

WV-INBRE Request for Recently Hired Faculty Start-up Applications

Release Date: March 10, 2025
Application Due: April 10, 2025
Award Announcement: ~April 15, 2025

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Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

The WV-INBRE program will fund laboratory research start-up support for recently hired faculty (hired within 2 years of the release date of this RFA) who are recently tenured or tenure track faculty with research interests in biomedical science. This solicitation is only open to applications from West Virginia primarily undergraduate institutions (PUI) that are part of WV-INBRE network. Appropriate areas of research of the faculty member include but are not limited to cancer biology, chronic disease, natural products, immunology, and infectious disease. The program will be directed by Dr. David Gozal, Interim Principal Investigator of the WV-INBRE program and Dr. Gary O. Rankin, Transition Coordinator.

Programmatic goal: The purpose of these awards is to position PUIs to help develop the research laboratories of recently hired faculty whose research will strengthen the research goals of the WV-INBRE program. These goals are reflected in the program's five specific aims: "(1) build on the established multidisciplinary research network with a scientific focus to strengthen the lead and partner institutions' biomedical research expertise and infrastructure, (2) build and increase the research base and capacity at the participating institutions, (3) provide research opportunities for students from primarily undergraduate and minority serving institutions and serve as a pipeline for these students to continue in health science research careers, (4) enhance science and technology knowledge of the state's workforce, and (5) strengthen and develop stronger relationships between WV-INBRE and other NIH biomedical research capacity building programs (e.g. COBRE, IDeA-CTR and SEPA) to enhance biomedical research opportunities for West Virginia's students and participating undergraduate faculty."

Section II. Award Information

- Estimated Number of Awards in Grant Year 24 (Y24): 1-2

- Grant Year 24 ends on July 31 2025 and corresponds to Academic Year 2024-2025.
- The award period will be for the remainder of Y24. Up to \$40,000 in start-up funds may be requested.
- Indirect Cost: Applicants may also request indirect costs as detailed in the Allowable Costs section.
- **Applications must be received no later than 5 PM on April 10, 2025.**
- The awardee institution will be notified on or about April 15, 2025.
- Awarded funds must be expended within Y24. Y24 funds must be expended and ordered materials received no later than July 31, 2025. Award recipients must comply with institutional and NIH grants management policies.

Section III. Eligibility and Application Requirements

All WV-INBRE primarily undergraduate institutions are eligible to apply; this includes Bethany College, Bluefield State University, Concord University, Davis and Elkins College, Fairmont State University, Glenville State University, Salem University, Shepherd University, University of Charleston, West Liberty University, WV State University, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Wheeling University. The applicant must be a University President or his/her designee (e.g., Dean or Provost). The recent hire is expected to teach in an area of biomedical science.

WV-INBRE Thematic Considerations: The current research theme for WV-INBRE is Cellular and Molecular Biology with an emphasis on chronic disease in humans. Institutions must request support for a recently hired faculty member with research interests that are aligned with the WV-INBRE research theme.

Limit on Number of Proposals: A given institution may only submit one application in Y24.

Section IV. Application Process and Submission Information

Application Package (Due on April 10, 2025): The Faculty Start-up Application must contain the following completed sections:

- a) PHS398 face page (form page 1) with contact information including signature from institution's business/research official.
- b) PHS398 form page 2 (complete all sections including project summary, relevance, and performance sites)
- c) Detailed budget page (PHS398 form page 4) which shows supply and equipment costs for Y24.
- d) Detailed budget justification. Your budget justification should be provided on a separate page or on PHS398 form page 5.
- e) Checklist page

- f) A narrative description of the recent hire's position which includes the following information: (1) initial rank of the faculty hire, (2) department and college name where faculty will work, (3) department chair and college dean names and titles, (4) expected teaching, research and service responsibilities of the new faculty hire, (5) research and office space to be allocated to the recent hire, (6) how the recent recruit will benefit from support from the WV-INBRE program and the applicant institution, (7) and any additional start-up support the institution has or will provide to the recent hire. **The narrative description must not exceed 6 pages.**

Please use the most recent version of all PHS forms including the NIH Biographical Sketch. All PHS398 forms can be found at

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

Submission process: Please combine all components of your application into a single pdf and email the document to Gary Rankin PhD at rankin@marshall.edu

Proposal Due Date: All proposals must be received by 5PM on April 10, 2025.

Section V. Allowable Costs:

Recently Hired Faculty Start-up grant funds may only be used for (1) research supplies, (2) equipment items, (3) computers and software, and (4) core services to support the faculty member's research program. Salaries and travel are not allowable costs. Direct costs cannot exceed \$40,000.

Indirect costs are allowed for applicants at the undergraduate partner institutions and will be incorporated into the subaward agreement. Indirect costs will be based upon the applicant's negotiated indirect cost rate agreement with a cognizant federal agency in effect after August 1, 2024. If the partner institute has no negotiated rate, applicants may request the NIH de minimis rate of 15% of modified total direct costs. Award of the de minimis rate is subject to the availability of funds under WV-INBRE. Inquiries regarding allowable costs should be made to Gary Rankin (rankin@marshall.edu).

Institutional Matching Funds: Not required.

Section VI. Application Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by the WV-INBRE Administrative Core (AC).

The primary review criteria for these applications are (1) relevance of the recent hire's research interests to WV-INBRE programmatic goals, (2) the research and programmatic needs of the applicant institution, and (3) the potential for the new hire for developing a research program and obtaining grant funding from the WV-INBRE program. The AC will then submit the review panel recommendations to the WV-INBRE External Advisory Committee (EAC) for final approval.

Section VII. Award Administration Information

The Recently Hired Faculty Start-up grant award cannot exceed \$40,000 (direct costs). We expect to notify all applicant institutions around April 15, 2025. All Y24 funds must be expended no later than July 31, 2025. Grant recipients must follow institutional regulations regarding supply and equipment purchases and receipt deadlines. Questions about the application process (e.g., eligible applications, allowable costs, narrative requirements) should be addressed to Gary Rankin (rankin@marshall.edu).

Section VIII. WV-INBRE Program Contacts

WV-INBRE Program Officers:

Gary Rankin, PhD, WV-INBRE Transition Coordinator, 304-696-7313,
rankin@marshall.edu

Stan Hileman, PhD, WV-INBRE, Program Coordinator, 304-319-2254,
shileman@hsc.wvu.edu

Section IX. Notifications

WV-INBRE will notify the applicant and the applicant's office of sponsored programs (or equivalent) of any awards. Applicants whose proposals are declined for funding will be advised as promptly as possible.