

Call Opening	Call Description	Candidates Profile	Application & Award Decision	Beneficiary's Obligations	Other Clauses
 Call for Projects on Breast Cancer Research 2026 - 1st Edition (MamaProjects2026) 					

1. Call Opening

1.1. Introduction

The MAMAPOP Association is a non-profit organization recognized by the Government of Catalonia as an Entity of Public Interest. Its mission is to raise awareness of and mobilize society around breast cancer, using music and cultural initiatives to support scientific research and people affected by the disease. Through its benefit concerts and associated fundraising initiatives, MAMAPOP has mobilized broad public support and raised substantial funds for breast cancer research.

Since 2014, MAMAPOP has maintained an ongoing collaboration with the Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida – Dr. Pifarré Foundation (hereinafter, IRBLleida), providing sustained financial support for research projects in the field of breast cancer. Since the beginning of this collaboration, MAMAPOP's contributions to IRBLleida have reached a cumulative total of €407,970, helping to consolidate active research lines, generate relevant scientific outcomes and strengthen Lleida's role as a territory committed to biomedical research and social impact.

Within this framework, MAMAPOP and IRBLleida have renewed their collaboration through a new agreement, which formalises MAMAPOP's latest contribution, amounting to €88,085. This contribution, which forms part of the cumulative total of €407,970 donated since 2014, will be allocated exclusively to breast cancer research projects selected through an intramural competitive call open to IRBLleida research groups. The call will ensure scientific excellence, transparency and competitiveness through independent external evaluation by CIDI Salut and institutional monitoring mechanisms.

This initiative reflects the shared commitment of MAMAPOP and IRBLleida to advance breast cancer research from Lleida, foster innovative and impactful projects, and contribute to the generation of knowledge with potential benefit for patients and society. By combining the civic engagement promoted by MAMAPOP with the scientific capacity of IRBLleida, this call aims to further strengthen breast cancer research and contribute to positioning Lleida as an international reference in this field.

1.2. Summary

The MamaProjects2026 call will select and fund two (2) intramural research projects. Each selected project will receive an internal budget allocation of €44,042.50 for a period of two years.

2. Call Description

2.1. Scope

This call welcomes proposals across the full spectrum of breast cancer research and innovation. Applications may address any stage of development, including basic research, translational studies, technological development, clinical validation, implementation research, and activities

Call Opening	Call Description	Candidates Profile	Application & Award Decision	Beneficiary's Obligations	Other Clauses
 Call for Projects on Breast Cancer Research 2026 - 1st Edition (MamaProjects2026) 					

aimed at facilitating clinical adoption or commercialization. Projects may include, but are not limited to, novel therapeutic approaches, biomarkers, medical devices, digital health solutions, artificial intelligence applications, enabling technologies, or translational platforms, provided that breast cancer constitutes the primary scientific, clinical, or technological objective. The scope of the call is intentionally broad, but it is strictly limited to proposals whose development, validation, and expected impact are specifically and substantially framed within breast cancer. Projects focused on oncology in general, other cancer types, or technologies with only incidental, indirect, marginal, or exploratory relevance to breast cancer will not be considered eligible. Applicants must demonstrate scientific excellence, innovation potential, and a credible pathway towards clinical, societal, or commercial impact. The proposed activities should generate robust preclinical or clinical evidence, validate key technological or methodological components in relevant settings, and strengthen the translation of research outcomes towards future clinical implementation or commercialization.

2.2. Funding & Internal budget management

Eligible expenses include personnel costs (up to 50% of the global budget), consumables, equipment and other inventory items, use of IRBLeida Core Facilities, and external subcontracting services necessary for project implementation. Travel costs may not exceed 5% of the total budget, and publication costs may not exceed 10%. The full award is available for eligible direct project costs.

Any matter not expressly covered by these rules, including the eligibility of expenditure or changes to the approved budget, must be submitted in advance to the IRBLeida Projects Unit for authorization.

Upon completion of the project, any unused funds will remain under the management of IRBLeida and will be dealt with in accordance with the MAMAPOP–IRBLeida agreement.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

MamaProjects2026 projects will have a duration of two years, starting on 1 January 2027. The project execution period may be extended for a maximum of six (6) months on duly justified grounds, subject to the prior approval of IRBLeida and the MAMAPOP–IRBLeida Monitoring Committee. Any extension must remain within the maximum term of the MAMAPOP–IRBLeida agreement, and it must be submitted in the last 6 months of the project duration by sending an email to postaward@irbllleida.cat, who will provide the proper extension application form.

