ST VINCENT'S CURRAN FOUNDATION

ST VINCENT'S SYDNEY HEALTH INNOVATION PRECINCT

ST VINCENT'S DISCOVERY & INNOVATION

Pitch for Health
Grant Guidelines

APPLICANTS MUST READ THESE GRANT GUIDELINES BEFORE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

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About the Pitch for Health Grants

Pitch for Health is a component of the *St Vincent's Discovery & Innovation Program*, developed and funded by St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and St Vincent's Curran Foundation, to enhance clinical research, innovation and entrepreneurship across the St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct (SVSHIP).

Pitch for Health provides seed funding for innovative projects offering "proof of concept" or "proof of scale" for new or repurposed drugs, diagnostics, devices or digital initiatives.

This round, there will be two grants available, for up to $125,000 each, for one year.

These grants aim to help bridge the "valley of death" between discovery research and developed technologies by advancing projects to higher Technology Readiness Level (TRL). TRLs are a metric (1-9) used to assess the maturity of a particular "technology" during its development, from concept to deployment. Depending on the type of project being submitted to this scheme, we would expect it to be around a TRL 3 for a therapeutic-focussed project, TRL 6 or 7 for a digital-focussed project, and TRL 4 for a diagnostic/device.

Examples of types of projects eligible for this scheme include:

a) Generation of a prototype of a medical device
b) Validation of diagnostic assays, platforms, algorithms, or other digital tools

c) Preliminary *in vitro* or *in vivo* proof-of-concept studies for novel or repurposed therapeutics
d) Synthesis of specific antibodies or other compounds for proof-of-concept studies
e) Optimisation and profiling of a novel therapeutic

Grant funds are provided by generous supporters through the St Vincent's Curran Foundation.

About St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct - SVSHIP

St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct (SVSHIP) is Australia's oldest and most established collaborative partnership focusing on medical research and healthcare delivery. The SVSHIP Cornerstone Partners are co-located together in the heart of Sydney – on Gadigal and Bidjigal land – and include:

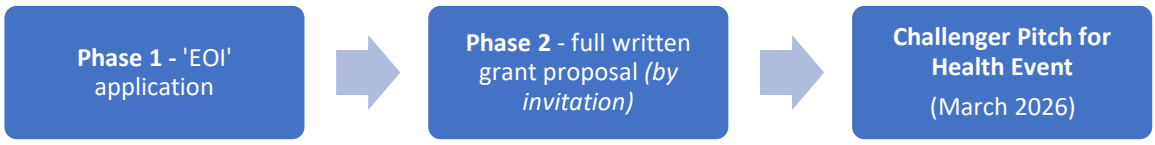
- St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research
- Garvan Institute of Medical Research
- Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute

Learn more at www.SVSHIP.org.au

Application process

The application process has been simplified this year:

- **Phase 1:** Applicants submit a short Expression of Interest (EOI), which will be reviewed by the panel.
- **Phase 2:** Selected applicants will be ***invited*** to submit a full written application.
- **Pitch:** Shortlisted applicants from Phase 2 will be invited to pitch their projects at the *Challenger Pitch for Health* event in March 2026.
    - Pitch training and industry mentorship will be provided to all shortlisted applicants
    - Two grants will be awarded at the pitch event.



Key timelines

Phase 1 Applications open	25 August 2025
Phase 1 Applications close	29 September 2025
Phase 2 Applications open	14 November 2025
Phase 2 Applications close	12 December 2025
Short-listed applicants notified – to prepare for Pitch event	26 January 2026
Pitch workshops	February 2026
Pitch for Health event for short-listed applicants	26 March 2026
Successful grants funded	To start April 2026
Milestone report(s)	As noted in funding agreement

Grant expiration date	Maximum 12 months after grant award date
Final report due	Maximum 12 months after grant

How to apply

Phase 1 applications must be submitted via - https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/e96feb2a-1847-412f-98fe-c867701276d9 (you will need to set up an account)

Applicants successful in Phase 1 will be invited to provide a full submission and more information will be provided at that stage.

