

2026-27 PUI Collaborative Research (CR) Awards

Request for Letters of Intent (LOIs)

Program Goals and Award

The goal of the Collaborative Research (CR) funding mechanism is to promote collaborative biomedical research between a junior investigator from a primarily undergraduate institution (PUI) and an established investigator from URI, Brown, or a network PUI. The program is designed to accelerate the research progress of the PUI investigator through active collaboration with an experienced investigator and mentor. This is expected to strengthen research skills and productivity while increasing the PUI investigator's preparedness for submitting competitive grant proposals to external funding agencies. Investigators are expected to develop a robust undergraduate research-training program that provides opportunities for PUI students to develop scientific skills and explore career options in biomedical research. The award provides funding for and requires training of three summer students by the PUI faculty member. RI-INBRE requests Letters of Intent (LOIs) for CR awards for research projects beginning on **May 1, 2026**.

The CR Program provides up to two years of funding and includes a total direct cost of the budget up to \$100,000 per year for the PUI investigator and a total direct cost of the budget up to \$40,000 per year for the collaborative mentor. With a robust justification, RI-INBRE is willing to consider a more even distribution of funds if the PUI capacity-building goal of the award is preserved. A full application will require the submission of two separate proposals: one full proposal by the PUI investigator and an abbreviated proposal by the collaborative mentor.

Eligibility

Applicants must be tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professors at Rhode Island PUI at the time of application. Applicants must not have previously received multi-year external funding. Applicants cannot receive simultaneous funding from another NIGMS IDeA program, e.g. COBRE or Advance-CTR. Please consult with your institution's RI-INBRE Steering Committee Representative for additional eligibility information.

Instructions

Please use the 2026-27 Letter of Intent (LOI) form to register your intention to submit a full proposal. Please limit your submission to one page. A detailed description of your proposed project is not necessary, but you should provide enough detail that reviewers can evaluate the importance of your question and how your approach will address the question. In your LOI, please describe the following:

- **Proposal Overview:** Briefly describe the rationale for the project, the specific aims of the proposed research, and the approach to be used. In addition, identify the collaborating mentor and briefly describe a framework for how the collaboration will function. This description should explain how the collaboration is a natural synergy of the research programs and skills of the PUI investigator and the collaborating mentor.
- **Impact:** Briefly describe the potential impact (likelihood the project will exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field) of this study and the proposed collaboration, and how funding would develop the biomedical research infrastructure at your institution and in Rhode Island.

Submission

Submit LOIs at <https://tinyurl.com/RI-INBRE-LOI-2026> by 11:59pm **Monday November 10, 2025**. Applicants will be notified by **Wednesday November 12, 2025** whether they have been invited to submit full proposals. Full proposals will be due by 11:59pm **Monday January 12, 2026**.

Contact Information:

- Eligibility, LOI Preparation & Submission, and Questions: Brett Pellock (bpellock@providence.edu)