

1. Call Opening

1.1. Introduction

The Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida – Dr. Pifarré Foundation (IRBLleida) opens the 3rd call for Bridge Funding Grants for IRBLleida research groups without competitive funding.

1.2. Summary

The aim of this call is to address the most urgent needs of IRBLleida research groups that have a research track record with the acquisition of competitive resources for at least the last 5 years and have lost external funding for the upcoming year.

2. Call Description

2.1. Scope

This grant is for IRBLleida research groups without competitive funding, to avoid, as much as possible, the halt of their research activity and allow them to continue operating until they obtain external funding again.

2.2. Funding & Payment

The maximum amount to be requested is 50% of the first year of the grant not awarded or 50% of the arithmetic average per year of the total requested for the denied grant, you can choose the one that is higher.

In any case, regardless of the amount requested, the maximum funding of this grant will be €20,000.

If the group has competitive and/or non-competitive funding for the next 12 months for an amount of less than €20,000, the maximum amount to be requested for this grant will be €20,000 minus the amount available for the group.

The group can use the allocated funds for the next 12 months or until it obtains competitive or non-competitive funds.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

- Opening of the call: **February 5, 2026.**
- Deadline of the call: **until March 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**

3. Candidates profile

3.1. Eligibility

The recipients of these grants are the research groups, not the principal investigators (PIs) individually. Two different cases can be given:

- In the case of research groups with a single PI, or two Co-PIs of the same project, the loss of external funding will make the PI or one of the two Co-PIs a candidate to apply for this bridge grant, as long as they meet the other requirements.
- In the case of research groups with more than one PI, only if all PIs lose funding, one of the PIs will be eligible for this grant, if the rest of the requirements are also met. If some PIs in the group have competitive funding, the rest of the PIs in the group will not be eligible to apply for this grant.

Principal investigators of IRBLleida research groups that meet the selection criteria described in the previous section may apply for this grant.

- Eligible researchers must have been IPs with stable and continuous funding in the last five years of national research projects funded by ISCIII (AES) and/or *Agencia Estatal de Investigación (Plan Estatal de Investigación)*, whose project funding application was rejected in the last call but received a **favourable evaluation** from the funding agencies (ISCIII or AEI) or a **score higher than 65 points** in the evaluation of the *Agencia Estatal de Investigación*.

Stable and continuous funding will be considered when the researcher has been PI/Co-IP of at least two competitive national projects from ISCIII and/or AEI in the last 5 years.

3.2. Incompatibility

Principal investigators in the groups who have any other type of competitive and/or non-competitive funding for the next 12 months and whose total amount **€20,000** at the time of the application, will not be eligible to participate in this call.

4. Application & Award Decision

4.1. Proposal Submission

The required documentation must be submitted through the link provided for this purpose in the intramural calls section of the IRBLleida website (<https://www.irblleida.org/es/convocatorias-intramurales/>).

To formalise the application, the following documentation must be submitted using the application form available on the IRBLleida website, in the research - intramural calls section:

- Curriculum vitae of the PI (CVA FECYT format).
- Rejected resolution of the project with the favourable evaluation issued by the ISCIII or the AEI.

4.2. Evaluation Criteria

N/A

4.3. Award Decision

The applications will be evaluated by the Direction of the institute, and the award will be subject to the availability of funds. The resolution of this bridge grant will be communicated to the applicant within one month. The maximum amount granted for these bridge grants will be a maximum of €20,000. The grant will be adjusted accordingly if the group has other available funds.

5. Other Clauses

Participation in this call for proposals implies knowledge and acceptance of all its terms and conditions, including:

5.1. Proposal Documentation Confidentiality

The documentation associated with the proposals will be treated as confidential information, being obliged to maintain the confidentiality of the information all persons involved in the evaluation and assessment of the proposals, and may be used for informative and dissemination purposes, subject to prior consent of the applicants.

5.2. Personal Data Collection Purpose and Processing Information

Responsible party: Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Lleida Fundació Dr. Pifarré (IRBLleida).

Purpose: Management of calls and, where appropriate, the awarding and delivery of the prize.

Legitimation: The legal basis of the processing is the carrying out of a selection process to provide financial support for research projects.

Addressees: The data will not be transferred to third parties, except in the legal obligations established by law.

Rights: Access, rectification, and deletion of data, as well as other rights, as explained in the additional information.

Additional information: You can consult additional and detailed information on Data Protection on our website <http://www.irblleida.org/en/legal-notice/>.

The data provided by applicants will be incorporated into the processing system owned by IRBLleida in order to manage and resolve the selection process, and will be processed in a lawful, fair, transparent, adequate, relevant, limited, accurate, and up-to-date manner, in compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December (LOPDGDD). The legal basis for the processing of data is the fulfilment of a legal obligation on the part of the controller reinforced with the consent of the data subject.

This data must be kept for the period of time strictly necessary to fulfil the aforementioned purpose, respecting in all cases the period determined by these rules and regulations governing the call for applications and the applicable archiving regulations.

Certain data may be communicated to third parties in the public or private sphere, either because the intervention of these entities in the course of the aid management process may be necessary because it is correctly resolved, or because it is provided for in a regulation with the status of law.

As long as the interested party does not communicate otherwise, it will be understood that their details have not been modified and that they undertake to notify the IRBLleida of any variation.

Applicants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, limitation of processing, suppression, opposition to the processing of their data or exercise their right to portability by writing to IRBLleida (Avda. Rovira Roure, 80, 25198 Lleida), to the e-mail address protecciodedades@irblleida.cat or to the IRBLleida's Data Protection Delegate, dpd@ticsalutsocial.cat. You must attach a photocopy of your ID card or sign the e-mail with a recognized electronic signature. In the event of disagreement with the

processing, you also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Catalan Data Protection Authority.

