

2027-28 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, 2027 – April 30, 2028**. 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 2027-28 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. **Note:** we regrettably cannot accept human subjects proposals that require IRB approval this funding cycle. We are actively working to build IDeA capacity to support these proposals in future funding cycles.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

Please assemble your proposal in the following order. Number each page consecutively and save your document as a single .pdf document with the signed Face Page as the front page. Upload the file at <https://tinyurl.com/RI-INBRE-Full-2027-28> by 11:59pm **Wednesday December 2, 2026**.

Up-to-date NIH form pages from NIH application form PHS 398 can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>. Fill out the forms in their entirety and according to the NIH application for 398 instructions. At the top of each form please enter **Cho, Bongsup P.** in the space for the Program Director/Principal Investigator. The descriptive title of your project is limited to **81 characters** (including spaces between words and punctuation).

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.

Form Page 2: Project Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem Cells. Do not exceed the space provided. The **Summary** is meant to be a succinct description of the proposed research. State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, referring to the health relatedness of the project. Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. This section should be informative to other

persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader. Avoid describing past accomplishments and the use of the first person.

The **Relevance** section is meant to describe the broad relevance of this research to public health. In this section, be succinct (using no more than two or three sentences) and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience.

The **Project/Performance Sites** must include the information pertinent to the subproject investigator's home institution. Additional Project/Performance Site Location must include the information pertaining to any additional performance sites. Complete a Resources Page for each performance site listed. If more than two performance sites will be used, list additional sites on the PHS 398 Project/Performance Site Format Page.

Senior Key Personnel should include the subproject investigator for the project. Anyone listed in Senior Key Personnel must include a biosketch in the application. **Other Significant Contributors** could include significant collaborators but should generally be left blank. If you do have a significant collaborator listed here, consult the RI-INBRE office regarding the necessity of a letter of support and biosketch.

Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period. Use the detailed budget form and provide a breakdown of the direct costs of various categories for the period **5/1/27 to 4/30/28**. The total direct cost of the budget may not exceed **\$25,000**. Please note that student participant compensation should be calculated at \$17.00 per hour for up to 40 hours of work per week as per your institution's student hiring rules. The budget will be reviewed for appropriateness by reviewers and the RI-INBRE program administration (see Budget Justification below). Appropriate indirect cost reimbursement will be provided to the applicant's institution at the negotiated rate for federal grants.

Budget Justification (use PHS 398 Continuation Format Page). Provide a brief justification for all line items requested in your budget, making sure that the amount requested reflects the actual costs.

Biographical Sketches. Biosketches are required for the investigator and for the mentor. These should be prepared using SciENcv (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>). Please include your eRA Commons ID, and make sure that the personal statement in the biosketch describes why your experience and qualifications make you particularly well suited for a PP-Seed award from the RI-INBRE Program.

PP-Seed Proposal (use the 2027-28 RI-INBRE PP-Seed Proposal form). 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. 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 your research program.

Projects Involving Vertebrate Animals:

To receive a 2027-28 RI-INBRE award, an IACUC approval must be completed by May 1, 2027.

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 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.

Contact Information

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