

Frontiers in T1D Cure

Advanced Grants for Leading Researchers

Two stages grant

2026

2nd Edition

Rules of participation



Content

Presentation..... 3

Call Rules 3

1. OBJECT3

2. GENERAL RULES3

3. ENDOWMENT AND DURATION4

4. CANDIDATES4

5. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED4

6. KEY DATES6

7. EVALUATION, SELECTION, AND RESOLUTION PROCESS.....6

8. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WINNING CANDIDATE TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT8

9. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT.....8

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS9

11. DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT RESULTS9

12. EARLY TERMINATION OF THE GRANT9

13. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES10



Presentation

Fundación DiabetesCERO has the honor to launch the 2nd edition of the “**Frontiers in T1D Cure**” DiabetesCERO Grant for consolidated investigators.

This is a 2-stage funding call for project proposals oriented to advance on the quest for a cure for type 1 diabetes. We bet for preclinical and translational development of therapeutic strategies focused on curative treatments of this disease.

Call Rules

1. OBJECT

Individual projects submitted by a principal investigator(PI) linked to a research institution. The institution might be public and private non-profit entities that carry out and/or manage R&D activities, generate scientific or technological knowledge, or facilitate its application and transfer.

We look for original projects directly related to front-edge investigation for the type 1 diabetes cure.

We will value the possibility to translate outcomes into biomedical, business, or hospital settings.

2. GENERAL RULES

- Topic: research focused on a cure for type 1 diabetes. Compatible with proof of concept project proposals.
- The grant application fits in a two-stages process.
- The candidate will present their research project to the Fundación DiabetesCERO.
- The candidate must be affiliated with a research center from the European Union that will host the project. The center must endorse the project through a letter of support/recommendation.
- The project will be evaluated by the DiabetesCERO Evaluation Committee, made up of members of the DiabetesCERO Scientific Committee and external expert evaluators, following the highest ethical and transparency standards.



3. ENDOWMENT AND DURATION

- Two grants will be awarded, each with a value of €100,000.
- The submitted project will have a duration of two years from the date the grant is awarded. €50,000 will be awarded in the first year and €50,000 the second year.
- The Fundación DiabetesCERO reserves the right to review the progress of the funded project before disbursing the following year's amount, in order to ensure that the reasonable milestones established in the work plan are being met. Any substantial modification must be communicated and justified.
- The grant will be subject to the withholdings and taxes stipulated by current legislation, which will be deducted from the corresponding financial endowment.
- In no case does this grant constitute a prize or grant for projects already completed.

4. CANDIDATES

- Candidates must have obtained a doctorate and have an innovative scientific and creative track record. We seek experienced researchers with innovative ideas.
- If the submitted project is being developed at a university, a public research center, a private (nonprofit) research center, or a hospital, the candidate must be affiliated with that center at the time of signing the acceptance agreement. The center must be located in the European Union.
- If the candidate has applied for or received other sources of funding related to the submitted project, this information must be expressly stated in the application. The funding entity, the amount received or requested, and the intended use of these funds must be specified, clearly indicating their complementarity with the DiabetesCERO grant. This information will allow for the assessment of the potential multiplier effect of the awarded funding and its integration into broader initiatives. Candidates who currently receive support from the Fundación DiabetesCERO will not be eligible for this call.

5. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED

- All applications must be submitted exclusively through the email address: convocatorias@diabetescero.org
- Mandatory: each document must be named in the format: "last-name-first-name-doc type26". See the different "doc types" in next sections. Example: "Perez-Carlos-Application26"
- All documents must be attached to one single email, where the subject must be "last-name-first-name-Frontiers26".
- The documents must be written in English (Arial font, size 12).



1st STAGE – LETTER OF INTENT

- For the 1st stage of the call, candidates should submit the following documentation (templates are available on the Fundación DiabetesCERO website):
 1. Application form. It includes general information, administrative contact information for the PI and the institution, etc. Use the Fundación DiabetesCERO template. (Doc-type: Application26).
 2. Acceptance letter by the supporting entity (1 page document, free format). (Doc-type: Letter26).
 3. Standardized CV of the principal investigator(s), including a summary of the applicant's professional career with special emphasis on the last five (5) years and the most significant work of their career. Use the Fundación DiabetesCERO template. (Doc-type: CV26).
 4. The candidate should also include a signed declaration explaining the criteria by which their application and project should be considered for this call (1 page document, free format). (Doc-type: Declaration26).
 5. Summary of the research group (expertise and scientific capacity) (2 page document, free format). (Doc-type: Group26).
- They must also attach a 1st Stage Letter of Intent (LoI), which should contain the Scientific project proposal (maximum 8 DIN-A4 pages) containing the following points. Use the Fundación DiabetesCERO template. (Doc-type: LoI26).
 1. Project title and principal investigator's name.
 2. Executive summary.
 3. Is this project already funded by other agencies or Foundations? Are there any conflicts of interest?
 4. Background and current status of the topic. Most relevant previous results.
 5. Research hypothesis.
 6. Objectives, methodology, work plan, and timelines.
 7. Innovation: innovative aspects and differences compared to other similar research projects.
 8. Expected results, impact and applicability of the research.

