



Indiana University Health



*Request for Applications*

## **Indiana University Health Values Fund Grant Pilot & Feasibility Program - Research**

a joint initiative between

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH

&

INDIANA CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

**FULL SUBMISSION DUE: Monday, December 1, 2025 by 11:59pm**

**NOTE THAT IF THIS FUNDING IS AWARDED to IU, IT IS CONSIDERED EXTERNAL FUNDING AND THE APPLICATION MUST BE ROUTED THROUGH ORA PRIOR TO UPLOADING**

*Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's grants management software WebCAMP. Please allow enough time to be familiar with a new system.*

*<https://indianactsi.org/funding/opportunities/funding-grants/>*

*The WebCAMP user's guide is also available under the funding announcement here:*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The *Indiana University Health Values Fund Pilot & Feasibility Program – Research* supports early-career investigators in developing independent research careers and securing extramural funding, while advancing IU Health values. It funds scientifically meritorious and medically sound ***pilot clinical trial*** research that benefits IU Health patients and reflects the following core values:

- **Purpose:** We work to do good in the lives of all others
- **Excellence:** We do our best at all times and in new ways
- **Compassion:** We treat all people with respect, empathy and kindness
- **Team:** We count on and care for each other

*To be funded by this program, applications must demonstrate how the proposed research supports one or more of these values, how the research potentially benefits patients in the Indiana University Health system AND include a pilot clinical trial.*

Applications to this program are **limited to \$150,000** over a three **(3) year duration**, with a **\$50,000 per year maximum**.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must be employees of Indiana University Health at any IU Health system entity (i.e. sleep labs, clinics, hospitals or physicians with medical staff privileges); other health professionals with medical staff privileges or hold a special assignment at any IU Health hospital are eligible. Post-Doctoral students are ineligible to apply to this grant program.

The Values Fund for Research is primarily directed at **new and early-stage investigators (per NIH definition) in the process of establishing research careers. To be eligible, applicants must fit the following criteria:**

- 1) Are within ten (10) years of their graduation from last period of training ***or*** terminal degree at the time of the submission.
- 2) Have held no more than one small grant (less than \$100,000) for which they were the Principal Investigator or Lead. Co-PI on other projects won't count toward this requirement. *It is acceptable for applicants to hold early career training grants (e.g. NIH K08, K23).*
- 3) Hold an academic rank of Assistant Professor or within first two years as an Associate Professor. ***(For IUSM faculty to be eligible)***

### **Clinical Trial Requirement:**

It is expected that all applications will include at least one specific aim that proposes a pilot clinical trial (as ***defined by the NIH***), to generate the preliminary data necessary to support an extramural application or demonstration of primary investigator

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competency to create or be selected as a site PI for a well-powered trial. Specifically, the proposed research must meet all four of the following criteria:

1. Involves human participants
2. Participants are prospectively assigned to an intervention
3. Designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants
4. Evaluates a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome

### **GRANTEE EXPECTATIONS**

Progress reports will be requested annually during the funding period and then for five years annually thereafter, including reports on publications, presentations, new awards and job promotions resulting from this project will be made available to the grantor. These follow-up reports allow IU Health to evaluate the success of the Health Values program.

**NIH Salary cap applies to this proposal. The 2025 Executive Level II salary cap is \$225,700.**

Any in-kind support you have for the project must be listed in the budget pages; in-kind support will not reduce your award.

Applicants must list a mentor. In many cases, the mentor will be an IU faculty member but an external mentor is allowable. Compensation for mentors is not within the scope of the budget. A letter of support from the mentor acknowledging that he/she has read the application and will assist with career development during the length of the project (3 years).

A letter of support from your Department Chair is also required. It must indicate the applicant has protected time and resources specifically for the proposed project.

### **SUBMISSION PROCEDURES**

**Applicants must use the application forms provided and specified on the IU Health Grants Administration page or the Indiana CTSI website.**

Application forms can be accessed:

- From Academic Affairs at [ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org](mailto:ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org)
- From the [Indiana CTSI website](#)

Applications must be submitted by using the [Start a Submission link](#) found on the Indiana CTSI website

Applicants who are IU employees need to route their application through the IU Office of Research Administration (IU-ORA) before submitting it to the Indiana CTSI grant system website.