Call opening: October 19, 2026

Expression of Interest: November 9, 2026

Call deadline: November 12, 2026

Estimated provisional resolution: November 27, 2026

Estimated final resolution: December 10, 2026

Call Opening	Call Description	Candidates Profile	Application & Award Decision	Beneficiary's Obligations	Other Clauses
 Call for Projects on Breast Cancer Research 2026 - 1st Edition (MamaProjects2026) 					

3. Candidates profile

3.1. Eligibility

Proposals to the MamaProjects2026 call may be submitted by any researcher who holds a PhD and is affiliated with IRBLleida at the submission deadline. The Principal Investigator (PI) must maintain this affiliation throughout the funded project. If the PI's affiliation cannot be maintained until the project ends, another eligible researcher from the same research group must be appointed as PI, subject to approval by the Internal Scientific Evaluation Commission (CIAC), to ensure completion of the project. If no replacement can be appointed, the project will be terminated, and any remaining funds will be returned to the program and made available for a subsequent call for proposals.

3.2. Incompatibilities

The same activities or costs may not receive funding from more than one public or private source. Applicants must declare any other funding requested or awarded for the proposed project. Double funding of the same activities or costs is not permitted. Applicants must disclose any concurrent funding applications or awards related to the proposed project and must promptly notify IRBLleida of any subsequent funding decision that may result in double funding.

Where double funding is identified, IRBLleida may suspend the availability of funds, declare the corresponding expenditure ineligible, reallocate or recover any amounts unduly charged to the project, and, where appropriate, terminate the project.

Where an applicant has knowingly or fraudulently failed to disclose concurrent funding, IRBLleida may also take any disciplinary, contractual or legal action that may be appropriate. Personal liability may only be required where it is legally enforceable.

Each researcher may submit only one (1) proposal as Principal Investigator to this call. Principal Investigators of a proposal may not participate as collaborators in any other proposal submitted to this call.

4. Application & Award Decision

4.1. Expression of Interest

To participate in the call, candidates must first submit an expression of interest to projects@irbllleida.cat. Applications without a prior expression of interest will not be evaluated.

4.2. Proposal Submission

To participate in the call, candidates must submit the following documentation to projects@irbllleida.cat.



- Curriculum vitae in CVA format for the Principal Investigator and all other team members, covering the previous seven years. The evaluation period may be extended in the circumstances listed in Annex I.
- MamaProjects2026 application form, including a project summary, objectives, breast cancer focus statement, challenge description, translational potential, work plan, methodology, knowledge transfer strategy, expected impact, and budget description.

4.3. Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated by CIDI Salut against the criteria set out below, in accordance with IRBLleida's internal evaluation policy. All evaluators will be subject to the applicable confidentiality and conflict-of-interest requirements.

Evaluation Area	Description	Score
A. Research Team		25
1. Principal Investigator Profile	Scientific trajectory of the PI during the previous 7 years, including competitive funding obtained, scientific publications, scientific impact, leadership experience, training activities, translational achievements, intellectual property, and capacity to successfully execute the proposed project.	0-20
2. Research Team	Adequacy, complementarity and expertise of the research team in relation to the proposed objectives, methodology and expected outcomes. Previous collaborative experience and availability of required competencies will be considered.	0-5
B. Research Proposal		75
3. Scientific Excellence	Scientific quality of the proposal, novelty, originality, strength of the rationale, quality of preliminary evidence, and potential to advance knowledge in breast cancer research.	0-20
4. Translational Potential and Patient Impact	Relevance to unmet clinical needs in breast cancer and potential to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, survivorship or quality of life.	0-15
5. Methodological Quality	Alignment between objectives, hypothesis, study design, methodology, statistical approach, risk management strategy, and appropriateness of the proposed research plan. The proposal must also observe RRI principles, as described in Annex II.	0-15
6. Feasibility and Implementation	Adequacy of research team, resources, infrastructure, budget, timeline, task distribution, milestones and overall feasibility of completing the project within the proposed timeframe.	0-15



7. Knowledge Transfer and Future Impact	Potential for knowledge transfer, intellectual property generation, regulatory pathway, dissemination, clinical implementation, industrial collaboration and future competitiveness for attracting additional funding.	0-10
TOTAL		100

4.4. Award Decision

A provisional award decision will be published after completion of the evaluation process. Any appeals regarding this provisional award decision must be submitted within 5 business days of its publication by email to projects@irblleida.cat. After all timely submissions have been reviewed and resolved, the final award decision will be published.

5. Beneficiary's obligations

5.1. Project Follow-up

Any change that may affect the development of the project must be duly notified and justified to IRBLleida. This also applies to budget changes, which cannot be made without the written approval of IRBLleida. At the end of the project's first year, the PIs must submit an intermediate scientific report to the IRBLleida Projects Unit (postaward@irblleida.cat). In addition, the PI must submit a final report to the IRBLleida Projects Unit (postaward@irblleida.cat) within a maximum period of three months after the end of the project. This final report must include details of the scientific objectives achieved, as well as any publications and communications resulting from the project.

5.2. Project Outputs

The support of MAMAPOP must be duly acknowledged in all project outputs. In any oral or written communication about the research project and/or the results obtained from the received grant, the main researcher (or the person who disseminates the results) must specifically acknowledge the support of MAMAPOP and use the logo whenever possible.

