Sakari Sohlberg Foundation in the overall funding of the project.

On what basis are grant decisions made?

Grant decisions are based on the focus areas defined by the Foundation's board and the scientific level of the projects. Grant applications are evaluated by evaluators selected by the Foundation's board. Currently, four medical professors evaluate applications according to their area of expertise. Each application is evaluated by one person. Evaluators must recuse themselves from the evaluation of applications involving applicants from their close circle. Evaluators make recommendations for their field's grant recipients to the Foundation's board, which makes the final decisions on grant recipients. The names of the evaluators are not published during the evaluation period to ensure they can work undisturbed.

The number of grants awarded annually by the Foundation is limited, which means that many good projects do not receive funding. Unfortunately, we do not provide justifications for individual grant decisions.