

# **ADDITIONAL** **VENTURES**

**Additional Ventures 2022 Request for Proposals  
Single Ventricle Research Fund**

**Letter of Intent Deadline:** August 5, 2022

**Invited Full Proposal Deadline:** October 28, 2022



## Table of Contents

<b>2022 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>KEY DATES.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PROGRAM FOCUS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL REVIEW CRITERIA.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>APPLICATION GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>LETTER OF INTENT .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>FULL PROPOSAL.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>COVID-19 POLICY AND SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>REVIEW PROCESS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TERMS OF GRANT / USE OF FUNDS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>FUNDING AWARDED AT ADDITIONAL VENTURES' DISCRETION .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>QUESTIONS?.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ABOUT ADDITIONAL VENTURES.....</b>	<b>9</b>



## 2022 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 heart (SV) 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 third 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	August 5, 2022, 11:59 pm PT
Invitation to Submit Full Proposal	By August 19, 2022
Full Proposal Due	October 28, 2022, 11:59 pm PT
Awardees Announced	By February 2, 2023
Award Begins	March 1, 2023

### DESCRIPTION

The SVRF supports research efforts aimed at advancing the understanding of and treatment paradigms for SV heart disease. Historically, award cycles have selected 16-17 proposals each year (~20% award rate) and have collectively awarded over \$22M to support SV research. In this 2022 cycle, we anticipate funding approximately fifteen (15) research grants; however, we reserve the right to fund any number of grants based on both the quality and number 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.

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 2022 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.

- I. Lay the Foundation: Develop a Community Resource
  - I. Large-scale sequencing
  - II. Longitudinal clinical and imaging data
  - III. Comprehensive biobank
  - IV. Harmonized data and analytics platform
- II. Understand the Origins of Single Ventricle Disease
  - I. Deep phenotype-genotype



- II. Model organisms
- III. Non-genetic and modifiable risk factors
- IV. Normal cardiac development
- III. Define Biological Mechanisms of Outcomes
  - I. Outcome origins
  - II. Substrate-outcome relationship
  - III. Predictive models
  - IV. Early detection
- IV. Effectively Predict, Prevent, and Address Clinical Sequelae
  - I. End-Organ trajectory, mapping, and biomarkers
  - II. Personalized medicine approaches
  - III. Alternative interventions
  - IV. Learning networks
- V. Focus on Functional Cures, Not Palliative Approaches
  - I. Enabling technologies
  - II. Standardization and scale
  - III. Cross-disciplinary teams
  - IV. Bionic, regenerative, and transplant approaches

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

## 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). Early career investigators may be eligible for additional non-monetary support as outlined within this document.
  - 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 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 1-inch 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](http://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 **Friday, August 5, 2022** by 11:59 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 (or, if needed, propose a new category).
- ◆ The LOI itself is limited to one (1) page, submitted in PDF format, and shall outline the applicant team’s interest in submitting a full-length proposal; it should include a brief description of the project, including the primary hypothesis and goals of the proposed research. Figures are permitted.



- ◆ Applicants will be notified via email **by August 19, 2022** 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 **October 28, 2022**, 11:59 pm PT, via the online grant portal. The proposal must contain the following elements as discrete sections, following the formatting guidelines iterated above, entered into the grant portal fillable forms, or using downloadable templates (available within the portal) where indicated. Required elements should not exceed the page or word limit, where applicable, and will include the following:

- ◆ Title Page
- ◆ About the Applicant(s)
  - Including PI & Co-I name, institution, degree(s), academic rank, and contact information
  - PI & Co-I biosketch
- ◆ Institution information
- ◆ Project Summary
  - Lay summary (written for the general public) describing the project's aims and goals, including how the completion of the study will impact single ventricle research and/or care (up to 2100 characters)
  - Technical abstract (up to 2100 characters)
- ◆ Team and Community
  - Team Contributions (up to 4000 characters)
    - Statement outlining contributions of all included personnel, including a description of the group's ability to address the research question and to support research & personnel. If students and postdocs comprise a portion of the research team, the PI's leadership and mentoring approach should be described. Two (2) pages or fewer, submitted in PDF format.
    - Section should include a reference to the team's willingness to participate in brief Additional Ventures-led leadership, professional, or community enrichment activities throughout the grant award length (participation in no fewer than two (2) activities, up to one hour each, per year are required). Such activities could include participation in our scientific speaker series, our annual investigator conference, or leadership development trainings.
  - Data Sharing Plan and Philosophy (up to 4000 characters)
    - Specifies the applicant's and the applicant organization's commitment to sharing project results, data, and/or resources with other institutions and researchers for non-commercial use to advance the understanding and treatment of single ventricle heart defects. This may include how data will be deposited, how resources will be shared, or the use of preprint servers to communicate findings. One (1) page or fewer.
    - Section should include a discussion of de-identified or PII-containing data, where applicable.
- ◆ Detailed Budget (fillable form)
  - A detailed budget in USD completed from the template provided within the portal, and a narrative justification.



- Acceptable expenditures include: salary (must adhere to NIH cap), equipment, reagents, graduate student tuition, software, patient recruitment, fringe benefits, project-related or conference travel, publication costs, and up to 10% indirect costs in addition to the awarded amount (e.g. \$60,000 in addition to an award of \$600,000). See [here](#) for our institutional policy.
- The narrative justification must include descriptions of personnel and research costs, including percent effort per year.
- If more than one institution will be involved in the project, one should be proposed as the applicant organization, and the other(s) included as a sub-grantee.
- **For non-US applicants: All grants will be made in USD, and SVRF is not responsible for any changes in conversion rates.** Grants selected for funding will be made payable to the applicant organization; under no circumstances will payment be made to an individual.
- ◆ Uploaded Documents (all to be included in PDF format):
  - Aims Page; a brief yet technical summary of the project's scientific goals and expected products (e.g. publications, protocols, databases). One (1) page. Figures are permitted.
  - Major milestones (including Aims) should include estimated timeline to completion. Template available within the grant portal.
  - Scientific Approach
    - Outline of research methodology to be used in pursuit of the project, including discussion of expected results, statistical analysis of data (where appropriate), and possible alternative approaches. Six (6) pages or fewer. Figures are permitted.
    - Proposals for clinical, basic human, or animal studies are welcome and must be accompanied by a brief protocol synopsis and timeline with milestones. IRB (for human studies) or IACUC (for animal studies) approval will be required before initial payments are made for any project that SVRF, at its sole discretion, selects for funding. If applicable, two (2) pages or fewer.
  - References cited; no strict page limit; submitted in PDF format.
  - Facilities and Resources. One (1) page.
  - Institutional letter of commitment stating that applicant organization will be able to support the research led by the PI.
  - Letters of support from additional collaborators, if applicable.

### **COVID-19 POLICY AND SUPPORT**

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

*We anticipate that COVID-19 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 will utilize a two-step review process. First, Additional Ventures will review LOIs internally and select those that meet the eligibility criteria and scientific focus of the grant program. LOI submissions will be evaluated by internal reviewers, and decisions will be communicated by August 19. Eligible 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 will form review committees comprised of independent expert reviewers to accommodate the specific expertise required. External review committees will review full length proposals based on scientific and technical merit, team capabilities and competencies, realism of cost, and the commitment to leadership development and training. The reviewers will make recommendations to Additional Ventures for funding. Decisions will be communicated by January 2, 2023.

**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 will 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 site visit, written reports, or teleconference).
  - Year One progress reports will be conducted by site visits.
    - Our goal as a foundation is to support funded researchers. As such, we have made the decision to utilize site visits in lieu of written progress reports during the first year of the award. Such visits will be conducted by our network of expert advisors, with the goals of sharing scientific progress, exploring potential barriers, and exchanging ideas, while receiving feedback and guidance. We believe this mechanism will allow for robust scientific discussion, leading to better outcomes for the grantees.
  - Year 2 progress reports will be made via written report, including:
    - A two (2)-page research progress report
    - Annual description of milestones achieved or postponed
    - A report of annual participation in leadership and mentoring development activities (template provided).
  - Final (Year 3) progress reports will be made as a presentation via teleconference with the Additional Ventures team and/or selected representatives.
- ◆ Attendance at the Annual Additional Ventures Investigator Meeting; presentations at 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](mailto: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.