

PICK4Kids–VEDA STAR AWARDS 2026

PRECISION ACCESS PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Making precision oncology accessible, affordable and scalable

Endorsed by the Pediatric Hematology Oncology (PHO) Chapter of IAP | Supported by Veda Star Foundation

PURPOSE

The Precision Access Partnership Award recognises meaningful partnerships between pediatric oncology and diagnostic laboratories, molecular diagnostic companies, biotechnology companies, technology providers or other relevant industry partners that translate clinically relevant precision-oncology approaches into affordable, quality-assured and scalable access for children with cancer. A new molecular technology is not required; the central objective is implementation and scale.

Core principle: PARTNER → BUILD CAPACITY → IMPLEMENT → SCALE

WHAT THE AWARD WILL RECOGNISE

Criterion	What will be recognised	Indicative evidence / outcomes
1. Affordability	A meaningful and sustainable reduction in the cost or financial barrier to clinically relevant precision diagnostics.	Comparative pricing, percentage reduction, sustainable pricing/access model and number expected to benefit.
2. Access & reach	Expansion beyond existing high-resource settings or current service reach.	Children, centres, cities/states reached; increased uptake; improved referral/sample logistics or turnaround time.
3. Pediatric-relevant, quality-assured solution	A clinically appropriate testing pathway for childhood cancer with reliable quality and interpretation.	Validated assay/pathway, accreditation/QA, disease-specific relevance, actionable reporting and interpretation.
4. Capacity building & knowledge transfer	Creation of sustainable capability rather than simple provision of a test.	Training, technology transfer, laboratory strengthening, interpretation expertise or molecular tumour-board integration.
5. Sustainability & scalability	A model that can continue and expand beyond the Award period.	Sustainable pricing/business model, institutional adoption, multicentre scale-up and defined expansion plan.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Every application must include at least one current PHO Chapter member in good standing with a substantive clinical/project role.
- The application must represent a meaningful partnership with a diagnostic laboratory, molecular diagnostic company, biotechnology company, technology provider or other relevant industry partner.
- An industry/laboratory partner may initiate a proposal only after identifying and establishing collaboration with an eligible PHO member before submission.
- The PHO member should contribute to defining the pediatric clinical need, designing/evaluating the solution, implementation and/or assessment of impact.
- The industry/laboratory contribution must go beyond routine commercial testing or sponsorship.
- The project should address a clinically relevant precision-oncology service/technology that is implementation-ready or has a credible pathway to near-term implementation.
- The proposal must include measurable access outcomes and a realistic sustainability/scale-up plan.

WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED: Routine commercial testing; product promotion; meeting or educational sponsorship alone; simple price discounts without a sustainable access model; provision of an existing test without measurable access expansion or capacity building; or projects without substantive pediatric oncology relevance and partnership.

APPLICATION FORM

A. Applicant and partnership information

Project title (maximum 25 words)	
PHO Principal Applicant / clinical lead	Name, designation, institution, email/mobile, PHO membership number.
Industry / laboratory partner	Organisation, contact person, designation, contact details.
Other collaborators	Name, institution/organisation and role.
Nature and duration of partnership	State whether existing or newly established and describe prior work, if any.
Proposed project duration	Normally 12–18 months.
Conflict-of-interest / commercial relationship	Disclose financial or commercial interests relevant to the project.

B. Partnership and access summary

Executive summary (maximum 300 words)	Clinical need; existing precision approach; access barrier; partnership solution; expected impact.
Current access problem (maximum 250 words)	Who currently lacks access, where, and why?
Proposed access model (maximum 300 words)	How will the partnership change affordability, availability, quality or capacity?

C. Detailed proposal

1. Clinically relevant precision-oncology service / pathway (max 400 words)	Describe the test/technology/pathway and evidence supporting pediatric relevance.
2. Baseline access and affordability (max 400 words)	Current cost, centres served, volumes, turnaround time and barriers where available.
3. Partnership model and roles (max 500 words)	Specific contributions of PHO and industry/laboratory partners; show contribution beyond routine commercial service.
4. Implementation plan (max 1,000 words)	Sites/population; sample/referral pathway; testing; reporting; QA; training; workflow; governance; timeline.
5. Affordability plan (max 400 words)	Current vs proposed cost; mechanism for reduction; sustainability beyond the grant.
6. Capacity building and knowledge transfer (max 400 words)	Training, technology transfer, interpretation, local capability or tumour-board integration.
7. Access outcomes and metrics (max 400 words)	Children/centres/regions reached, uptake, cost reduction, turnaround time, capacity or other measurable outcomes.
8. Sustainability and scale-up (max 400 words)	How will the model continue and expand after Award funding?
9. What will this ₹5-lakh Award enable? (max 250 words)	Specify the implementation milestone enabled by the Award.

D. Timeline and milestones

Months 0–3	
Months 4–6	

Months 7–9	
Months 10–12	
Months 13–18, if applicable	

BUDGET FORM

Maximum Award Grant requested: ₹5,00,000. The budget should be directly linked to the proposed objectives and must not duplicate funding already available for the same activity.

Budget head	Amount requested (₹)	Other funding / co-funding (₹)	Justification	Linked objective / activity
Implementation / workflow setup				
Quality assurance / validation directly linked to access				
Training / capacity building				
Technology transfer / technical support				
Sample logistics / referral pathway				
Data / access tracking systems				
Project personnel / coordination				
Patient-access support directly linked to project				
Evaluation / statistical analysis				
Dissemination / scale-up materials				
Other (specify)				
TOTAL	₹			

Budget justification

For each major item, state: what will be purchased or supported; why it is necessary; unit cost × quantity where applicable; and how it contributes to a specific project objective. Declare all existing or anticipated co-funding.

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

- Completed category-specific application form.
- Completed budget form and budget justification.
- Principal Applicant CV (maximum 3 pages).
- CV of principal collaborator / PHO clinical collaborator where applicable (maximum 2 pages).
- Institutional support / permission letter, as applicable.
- Ethics Committee approval, or declaration that approval will be obtained before commencement of patient/sample/data-related work, where applicable.
- Declaration of existing funding, competing interests and any relevant industry relationship.
- Letter from the industry/laboratory partner confirming its contribution, commitments and any in-kind/co-funding support.
- Evidence of relevant laboratory quality/accreditation or quality-assurance framework, where applicable.

- Check from the checklist regarding all the documents before submission

DECLARATION

Principal Applicant name	
PHO member name & membership number	
Institution	
Applicant signature / date	
PHO collaborator signature / date	

By signing, the applicants confirm that the information provided is accurate, the proposed collaboration is substantive, required approvals will be obtained, and the same or substantially identical project has not been submitted as an unchanged proposal to another STAR Award category.