2nd STAGE – FULL PROPOSAL

- For the 2nd stage of the call, candidates selected from 1st stage proposals should submit the full proposal document that includes the next sections (templates are available on the Fundación DiabetesCERO website):
 1. Project title and name of the principal investigator.
 2. Publishable executive summary. Relevance to type 1 diabetes.
 3. Background and current status of the topic. Most relevant previous results. Relevant bibliography cited.
 4. Research hypothesis expected to be achieved.
 5. Scientific objectives.
 6. Required technology. Available resources for carrying out the project at the host institution.
 7. What are the innovative aspects of the project and the technologies that will be used? How does this research differ from similar ones?



8. Potential impact and applicability of the project results for patients, the scientific-medical community, and society in general.
9. Translational approach of the research to be developed. Expected future steps to take the innovation generated in the project to more advanced stages in the development of potential drugs.
10. Detailed work plan: WorkPlan with methodology, main milestones and deliverables, and implementation schedule.
11. Budget and detailed justification (including personnel, consumables, and outsourcing expenses).

6. KEY DATES

Call opening:	July 15 th , 2026
1 st stage deadline (Letter of Intent):	August 31 th , 2026
Notification to applicants (1 st stage):	November 2026
Full proposal deadline:	December 2026
Notification to applicants (full proposal):	March 2027
Project start:	April 2027

7. EVALUATION, SELECTION, AND RESOLUTION PROCESS

All projects accepted within the submission period will enter the evaluation process. The scientific and technical evaluation will be carried out by the Evaluation Committee, made up of members of the DiabetesCERO Scientific Committee and an independent panel of expert evaluators, that also includes type 1 diabetes patients, through a peer review system.

Each project will be assessed by three different evaluators, who will conduct an independent evaluation according to the defined evaluation criteria. The evaluations will be conducted using standardized evaluation templates, which will be provided to the evaluators along with general evaluation standards.

The evaluation criteria will consider the suitability of the project and the candidate for the competition, through a weighted score for each of the different sections. The sum of these scores will determine the final ranking of all projects.

The scientific and technical evaluation criteria for **1st Stage (LoI)** include:

- **Scientific and technical quality of the project**, scientific originality and proposed experimental design: including the suitability of the proposal to address the unmet need and the robustness of the innovative solution proposed (45%).
- **Track record, experience, and knowledge of the principal investigator and the research team** in the area; suitability of the supporting institution for the optimal execution of the project (25%).



- **Degree of innovation, novelty, transfer potential, and expected impact** (30%).

The scientific and technical evaluation criteria for **2nd Stage (Full Proposal)** include:

- **Scientific excellence** (30%).
- **Track record, experience, and knowledge of the principal investigator and the research team** in the area; suitability of the supporting institution for the optimal execution of the project (20%).
- **Degree of innovation, novelty, transfer potential, and expected impact** (25%).
- **Implementation and feasibility** (25%).

The Scientific Committee of the Fundación DiabetesCERO is made up of:

- Dr. Manuel Aguilar Diosdado, Scientific Director of the Biomedical Research Institute of Cádiz (INIBICA).
- Dr. Luis Castaño González, Pediatrician at Cruces University Hospital and Coordinator of the Genetics and Control of Diabetes and Endocrine Diseases Research Group at Biocruces Bizkaia.
- Dr. Adolfo García-Ocaña, Head of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology at CITY OF HOPE (USA).
- Dr. Ramón Gomis de Barberá, Emeritus Researcher at IDIBAPS, Director of the Health Sciences Studies at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), and Emeritus Professor at the Universitat de Barcelona (UB).
- Dr. Carmen Hurtado, Director of European Research at Breakthrough T1D, Belgium.

The external evaluators are experts in diabetes and come from the fields of preclinical and clinical research, healthcare, and patients with type 1 diabetes.

Based on the Evaluation Committee's decision, the Fundación DiabetesCERO will issue an individualized response to the candidates for each submitted project, communicating the approval or denial of each stage of the grant.

The resolution of this "Frontiers in T1D Cure: Advanced Grants for Leading Researchers - 2026" grant call and the winning project will be made public through the Fundación DiabetesCERO website and its social media channels.

