LEGORRETA CANCER CENTER AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH GRANT (ACS-IRG)
2026/2027 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Purpose

The Purpose of the Cancer Center at Brown University's ACS-IRG Grant Program is to give small grants to beginning cancer research investigators who do not have national peer-reviewed research grant support so they can obtain preliminary results that will enable them to compete successfully for national research grants.

The Purposes of the ACS-IRG Pilot Projects Grants are to:

1. Support the development of beginning investigators to conduct independent cancer research;
2. Foster direct relationships between funded institutions and the local American Cancer Society.

Deadlines

Date of Announcement	November 16, 2026
Due Date of Preliminary Applications	December 11, 2026
Notification of Invitation to Apply	December 18, 2026
Due Date of Full Applications	January 18, 2026
Earliest Decision Date	February 28, 2027
Start Date	March 1, 2027

Up to three projects will be awarded a maximum of $40,000 (direct cost only) for one year. A one-time competitive renewal for an additional year of funding is possible.

Eligibility

1. IRG pilot project grants are intended to support independent, self-directed investigators early in their careers, who have research facilities, resources, or space to conduct independent research.
2. These individuals (usually assistant professors or equivalent) must be eligible to apply for independent national competitive research grants but may not currently hold such a grant.
3. Applicants for pilot project grants should be within six years of their first independent research or faculty appointment. Support of senior investigators or postdoctoral fellows is not permitted.
4. Funds are available to support cancer-related proposals from any school, college, or department within Brown University and its academic affiliated hospitals.
5. Recipients of IRG pilot project grants are not required to be U.S. citizens. However, any applicant who is not a U.S. citizen must hold a visa that will allow them to remain in the U.S. long enough to complete the IRG pilot project. support cancer-related proposals from any health sciences school, college, or department within the institution.

Amount

Up to three projects will be awarded a maximum of $40,000 (direct cost only) for one year. A one-time competitive renewal for an additional year of funding is possible.

Preliminary Applications

Deadline for submission of preliminary application is December 11, 2026 end of the day (24:00 hours)

Submission Guidelines

Application Forms

1. Access to full application form required by the ACS-IRG funding mechanism can be found on the Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University website or requested by email from sasha_laziuk@brown.edu
2. The format for all documents is Arial 11-point font, margins no less than 0.5, and single-spaced text must have a space between paragraphs.
3. Preliminary Applications must be submitted by email to sasha_laziuk@brown.edu

Preliminary Applications

Interested applicants are required to submit a 2-pages Preliminary Application and one-page Research Description (no budget required for this step):

- Biographical Information
- Verification of Applicant Eligibility
- Education
- Appointments
- Other Research Support
- Publications (could use additional pages if needed)

Description of Research Proposed (one page)

- Background
- Objective/Hypothesis
- Specific Aims
- Study Design
- Cancer Relevance

Review Criteria

Significance: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field. If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions contribute to the control of cancer or benefit individuals with cancer

Investigator(s): Are the PD(s)/PI(s), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? Does the investigator have appropriate experience and training?

Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Does the applicant note weaknesses in the rigor of prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? Will the strategy establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?

Environment: Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

Cancer Relevance: How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions contribute to the control of cancer or benefit individuals with cancer. Is this project likely to lead to independent funding of the investigator?

Other: Have protections of human subjects, vertebrate animals, inclusion, and biohazards been adequately addressed.