

*The Dutch Kidney Foundation (DKF) Grant Requirements ('Subsidievoorwaarden Nierstichting Nederland') apply to all awarded DKF subsidies as well as all proposals for DKF subsidies.*

#### **Disclaimer**

*The execution of a DKF Call for proposals, selection of pre-proposals for full application and positive DKF grant award decisions are conditional on DKF revenues and budgetary means. The DKF explicitly reserves the right to cancel an initiated Call for proposals, to suspend a running procedure or to lower a grant amount in relation to earlier statements.*

**Do you plan to apply for a grant in a non-Dutch Kidney Foundation (DKF) call that requires co-funding? Or do you need initial funding for an intended co-funding project? Under certain conditions it is possible to obtain a co-funding grant from the DKF PIONIER+ program.**

The DKF PIONIER+ program for Co-Funding Research & Innovation ("PIONIER+") is an initiative of the section Healthcare & Innovation (H&I) of the Dutch Kidney Foundation. The program is open for project proposals that require co-funding from other sources. The H&I Program Committee (PC) has decision authority.

#### **Aim**

The DKF aims to increase the positive impact of research on the life of kidney patients and the prevention of kidney disease. The PIONIER+ program aims to promote further development of the joint strategic agenda "Beating Kidney Disease", to advance DKF ambitions and to leverage funding for sustainable kidney health by mobilizing co-funding for research and innovation.

#### **Scope**

PIONIER+ is open for research & development and innovation projects in a broad sense, including health care innovation projects with a specific focus on research & development. PIONIER+ follows the classification and definitions of the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation of the European Commission (EC 2014/C 198/01). The applicant is employed at a non-profit organisation in the Netherlands. Also, a substantial part of the project must be executed by non-profit (research) organisations in the Netherlands.

#### **General Eligibility Criteria**

A project must comply with all criteria.

- A project has to fall within the scope of the PIONIER+ program.
- A project must be relevant for kidney patients and/or prevention of kidney disease.
- Projects that have already started are not eligible for funding.
- The application should contain a description of the project's impact and a strategy towards impact.
- A project must be directed at -and show potential for- substantial (co-)funding outside the PIONIER+ program.
- The application should have sufficient detail for assessment.
- A project must have reliable partners.
- Key-partners in the project should have already expressed their commitment orally or in writing.
- In order to allow sufficient time for review, the project proposals should be submitted well in advance. Depending on the type and the maturity of the project proposal, the decision process may take between 4-8 weeks.
- If co-funding is applied for in a non-DKF call for proposals, the call's conditions must not be in conflict with the DKF Grant Requirements ('Subsidievoorwaarden Nierstichting Nederland').

### **General Assessment Criteria**

- High project and consortium quality and a potential sizeable positive impact on the quality of life of kidney patients and/or the prevention of kidney disease.
- High potential value for the joint strategic agenda "Beating Kidney Disease", the strategic position of the DKF and/or DKF ambitions (prevention of kidney disease, treating kidney disease, curing kidney disease).

### **Co-funding Conditions**

- The PIONIER+ Co-Funding Grant is cash only.
- The size of the PIONIER+ Co-Funding Grant may vary. Typical grant size is € 100.000, proportional to the contribution of other funding partners and is typically not more than 30% of the total needed (private) cash contribution.
- The project has substantial (co-)funding in cash and/or in kind from the partners. Subsidies and grants from non-DKF calls for proposals are considered co-funding. The same proposal cannot be submitted to a DKF Call for proposals.
- If the project is to be submitted in an external call for proposals, the co-funding conditions of the call are followed where possible.
- The DKF decides on PIONIER+ Co-Funding Grant sizes on a one by one basis.

### **Assessment of co-funding request for the PIONIER+ Grant**

- The PIONIER+ program accepts co-funding requests for preliminary project proposals as well as (pre-)final project proposals.
- All co-funding requests for the PIONIER+ Grant need to be endorsed by a Program Manager of the Dutch Kidney Foundation. Endorsements will be based on the initial assessment of the eligibility criteria, co-funding situation and the availability of resources for the PIONIER+ program. Please contact the DKF office by sending an email to [research@nierstichting.nl](mailto:research@nierstichting.nl) mentioning PIONIER+ in the subjectline..
- Depending on the type and maturity of the proposal for which co-funding is requested, the following assessment procedure applies:
  - Co-funding requests for preliminary proposals will be reviewed by the PC as well as the DKF patient expert panel. The PC will then decide to request a (pre-)final proposal or reject the preliminary proposal.
  - All co-funding requests for (pre-)final proposals will be reviewed by an independent panel of scientific experts and patient experts. This panel of experts is selected at the discretion of the PC of the DKF and typically comprises members of the (International) Scientific Advisory Board and the DKF/Dutch Kidney Patient Association patient expert panel. Only in case the co-funding request is made for a proposal that will be reviewed by an independent and knowledgeable scientific review board in a competitive call outside of the DKF (e.g. in the framework of an external call for proposals), the PC may decide to omit this step.
- In the case of a positive assessment, the PC will issue a conditional commitment for co-funding (Letter of Commitment).
- As soon as the applicant can prove that the required funding for the project is committed and all other conditions are met, the co-funding will be granted (Grant Letter).

### **Reporting**

The project leader of a grant reports to the DKF in compliance with the DKF Grant Letter.

### **Data Sharing and Intellectual Property Rights**

- Project participants shall comply with the DKF Data Sharing Policy and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Participants must strive for rapid and wide availability without restrictions of research data resulting from research funded by the grant. Data availability may be delayed as a consequence of procedures for protection of intellectual property rights (IPR).
- IPR protection is handled according to the 'ownership follows inventorship' principle.
- IPR management must be conducted in collaboration with the DKF and the IPR departments of the

participating research institutes. Participants timely inform the DKF of any plans and activities regarding IPR protection and licensing or IPR transfer to third parties.

- The DKF will not develop an IPR portfolio.
- The DKF may challenge planned IPR protection or patent usage that it considers to be inhibiting or restraining scientific endeavor, renal research or advances in renal patient care/prevention of CKD.
- Project participants must timely report to the DKF any results that are of value for the communication of results of DKF projects: e.g. forthcoming publication in a prominent scientific journal, forthcoming publication of research results that have a high impact on patient care, etc.

### **Publications**

- The DKF encourages research groups to implement and follow the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines in the design and reporting of animal research to increase its reproducibility and quality.
- The DKF supports and encourages Open Access publishing, preferably via the Gold Route, which makes the final version of an article freely and permanently accessible for everyone, immediately after publication. More information can be found on [openaccess.nl](https://openaccess.nl).
- The DKF supports and encourages FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) data principles in data management.

### **Information**

More information can be found on our [website](#). For questions about this call please contact our Secretary Healthcare and Innovation, [research@nierstichting.nl](mailto:research@nierstichting.nl) or +31(0)35 697 8015.