

**CONCEPT PAPER
FORMAT AND
APPLICATION FIELD INSTRUCTIONS**
As of February 2026

Project Purpose Statement: Provide a 1-3 sentence summary of your study that a "non-expert" can understand. For example, this study will enroll 50 preterm infants born before 28 weeks to examine the effects of Vitamin D supplementation on neurodevelopment. (125 Word Max)

Study Design: Provide the type of study design to be used. (Select from the drop-down list: Randomized Control Trial, Prospective Cohort, Case-Control, Cross-Sectional, Qualitative, Other). If "Other" is selected, describe your study design in the **Other** text box. (15 Word Max)

Subject Type(s): Select all that apply from the list: Human, Animal, Tissue/Other.

Description of Sample Type(s) for Each Subject Category: Describe the sample type(s): e.g., blood spot, saliva, intestinal tissue cells, data from a preexisting database, what type of animal, etc. (50 Word Max)

Number of Subjects: Enter the **number** of subjects you will enroll in your study.

Age at Time of Enrollment: Enter the age of your subject at the time of enrollment. (Examples include Pregnant Women, 23-32 Weeks Gestation, 2-3 Years Old.) (25 Word Max)

Prevalence of Problem Addressed: Provide the **estimated number of children affected** by this clinical problem in the U.S. population (e.g., rate of disease/1,000 live births). (25 Word Max)

Timeline to Application: Projection of the number of years before findings may result in significant clinical changes after the study is complete (i.e., 3-5 years and will require another multi-site study) (25 Word Max)

Length of Study: Select the length of the study from the drop-down list: 1 year, 2 years, 3 years. Round up, if not a full year. For example, for an 18-month study, select two years. The actual length of the study will be required in the timeline if a full proposal is requested.

Estimated Request: Provide the estimated amount of your request. This is an estimate only. Budget details will be required if a full proposal is requested.

Estimated Total Budget: If the project will cost more than what is requested, enter the total cost here. If the same, enter the same amount as the Estimated Budget Request above. This amount should reflect any internal funds or other grants that will be used to cover the project's total cost.

Hypothesis(es) and objective(s): State the specific hypothesis(es) to be tested. List objectives or aims specific to your study. (250 Word Max)

Background Information: Provide background information on the problem/issue being studied and any pilot data available. Use lay terms. (250 Word Max). Note: Scientific references and citations are NOT required for concept paper submission. If your concept paper is selected for advancement to a full proposal, referencing will be required then.)

Study Protocol: Describe how the study aims will be accomplished, including the measures, methods, sample size, and statistical analysis. This lays out the essential activities to take place during the study. (750 Word Max)

Foundation Mission Alignment: The mission of the Gerber Foundation is to enhance the quality of life of infants and children in nutrition, care, and development. The Board of the Gerber Foundation is particularly interested in practical solutions that can be easily and rapidly implemented on a broad scale on a predictable timeline. **If you prove your hypothesis(es), how will your findings impact clinical practice or have a practical application that enhances “the quality of life of infants and children”?** (200 Word Max)

Impact of Research: Based on your proposed research, what will clinicians or caregivers know or do differently? What barriers to implementation will you encounter? (200 Word Max)

Personal Statement: Briefly describe why you, as the Principal Investigator, are well-suited for your role(s) in this project. Relevant factors may include aspects of your training; your previous work on this specific topic or related topics; your technical expertise; your collaborators or scientific environment; and/or your past performance in this or related fields, including ongoing and completed research projects from the past three years that you want to draw attention to. The use of hyperlinks and URLs is not allowed. (325 Word Max)

NOVICE ONLY Question. Novice Applicants Only. Who is your mentor for this research? What do you envision your next steps will be after completing this research project? (150 Word Max)

Further Material (Optional): If there are necessary explanations that must be provided, such as details of a specific process, procedure, or other information, provide it in an attachment here. Also, attach diagrams or tables here. Do **NOT** include scientific references or Biosketches. (Limit two pages. Any more than two pages will not be provided to the review committee)

Proposal Reviewed by a Senior Officer: The Gerber Foundation requires that investigators seek the approval of a senior officer in their department (i.e., an upline Division Chief, Department Head, Dean, etc.) before submission of the concept paper application. Enter the Name, Title, and Email address of the senior officer who approved the submission of this concept paper application. (20 Word Max)

NOTE: Previously, we required a formal letter of support at the concept paper stage. Because so few concept papers are selected to move forward to full application, we modified the concept paper application to require the name, title, and email address of the senior official in the researcher’s Department/Unit (upline) who can approve the submission of the concept paper. Think of this official person as the person who would have been asked to provide the letter of support for the research project. Now, having said that, if your Institution requires an official in the Sponsored Programs/Grant Office to approve the **concept paper** submission, then by all means you should use that official’s name, title, and email address. If the concept paper is selected to move forward to full application an official letter of support for the research and Institution Administrator approval (i.e., Sponsored Programs/Grants Office, etc.) are required at that time.