The Gerber Foundation

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH CONCEPT PAPER

FORMAT AND APPLICATION FIELD INSTRUCTIONS

As of September 2026

To support an impartial review process, designated sections of the Concept Paper must be blinded. In these sections, please do not include names of investigators, institutions, organizations, geographic locations, or other information that could reasonably identify the applicant or research team.

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. Blinded response required. *(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). Blinded response required. *(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.

Additional Funding: If the funding requested from The Gerber Foundation does not cover the full cost of the study, please identify all additional funding sources, including whether those funds have been secured or are pending. Please also explain whether the project could be completed if the additional funding is not secured. *(75 words max)*

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

Background Information: Provide background information on the problem/issue being studied and any pilot data available. Blinded response required. 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. *(250 Word Max)*

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. Blinded response required. *(750 Word Max)*

Foundation Mission Alignment: The mission of The Gerber Foundation is to enhance the quality of life of infants and children. Describe how the proposed research advances this mission and its potential impact on children. Provide concrete examples of how the findings could ultimately improve children's health, nutrition, development, care, or well-being. Blinded response not required. *(200 Word Max)*

Impact of Research: If your study is successful, how could the findings influence clinical care, caregiver practices, or other approaches that support infants and young children? Describe what clinicians or caregivers may know or do differently as a result of this research, provide concrete examples of how the findings could be applied in practice, and identify any potential barriers to implementation. Blinded response not required. *(200 Word Max)*

Personal Statement: Briefly describe why you, as the Principal Investigator, are well-suited to lead this project and how the proposed research fits within your developing research interests and career goals. Relevant factors may include your education and

training; previous experience with this or related topics; research or technical skills; relevant clinical experience; collaborators and research environment; and other experiences that have prepared you to undertake the proposed work. You may also highlight ongoing or completed research, publications, presentations, or other scholarly activities that demonstrate your commitment to developing a career in child health research. The use of hyperlinks and URLs is not allowed. Blinded response not required. *(325 Word Max)*

Further Material (Optional): If additional explanation is needed to support your application, please attach it here. Examples may include details of a specific process or procedure, diagrams or tables, or information addressing potential financial conflicts of interest. Do not include scientific references or biosketches. (*Limit: Two pages. Content exceeding 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)*