

## 2026-27 PUI Student Training and Research (STAR) Training Awards Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

### Program Goals and Award

The primary goal of the Student Training and Research (**STAR**) funding mechanism at primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs) is to provide undergraduate students with intensive summer biomedical research opportunities. To meet this goal, the program requests Letters of Intent (LOIs) for one year STAR awards for research projects beginning **May 1, 2026**. PUI STAR mentors are required to provide intensive research training to three undergraduate students in their laboratories. This award is intended to provide research training to 3 students during a 10-week summer program. Investigators may propose using funds to train 1-2 students during the academic year provided that the training plan is similarly intensive. Both the mentor and summer students must participate in RI-INBRE SURF Program activities and present their research findings as a poster at the Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium. Academic year trainees should present their work at the next Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium or at a comparable conference. Progressive advancement toward conference abstracts and peer-reviewed articles is expected. Applicants may request up to \$35,000 per year in direct costs for one year. This includes support for three students and up to \$10,000 in summer salary for the investigator.

### Eligibility

Applicants must be tenure-track professors of any rank at a Rhode Island PUI at the time of application. Applicants cannot receive simultaneous funding from another NIGMS IDeA program, e.g. COBRE or Advance-CTR.

### Instructions

**Please use the 2026 PUI STAR proposal form to prepare your application.** Applicants should use 11pt Arial font and should not modify the RI-INBRE logo or the margins of the form. References (not required) do not count toward the word limit. A font size of 9pt may be used for figure legends. 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 application, 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. Briefly describe how this project is appropriate for undergraduate student trainees and highlight the impact (likelihood the project will exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field) of this study and how funding would develop the biomedical research infrastructure at your institution and in Rhode Island.
- **Student Training Plan:** Describe the goals of student participation in the research project, the anticipated outcomes of student training, plans for presentation of results at scientific meetings with students as coauthors, and potential for publication of student-generated data in peer-reviewed journals. Describe your student mentoring plan. Investigators are required to train three students during the STAR program.

### **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.**

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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.

**Submission**

Submit STAR proposals at <https://tinyurl.com/RI-INBRE-Full-2026> by **11:59pm Monday January 12, 2026**

**Contact Information:**

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