The decision made by the evaluation committee of the Fundación DiabetesCERO is final and unappealable.

Under no circumstances will disaggregated or individualized information be provided about the applications received, nor about the evaluation committee's deliberations.

No further correspondence or communication will be maintained with applicants who have not been selected.



8. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WINNING CANDIDATE TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT

- The grant recipient will sign the acceptance agreement provided by the Fundación DiabetesCERO. The institution hosting the researcher will undertake to facilitate the proper and effective execution of the project.
- The university, public research center, private (non-profit) research center, hospital, etc. to which the grant recipient is affiliated must sign the document regulating the award and payment of the grant provided by the Fundación DiabetesCERO for this purpose.
- Projects will not include any fees or overhead for the institution.
- Travel and conference registration fees will not be included in the budget.
- For projects involving experimental animals or biological samples derived from patients or donors, a document of approval from the institution's Ethics Committee must be provided.
- Once the grant has been awarded and within 15 days of receiving the grant, the Fundación DiabetesCERO must be notified about the destiny of the grants (supporting human resources, reagents, small materials, etc.). The beneficiary and the host institution will place a sign, panel, poster, or similar at the entrance of the laboratory, indicating the receipt of this grant from Fundación DiabetesCERO. This sign must be visible throughout the grant period. DiabetesCERO will provide a sample document with the basic requirements.
- The recipient may, during the validity of the grant, undertake other work or studies, provided that they do not interfere with the fulfillment of the obligations established by the grant.
- Strict compliance with each and every one of the above requirements will be an essential condition for receiving the grant awarded.

9. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Should circumstances arise during the development of the project that require a significant modification, the grant recipient must notify Fundación DiabetesCERO as soon as possible, and the Fundación will inform the interested party of its acceptance or rejection.

The grant will be valid for 2 years. Every six months of the award, an interim report monitoring the development and execution of the project must be submitted to Fundación DiabetesCERO in accordance with these terms and conditions. Two years after the award, a final report must be submitted detailing the activities carried out, the results achieved, and the fulfillment of the deliverables.

The report must include a financial section justifying the expenditure, providing supporting documentation.



10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The intellectual property rights generated from the results obtained during the development of the project will remain with the recipient of the grant: the institution and the beneficiary.

They must commit to translating the findings into clinical applications.

Patents must acknowledge the financial support of the Fundación DiabetesCERO.

The preparation of patent applications must be communicated to the Fundación DiabetesCERO as soon as possible and before filing the application with the patent office.

11. DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT RESULTS

The Fundación DiabetesCERO may request the beneficiary's collaboration in public dissemination activities for the results of the project covered by this call. Upon request, the grant recipient will provide the Fundación DiabetesCERO with all the information and documentation required and will grant the Fundación, free of charge, the appropriate rights to disseminate the results of their project through the Fundación's website, diabetescero.org and/or other similar channels, signing the authorizations sent by the Fundación DiabetesCERO for this purpose.

Whenever the grant recipient and/or the host institution wishes to disseminate the winning project of this call, its progress, or the results obtained, they must clearly and visibly mention the source of the grant received by stating: **"Project carried out with the Fundación DiabetesCERO's "Frontiers in T1D Cure. Advanced Grants for Leading Researchers"** and include the Fundación DiabetesCERO logo whenever possible.

12. EARLY TERMINATION OF THE GRANT

The following will be grounds for early termination:

- Failure to submit information required by the Fundación, such as monitoring reports.
- Falsified documentation or untruthful data provided.
- Failure to meet the initially presented objectives regarding deadlines, performance, and results.
- If the Research Center accepts another grant for the same purpose from any other public or private organization and does not immediately notify the Fundación in writing.
- In general, failure to comply with any other obligations set forth in the framework agreement and specific annex(s).

In all these cases, the Fundación will review the circumstances under which the non-compliance occurred and will decide whether to review the program or, where appropriate, terminate the grant. In this case, the center must return any amounts received or unused. Likewise, the applicant may be



penalized by having their applications rejected for the next two calls for grants from the Fundación, of any type.

Should the successful center renounce the grant awarded, this must be justified, and the center will refund any unused amounts contributed to date. The Fundación will review the reasons given by the center for its refusal and reserves the right to request a refund of the total amounts contributed.

In the event of non-refund, the Fundación reserves the right to take any legal action it deems appropriate.

13. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

Participating in this call implies acceptance of its rules and its decision, which shall be final, as well as the waiver of any claim.

Exceptionally, and for duly justified reasons, the Fundación DiabetesCERO reserves the right to interpret and modify the wording of these rules in order to clarify or specify their content, without this implying a substantial or arbitrary alteration thereof.