To ensure the proper protection of intellectual and/or industrial property arising from this action, Principal Investigators must inform the IRBLleida Innovation Office (innovacio@irblleida.cat) of any communication and/or dissemination related to the work. The PIs are also responsible for ensuring that the guidelines for the accurate identification of IRBLleida's scientific output are followed.

If requested, the PIs of the awarded MamaProjects2026 agree to participate in one dissemination activity per year to present their project and/or results. Advance notice shall be provided within a reasonable timeframe, except in duly justified cases.

Call Opening	Call Description	Candidates Profile	Application & Award Decision	Beneficiary's Obligations	Other Clauses
 Call for Projects on Breast Cancer Research 2026 - 1st Edition (MamaProjects2026) 					

6. Other Clauses

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

6.1. Proposal Documentation Confidentiality

The documentation associated with the proposals will be treated as confidential information, being obliged to maintain the confidentiality of the information to all persons involved in the evaluation and assessment of the proposals. Applicants must provide a non-confidential lay abstract of the proposed project, written in clear and accessible language for a non-specialist audience, which may be used for informative and dissemination purposes. The abstract should describe the project's objectives, expected benefits, and potential impact. This information may be used by the funding organization for communication, dissemination, and reporting purposes.

6.2. 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 a selection process to provide financial support for research projects.

Addresses: The data will not be transferred to third parties, except in the legal obligations established by law or to execute the procedures established for managing the present call.

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.irbllleida.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 processing of applicants' identification, professional, academic and scientific data is based on Article 6(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, as it is necessary for the legitimate interests pursued by IRBLleida in organising, managing, evaluating, awarding, administering and monitoring an internal competitive call for breast cancer research projects. Where processing is necessary to comply with accounting, auditing, transparency, archiving or other legal obligations applicable to IRBLleida, the legal basis will be Article 6(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Applicant data may be disclosed to the evaluator company, CIDI Salut, subject to appropriate confidentiality and conflict-of-interest obligations, insofar as this is necessary for the scientific evaluation of the proposals. MAMAPOP will only receive the information that is necessary for

Call Opening	Call Description	Candidates Profile	Application & Award Decision	Beneficiary's Obligations	Other Clauses
 Call for Projects on Breast Cancer Research 2026 - 1st Edition (MamaProjects2026) 					

the monitoring and justification of the funded projects. It will not receive complete CVs, unsuccessful proposals, individual evaluation reports or documentation containing special categories of personal data.

The name and institutional affiliation of the principal investigators of funded projects, the project title, a public summary and the amount awarded may be published as part of the award decision and the communication of the call's results.

Applicants must not submit medical reports or other documents containing health data with their application. Where an extension of the CV evaluation period is requested, the relevant circumstances will be verified separately by IRB Lleida's Human Resources Department, which will only certify the additional evaluation period applicable, without disclosing the underlying reason or supporting documentation to the Projects Unit, CIDI Salut company or MAMAPOP.

This data must be kept for the period 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.

Specific data may be communicated to third parties in the public or private sphere, either because the intervention of these entities during 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 IRB Lleida 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 IRB Lleida (Avda. Rovira Roure, 80, 25198 Lleida), to the e-mail address protecciodedades@irbllleida.cat or to the IRB Lleida'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.

7. Annexes

7.1. Annex I

The seven-year period used to evaluate research merits will be extended to account for interruptions arising from the circumstances listed below:

- A) Periods of leave related to maternity or paternity, adoption, or foster care, taken in accordance with the protected situations recognized under the General Social Security Regime. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times the number of weeks of leave taken per child.

Call Opening	Call Description	Candidates Profile	Application & Award Decision	Beneficiary's Obligations	Other Clauses
 Call for Projects on Breast Cancer Research 2026 - 1st Edition (MamaProjects2026) 					

- B) Temporary incapacity due to serious illness or accident of the applicant, with a medical leave of three months or more. A one-year extension will be applied.
- C) Temporary incapacity during pregnancy due to pregnancy-related causes. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times the number of weeks of leave. This extension may be added, where applicable, to the one indicated in section A.
- D) Care for dependent persons, as established in Law 39/2006 of December 14, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for People in a Situation of Dependency. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times the number of weeks of activity as a non-professional caregiver.

All the leaves must be appropriately credited at the time of filing the grant application.

7.2. Annex II

Projects must implement the following Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles, where relevant to their objectives and methodology:

1. Integration of the gender dimension into the research content.
2. Citizen participation considering various actors who can participate throughout the process to align the results with the values, needs and expectations of society.
3. Scientific education: Improving the educational process to equip citizens with the skills and knowledge necessary to understand and participate in research and innovation debates.
4. Accessibility to the information generated, both at the beginning of the research and at the end (publications in open access).