



GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR FUNDING

This document outlines the general conditions, expectations, and requirements associated with ACF funding and collaboration.

Funding Conditions v 1.0
Effective Date: 19MAR2026
Author: Rica Capistrano

Introduction

Anticancer Fund (ACF) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the **development of innovative cancer treatments** through collaboration with universities, hospitals, and research institutions.

ACF's mission is to innovate with existing treatments to improve survival outcomes.

ACF provides financial support for research projects selected in response to its **Call for Research Projects (CfRP)**.

This document outlines the general conditions, expectations, and requirements associated with ACF funding and collaboration.

1. APPLYING TO ACF

- 1.1. When to apply
- 1.2. Who can apply
- 1.3. Criteria for funding
 1. Patient-centred
 2. High scientific value
 3. No commercial interest
 4. Improving survival or cure rate
 5. Feasibility and Risk Mitigation
- 1.4. Funding request
- 1.5. Evaluation process

2. FOLLOWING SELECTION

- 2.1. Kick-Off meeting
- 2.2. Collaboration Agreement
- 2.3. Milestones & Payments
- 2.4. Trial Transparency
- 2.5. Monitoring progress



1. Applying to Anticancer Fund

When to apply

Following the launch of a **Call for Research Projects (CfRP)**.

Who can apply

Academic researchers from **any geographical region**, working on **any cancer type**, are eligible to apply, **provided that:**

- The applicant is able to **carry out** the proposed research project and is **supported** by an **adequate research infrastructure and team** to conduct such project.
- The applicant's institution will provide **administrative support** to the proposed research project.

Criteria for Funding

ACF applies 5 overarching criteria that reflect its values and objectives, mirrored in each CfRP's specifications.

1. Patient-centred
2. High scientific value
3. No commercial interest
4. Improving survival/cure rate
5. Feasibility & Risk Mitigation

Next to these, additional call-specific requirements may apply.

1. PATIENT-CENTRED

The research must serve patients' interests.

- Applications must demonstrate Patient & Public Involvement (PPI).
- A LOI from a relevant patient advocacy group is required at the Full Application stage.
- Efficacy trials must use Patient Reported Outcome Measures.

2. HIGH SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Applicants must demonstrate that their research project

- is supported by a scientifically sound rationale
- has high scientific merit

3. NO COMMERCIAL INTEREST

The research must test interventions that fall into one of below situations:

- The commercial owner of the intervention (for drugs this is the company with marketing authorisation) is **not willing** to provide full funding for the trial.
- The tested intervention is **off-patent/non-patentable**, therefore no company is interested in developing & commercialising it in the trials' indication

In both cases, funding for the intervention itself can't be requested, except where such costs represent only a small portion of the total budget.

4. IMPROVING SURVIVAL/CURE RATE

The ultimate goal of the intervention tested must be improvement of survival or cure rates.

This doesn't necessarily need to be achieved in the proposed project.

5. FEASIBILITY & RISK MITIGATION

Research projects must show a high likelihood of successful conduct.

- The project team should have adequate experience & a strong track record in the relevant fields.
- Key components required to deliver the project should be in place.
- The project is feasible within its broader framework, with limited competition or parallel initiatives that could hinder implementation and/or access to participants or resources or could reduce the project's relevance over its duration.

Funding requests

The funding amount requested during the application phase is indicative and intended as a starting point for discussion.

For successful applications, the final budget will be determined collaboratively during the preparation of the Collaboration Agreement between the sponsor and ACF.

Basic principles

- Funding can only be requested for the **core activities** of setting up and conducting the research project.
- **Overhead** or indirect costs cannot be included.
- **Co-funding** from other sources is allowed, provided full transparency is maintained and there is no overlap with ACF funding.
- Awarded projects will receive payments on a **milestone-driven** basis, as will be defined in the Collaboration Agreement.

Evaluation process

All applications are subject to a rigorous **two-stage evaluation** process.

1. INTERNAL REVIEW

- This review will be conducted by **ACF's Scientific Team**, that has years of experience in assessing & evaluating research proposals.
- It focuses on
 - the **alignment** of the research project with the CfRP
 - the **requirements** set forth by ACF

2. EXTERNAL REVIEW

- In addition, applications will be assessed by an **external Grant Review Committee**, consisting of patient advocates, disease experts, methodologists, & other experts deemed appropriate for the specific CfRP or application.
- This grant committee will
 - conduct a **comprehensive review**
 - **analyse and score** each application.

Funding recommendations based on internal and external review are submitted to the **ACF Board** for final approval.

2. Steps following project selection

Kick-Off meeting

Following selection, an online **Kick-Off Meeting** between ACF and the project team will take place to discuss next steps.

Collaboration Agreement

Upon selection, **funding will only become effective after signing the collaboration agreement.**

The Collaboration Agreement must be signed by a specified deadline, announced after selection.

If not signed by then, ACF reserves the right to reallocate the funding to other projects.

Conditions for signing the collaboration agreement

- The **feedback** from the review committee and Board (if any) on the selected project has been incorporated and/or addressed.
- For clinical trials, the **trial protocol** was reviewed by ACF. All comments from this review were adequately addressed prior to its submission to regulatory bodies.

Note: The protocol review by ACF is to ensure its clarity, consistency, comprehensiveness and overall quality. ACF will not ask for changes to the scientific intent of the trial.

Milestones & Payments

Funding will be released based upon achievement of milestones predefined in the Collaboration Agreement.

Typical milestones are:

- First site activation
- First patient enrolled/randomised
- 25%, 50%, and 100% accrual
- Last patient enrolled/randomised
- Publication

Applicants must provide ACF with **realistic timelines** for the predefined milestones.

Delays of more than 3 months from these timelines will invoke additional monitoring and contingency plans.

Repeated delays and deviations may lead to re-evaluation and potential withdrawal of funding.

2. Steps following project selection

Following selection an online **Kick-Off Meeting** between ACF and the project team will be organized to discuss the next steps.

Amongst others, following subjects will be discussed:

Trial Transparency

All awardees are required to comply with our **Clinical Trial Transparency Policy**.

Monitoring of progress

At ACF, we aim to build a strong and **collaborative relationship** with our fundees.

We consider ourselves part of the same team, working towards a shared goal: **improving treatment options for cancer patients**.

In line with this mindset, **we remain actively involved** in the trials we support.

Regular but concise **check-in meetings** are requested to stay informed about the projects' progress and any challenges the team may be facing, enabling prompt action and minimising delays.