Applicants who are IU Health employees, but are including salaries of IU personnel, also need to route their application through the IU Office of Research Administration (IU-ORA) before submitting it to the Indiana CTSI grant system website.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- To be considered for funding, projects must address a specific research question.
- Applicants should clearly write and explain in the proposal how being awarded might advance their career development and how the grant study/project will benefit patients care at IU Health.
- Please read the IU Health Administrative Policies regarding: Conflicts of Interests, Misconduct in Science and Conflicts of Interest in Research to ensure you are in compliance with the policies. You can find these policies in Policy Stat.
- An investigator may submit only one Values Fund application to each round of competition in which he or she is the Lead PI.
- If the applicant is awarded funding from another source, IU Health Academic Affairs should be notified at [ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org](mailto:ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org).
- In general, grant funds should not be used for food or the purchase of laptop computers. Travel within the US for training needed for the research is allowable as long as it is the most cost-effective way to get the training. Travel had been denied in the instructions due to past participants using extra funds to go to conferences that were not required for the project. No international travel is allowed.
- While **Letters of Support (LOS)** from both the **mentor** and **department chair** are required, additional letters may be included as needed to demonstrate institutional readiness, collaborative support, or to strengthen the overall proposal.
- Institutional Review Board (IRB), and/or Institutional Animal Control Utilization Committee (IACUC) approval, if required, must be completed prior to the project start. If you cannot obtain IRB/IACUC approval for your project prior to the release of funds you must immediately notify IU Health Academic Affairs at [ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org](mailto:ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org)

### **PROPOSAL FORMAT**

Applications should be single spaced on 8 ½ x 11 paper with at least 0.5 inch margins and not to exceed **12 pages, including figures and tables**. Type size must be clear and readily legible and at least 11 point font.

*Please Note: Applications not following the formatting guidelines may be excluded from review.*

Applications will follow this sequence:

**Page 1,2** **Face page:** Specifies the title of the proposal, principal investigator and his/her institutional affiliation, where work will be performed, and the total budget. Signature of the Institutional Officer signifies approval and support of the time and effort specified by the PI on the application.

Indicate one of the following categories that best describes your research:

- Translational, Clinical, or Behavioral research

**Page 3** **Project Summary/Abstract:** Provide a brief (one paragraph) summary of your project. The information in the summary will be used as a project description to be posted on the IU Health website should the project be selected for funding. Proprietary information should not be included in the summary, since the website posting will be publicly accessible.

**Pages 4-6** **Budget pages:** Lists the direct costs for all personnel. Supplies and other costs must relate directly to performance of the project. Travel should be limited to the amount necessary to achieve the aims of the project. All costs should be specifically justified (limit justification to 1/2 page for each budget year).

**Budget Restrictions:**

- There is a maximum \$50,000 per year or up to a maximum of \$150,000 over three (3) years.
- The project period must have a start date of **July 1, 2026** or after.
- Facilities and Administrative costs, or indirect costs are not allowed.
- The Values Fund does not support infrastructure projects.
- Grant funding period cannot exceed 36 months.
- Travel beyond what is necessary for the performance of the project will require a detailed justification.
- In general, grant funds should not be used for any extraneous travel, food or the purchase of laptop computers.
- Supplies and other costs must relate directly to performance of the project.

**Page 7-12** **Please use this space to elaborate on the following:**

**Specific Aims:**

State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

**Research Strategy:**

The **Research Strategy** should ***not exceed 5 pages*** and should address the project period and funding requested, show the scope of the overall project and justify how the proposed project will aid in advancing IU Health Values. It is to the applicant's advantage to focus and establish priorities for

the proposed project period. These priorities should be made clear in all relevant sections of the Research Strategy.

Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order and using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – **Significance, Innovation, Approach**. Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy section and provide the full reference in the Bibliography and References Cited section.

**A. Significance:**

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

**B. Innovation:**

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

**C. Approach:**

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results. Include how

the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.

- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Explain how relevant biological variables, such as sex, are factored into research designs and analyses for studies in vertebrate animals and humans. For example, strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations, must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.
- Describe (a) the specific population of human subjects involved (e.g., patients referred by local cardiologists, students participating in collegiate organizations, volunteers from First Baptist Church, etc.), including the number of subjects and salient characteristics such as age range, gender, etc. (b) inclusion/exclusion criteria, and (c) how they will be recruited (e.g., by letter, oral presentation, advertising). Submit as appendices the following wherever relevant: scripts for person-to-person solicitation, and/or copies of newspaper ads, fliers, notices, etc. Include only risks of more than negligible probability and/or severity including possible delayed effects. Finally, include any precautions that will be taken to avoid such risks (including breeches of confidentiality), and actions to be taken if these risks materialize. (c) Describe any inducement or compensation for subject participation.
- Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

*If an applicant has multiple Specific Aims, then the applicant may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for each Specific Aim individually, or may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for all of the Specific Aims collectively.*

\*Include preliminary studies (if available), data, and/or experience pertinent to this application in one of the above mentioned sections.

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**Page 13: Future Directions:** Briefly describe planned next steps for the data from this project (e.g. collaboration with another PI; an R type grant; a foundation grant, etc.)

**Additional Required Pages (not included in main text total), which would be inserted following PAGE 13 in the application, in the order below:**

**Prior Submission (up to 1 page):** If you have previously submitted this project to the IU Health Values Fund or Grand Challenge mechanism you must address how this proposal has been revised / is different from the previously submitted application.

**Facilities (1 page):** Describe the facilities available for this project including laboratories, clinical resources, office space, animal quarters, etc. List major items of equipment available for this work.

**Collaborative Arrangements (1/2 page):** If the proposed project requires collaboration of the PI with other investigators, describe the collaboration and provide evidence to assure the reviewers that the other collaborators agree to the arrangements (letters of support in the appendix).

**References (no limit)**

**Biographical sketches (a format is included in the application):** Principal investigator and any senior / key personnel in newly published NIH format (5-page maximum for each individual). <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-032.html>

**Other Support (a format is included in the application):** Principal investigator and any key personnel that are relevant to the proposed project; 3- page maximum for each individual.

Include a letter from the mentor saying they have read and application and have advised the applicant any suggestions for craftsmanship and research design.

**Additional Appendices:** These are allowed and may contain such items as letters of agreement from collaborators or additional scientific materials.

## **REVIEW PROCESS:**

Application review will be completed by a peer review committee. An effort will be made to find reviewers who have expertise in the project's area of interest; however, this is not always possible in highly specialized areas.

Requests for funds will be critiqued on the following items:

\*The strength of the research

\*How well the proposed research fits into high priorities of this Pilot and Feasibility funding mechanism

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After the review committee makes its recommendation, it will be submitted to the Indiana University Health Board committees on Research & Education and Values, Ethics, Social Responsibility & Pastoral Services for final review and approval. The number, size and scope of the final awards will be determined by the Indiana University Health Board committees on Research & Education and Values, Ethics, Social Responsibility & Pastoral Services.

### **POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

1. All awards will be monitored for progress by the IU Health Academic Affairs Office as required by the grant agreement. Grant agreements will be sent out for the PI's signature after the awards are approved (mid-June timeframe) and must be returned no later than 30 days to IU Health Academic Affairs (Email: [ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org](mailto:ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org)) afterwards by the PI. (See Grantee Expectations section for information on progress report timeline).
2. Recipients are to acknowledge Indiana University Health and the Indiana CTSI support in any presentation or publication of work funded by an IU Health Values Fund for Research Award as follows:

*“This [(publication was made possible) (project was supported), or (project was funded)], in part, with support by the Board of Directors of the Indiana University Health Values Fund for Research Award and in part, with support from the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute funded, in part by Grant Number UM1TR004402 from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, Clinical and Translational Sciences Award.”*

### **CONTACTS**

Questions regarding financial issues related to budgeting and eligibility should be directed to the IU Health Academic Affairs at: [ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org](mailto:ValuesFundRE@iuhealth.org) .

Questions regarding scope or review of the proposal should be directed to the Indiana CTSI: [judrisco@iu.edu](mailto:judrisco@iu.edu)