



**Solving
Kids'
Cancer
UK**



**The Isla
Caton Fund**



Villa Joep!



Request for Applications (RFA) 2025 Information Sheet

FOCUS AREA:	Late-stage translational research
BUDGET:	Grants of up to £250,000 each
PROJECT DURATION:	2 years
DEADLINE:	16 February 2026 12:00 midday GMT

Solving Kids' Cancer UK (SKC) funds high-impact research addressing critical challenges in neuroblastoma, with a clear focus on accelerating clinical implementation and patient benefit.

The Isla Caton Fund is a family fund held within Solving Kids' Cancer UK to be used to further research in pursuit of the development of safer and more effective therapies for children with neuroblastoma.

Villa Joep is a Dutch foundation that raises funds exclusively to support research on neuroblastoma. The charity co-finances basic, translational, and immunotherapy research and promises that 100% of donations go directly into funding research.

Children with Cancer UK is a major UK charity dedicated to funding research aimed at improving the diagnosis, treatment, and long-term survival of children with cancer. Its grants support both laboratory and clinical research, including early-stage projects that are often difficult to fund through traditional routes.

This RFA seeks translational research to inform the design and development of new arms within the BEACON2 Phase I/II international clinical trial for children with relapsed neuroblastoma.

Proposals without a clear pathway into BEACON2, or lacking a high-level industry engagement plan, will not be funded.

This RFA is developed in line with the core objectives of [SKC's Research Strategy 2025-28](#); delivering new clinical approaches by consolidating existing trial infrastructure.

SKC will serve as the Secretariat for this grant call, overseeing external peer review and obtaining recommendations from our international Scientific Advisory Board. All procedures will be conducted in accordance with our Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) accreditation.



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**CHILDREN
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Background

Children with relapsed neuroblastoma continue to face poor outcomes and limited treatment options. There is an urgent need to bring new and innovative therapies to the clinic to expand and enhance treatment options for children and their families.

BEACON2 is the largest international platform trial for children with relapsed neuroblastoma. Its multi-arm, multi-stage (MAMS) design enables multiple therapies to be evaluated within a single, flexible framework, allowing promising new treatments to be introduced efficiently. BEACON2 has benefitted from EMA Scientific Advice and is strengthened by early regulatory alignment, enhancing its scientific credibility, feasibility, and potential for regulatory purposes. This RFA seeks to support the development of therapies that will ultimately broaden the treatment offerings within BEACON2.

Project Scope

Through this RFA, Solving Kids' Cancer UK (in conjunction with The Isla Caton Fund), Villa Joep, and Children with Cancer UK aim to support high-quality, near-clinical research that can inform and underpin the development of future BEACON2 trial arms. Funded projects should generate robust preclinical data, ready for industry engagement, to enable rational design of potential future clinical studies within the BEACON2 framework. The data should drive early clinical studies and substantially support access to drugs from pharmaceutical companies.

This initiative is intended to act as a stepping stone toward direct clinical translation following successful pre-clinical validation, laying the groundwork for subsequent funding opportunities to support the progression of successful preclinical findings into clinical evaluation within BEACON2.

Budget

One or more projects, each up to £250,000, will be funded through this initiative, contingent upon rigorous scientific review and formal endorsement by funding partners.

Timeline

1. **Application deadline:** 16th February 2026, 12:00 midday GMT
2. **Evaluation period:** February-April 2026
3. **Announcement:** April-May 2026
4. **Grant award:** Funds available immediately in accordance with fully executed Project Grant Agreement



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Requirements

*All sections of the **RFA2025 Submission Form** must be fully completed.*

1. Each project must have a single lead applicant. Collaborative projects across institutions and disciplines are encouraged.
2. Proposals must demonstrate an immediate pathway into the BEACON2 clinical trial including plans for industry engagement as appropriate.
3. Projects must be feasible within the proposed budget and timeline and aligned with the defined scope.
4. Applications must include a written commitment from the BEACON2 Trial Management Group (TMG) that endorses the potential incorporation of a new Tier 2 trial arm into the platform if results are positive.
5. Applicants are not required to provide supporting letters from industry for anti-GD2 monoclonal antibody supply where proposed new trial arms build upon a chemoimmunotherapy backbone. Anti-GD2 supply for prospective new arms, that are agreed by the BEACON2 TMG as above, will be centrally coordinated.
6. Projects must adhere to AMRC guidelines on animal research: [Position statement on the use of animals in research | Association of Medical Research Charities](#).

Review process

Applications will be peer reviewed by non-conflicted members of the SKC Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) alongside invited external reviewers, with input from patient representatives, following AMRC standards for transparency and rigour.

Proposals will be assessed on:

- Scientific quality and feasibility.
- Deliverability within the 2-year funding period.
- Alignment with BEACON2 objectives, translational potential, and support from the BEACON2 Trial Management Group (TMG).
- Evidence of industry engagement plan, or presentation of a clear and credible plan to achieve it.
- Strength and track record of the research team.
- Contribution to expanding neuroblastoma treatment options.
- Budget justification and allocation of resources.

Contact and Submission

For all queries and submission of applications, please contact:

Stephanie Restivo, Research Manager

Email: stephanie@solvingkidscancer.org.uk

Please note: Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. SKC UK and its funding partners will only fund applications that pass rigorous scientific review and meet funder requirements and expectations. Unspent funds may be rolled forward for a second round of funding and the RFA re-issued, subject to partner agreement.