Eligibility criteria - Phase 1

- Applicants must be employees of a NSW St Vincent's Hospital or the SVSHIP Cornerstone Partners (Garvan Institute of Medical Research or Victor Chang Institute of Cardiac Research), and projects must be led by researchers from at least one of these organisations
- Applicants must remain under employment with one of the above organisations for the duration of the grant period
- The project must be able to be completed within the proposed timeline – maximum of one year – and no funding extensions can be granted
- A representative of the application must be available to attend and present at the pitch event in March 2026
- Application must be endorsed by the relevant Research Head/Department Head/Research Office (see **Institutional contacts** below for details)

Eligible activities

The award will support activities including, but not limited to:

- Early-stage commercialisation/market assessments
- Proof of concept data collection
- Optimisation and validation studies
- Development of prototypes
- Contracting specialists (e.g., software development)

Ineligible activities include:

- Patent filing or similar costs associated directly to registering intellectual property rights
- Basic research
- Significant capital infrastructure
- Undergraduate activities, postgraduate core training, fees, stipends, etc.

Application Questions

Grant applications will be assessed against the likelihood of the proposed projects further developing technologies or discoveries along the translational pipeline to higher levels of technology readiness.

PHASE 1

1. **Project title**

2. **Team details**
    a. *Names, academic titles, positions, organisational affiliations*

3. **Project summary** (max 300 words)
    a. *Provide a high-level summary of your project. Outline the research idea, unmet need, key objectives, how you will meet these, and the potential for translational impact.*

4. **Unmet clinical need / opportunity for impact** (max 200 words)
    a. *What is the specific clinical problem your project addresses? Why is this important in an Australian or global context? How might your proposed solution change clinical practice or health outcomes, or substantially reduce costs for the health care system?*

5. **Indicative budget** (max 100 words)
    a. Maximum available budget is $125,000 for 1 year
    b. Note: if you are successful in this expression of interest stage, you will need to provide a fully justified budget in the next stage
    c. *Brief overview of the estimated budget and major cost categories - e.g., research assistant time, consumables, sequencing, equipment, library screening, software development, etc.*

6. **Key activities to meet objectives** (max 200 words)
    a. *What will you do and how? What approaches will you be using to meet your objectives? What methodologies will you employ? Where relevant – what preliminary data do you have?*

7. **Timeline and Milestones** (max 150 words)
    a. *To be eligible, projects must have a maximum duration of 12 months*
    b. *List 2–4 key milestones you will aim to achieve with projected timeline. Indicate any critical dependencies.*

8. **Translation success, potential and/or distinctiveness** (max 200 words)
    a. *You must tell us – what translational success would this funding enable?*
    b. *You could also cover: What is the potential pathway to translation or adoption? Who are the likely end users (e.g., patients, clinicians, health services)? What makes your approach novel or more effective than current alternatives? Who are your competitors and what else is 'in the pipeline'? Who will 'pay' for it (individuals, governments, etc.)?*

9. **Intellectual property and freedom to operate** (max 100 words)
    a. *Do you hold or have access to relevant IP (e.g., patents, know-how)? Are there any potential barriers to commercialisation or translation? Have you sought advice from your organisation's relevant IP, legal or commercialisation office?*

10. **Collaborations and partnerships** (max 100 words)
    a. *Briefly outline any existing or planned collaborations relevant to this project's translational success, including clinical, research, or industry partners. What will they contribute?*

Review Panel

The Pitch for Health Review Panel (phase 1 & 2) includes SVSHIP and external experts in medical research, translation, IP and commercialisation. The Panel is chaired by an independent, external expert.

Intellectual Property

IP rights generated during the course of the grant work will be managed via the relevant policies of the PI's primary institution.

We appreciate that your research may be sensitive in nature and that confidentiality for your submission will be important. The Review Panel will be reminded of requirements for confidentiality, before applications are shared with them. All applicants who progress to the "pitch stage" must check with relevant IP/legal expertise from their home organisation to ensure they are not inadvertently damaging claims to future IP.

Institutional approvals and contacts

Institutional approvals need to be uploaded with your application. Please contact your relevant approver and upload proof of approval within your application.

Institutional contacts:

- **St Vincent's Hospital Sydney**: Shona Blair shona.e.blair@svha.org.au
- **Garvan Institute of Medical Research:** Sonja Bates s.bates@garvan.org.au
- **Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute:** grants@victorchang.edu

Note: The application platform can only accept word documents or pdfs.

Contacts

If you have any further questions about the Pitch for Health Grants, please contact:

- Prakash Ghimire – prakash.ghimire@svha.org.au
  OR
- Evangelene Morris - evangelene.morris@svha.org.au