

2026-27 PUI Pilot Project-Seed (PP-Seed) Award Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

Program Goals and Award

The primary goal of the RI-INBRE Pilot Project-Seed (**PP-Seed**) funding mechanism is to stimulate the research programs of early-stage investigators at PUI institutions. **Applicants can request up to \$25,000 in direct costs for the budget period May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027.** These funds are intended to supplement institutional startup funds, help investigators establish their labs, and build critical research capacity. The award requires the training of one summer student by the PUI faculty member. The award can also be used to purchase equipment and supplies and provide the investigator up to \$8000 in summer salary support. Applicants must identify an experienced mentor who can provide scientific and career advice for the investigator.

Eligibility

Investigators in their first or second year at a Rhode Island PUI and are establishing their research and training programs are eligible to apply. Research proposals must be biomedical. Applicants cannot be recipients of RI-INBRE awards for 2026-27 or receive simultaneous funding from another NIGMS IDeA program, e.g., COBRE or Advance-CTR. We encourage you to consult with your RI-INBRE Executive Committee Representative and Office of Sponsored Projects for guidance as you prepare your application.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

Please assemble your proposal in the following order. Save your document as a single .pdf document with the signed Face Page as the front page and upload the file at <https://tinyurl.com/RI-INBRE-Full-2026> by **11:59pm Monday January 12, 2026**

Form Page 1: Face Page. The completed Face Page with signature is required. Only an institutional official with formal designated or delegated authority to sign on behalf of the organization may sign the form. The signature must be dated. In signing the application Face Page, the Authorized Organization Representative of the applicant organization certifies that the applicant organization will comply with all applicable policies, assurances and/or certifications referenced in the application. The Face Page should be the front page of the PDF you submit. Up-to-date forms can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>.

Proposal: A detailed description of your project is not necessary, but you should provide enough detail that reviewers can evaluate the biomedical importance of your research question, how your approach will address the question, and how PP-Seed funding will be used to stimulate your research program. **Your proposal should be completed using the 2026-27 RI-INBRE PP-Seed Proposal form.** References (not required) do not count toward the word limit. Applicants should use 11pt Arial font and should not modify the RI-INBRE logo or the margins of the form. A font size of 9pt may be used for figure legends.

- **Proposal Overview:** Briefly describe the rationale for the project, the aims of the proposed research, the approach to be used, and the potential impact of this study.
- **Outcomes of PP-Seed Funding:** Describe the impact that PP-Seed funding will have in establishing

Supported by Grant #P20GM103430 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health.

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your research program. This section should contain your budget justification.

- **Proposal Budget:** In the budget table provided on the PP-Seed template form, list the direct costs of items in your PP-Seed budget and provide the total direct costs requested.

Projects Involving Vertebrate Animals or Human Subjects (if applicable):

To receive a 2026-27 RI-INBRE award, IACUC and/or IRB approvals must be completed by May 1, 2026.

Investigators who do not already have relevant approvals are strongly encouraged to initiate the approval process immediately. Plan accordingly and be cognizant of the meeting schedules for the IACUC or IRB committee at your institution. Non-compliant applications cannot be submitted to the NIH.

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed based on alignment with the RI-INBRE biomedical research mission and the potential to stimulate new research programs and research areas. Note: Investigators selected for PP-Seed funding must submit additional PHS398 materials, including a NIH Project Summary, a detailed NIH budget, a Specific Aims page, and an NIH biosketch.

Contact Information

Please direct all questions to Brett Pellock (bpellock@providence.edu), RI-INBRE Program Coordinator.