

[Brain Research Foundation](#)
Seed Grant Program

OBJECTIVES: The objective of the BRF Seed Grant Program is to support new and innovative projects, especially those of junior faculty, who are working in new research directions. BRF Seed Grant awards are not intended to supplement existing grants.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible, PI must be a full-time Assistant or Associate Professor at an invited US academic institution, working in the area of studies of brain function. This includes molecular and clinical neuroscience as well as studies of neural, sensory, motor, cognitive, behavioral and emotional functioning in health and disease. The grant proposal must detail a new research project that is not funded by other sources. This grant is not to be used as bridge funding.

FUNDING and award period: Each total grant is limited to \$80,000 (direct costs) for a two year grant period. The first grant payment of \$40,000 will be made upon completion of the Seed Grant Acceptance Form (June 2025). The final payment of \$40,000 will be made contingent upon receipt of a preliminary progress and financial report (June 2026). **Funds must be utilized within the grant period.**

FUNDING SPECIFICS AND RFA: Funding specifics below and [follow this link for complete RFA](#):

- Funding is to be directed at pilot research projects that are both innovative and will likely lead to successful grant applications to NIH and other public and private funding entities.
- Assistant Professor – Junior faculty with a new research project that will generate pilot data that will lead to RO1 funding, or a comparable outside grant will be first priority.
 - Must provide abstract and specific aims for current grants and indicate if there is any overlap.
- Associate Professor – Faculty who are pursuing new research directions.
 - Must explain how the project is a new research direction.
 - Must provide abstract and specific aims for current grant(s) and indicate if there is any overlap.
- A new technique is not considered a new direction unless it pertains to a different area of study.
- Grants are NOT to be used for bridge funding between grants.

TO APPLY: Rush may nominate 1 faculty member to apply. To apply to fill this slot.

- Register via this [REDCap](#) form by 5 p.m. on **Friday, Oct. 11**.
- Submit the following documents via this [REDCap](#) form by 5 p.m. on **Friday, Oct. 18**:
 - Cover Page: Grant proposal title, PI/Multiple PIs, Key Personnel, and other significant collaborators.
 - Specific Aims, brief statement on significance, innovation, and environment/investigator. This should be no more than two pages long.
 - NIH biosketch (PI/Multiple PIs only)

The internal review committee will make a decision by **Wednesday, Nov. 6**; Philanthropy will then assist the applicant in completing their proposal submission to BRF. **LOIs are due before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19.**