

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant
Seed Grant Program
2025 Request for Applications

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (FPBCC) is soliciting applications for American Cancer Society-supported seed grants. The American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS IRG) is a block grant that allows the FPBCC to award funding to early-career, independent investigators who do not have current national peer-reviewed research grant support. This seed grant program is intended to support junior faculty in initiating cancer research projects, so they can generate preliminary results that will enable them to compete successfully for national funding in all areas of cancer research.

ELIGIBILITY

- University of Nebraska investigators at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent, who are eligible to apply for independent national competitive research grants but do not hold an NIH R01-equivalent grant.
- The investigator must be within six years of their first independent faculty appointment and have a commitment from their institution for salary, space, and appropriate research resources.
- If not a United States citizen, noncitizen national, or permanent resident, an applicant must have a visa that will allow them to remain in the U.S. throughout the grant period and long enough to fulfill all obligations of the award.
- Previous recipients of FPBCC ACS IRG seed grants are ineligible to apply.
- Applicants from populations that are underrepresented in the U.S. biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences research enterprise are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. Additionally, the American Cancer Society has made targeted supplemental funding available via this mechanism for members of underrepresented populations.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

- One-year seed grants of up to \$60,000 are available. Up to four awards will be made.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS

- Investigators are limited to one application.
- The requested project budget must be in increments of \$5,000, and total budget requests may not exceed \$60,000. Below is a table listing allowable and unallowable expenditures, per ACS IRG regulations:

Expenditures Allowed	Expenditures Not Allowed
[^] Research supplies and animal maintenance [^] Technical assistance [^] Domestic travel when necessary to carry out the proposed research program [^] Publication costs, including reprints [^] Costs of computer time [^] Special fees (pathology, photography, etc.) [^] Stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral assistants if their role is to promote and sustain the project presented by the junior faculty member [^] Equipment costing less than \$2,000 (<i>Special justification is necessary for items exceeding this amount.</i>) [^] Registration fees at scientific meetings	[^] Foreign travel (<i>Special consideration given for attendance at scientific meetings held in Canada.</i>) [^] Secretarial/administrative salaries [^] Membership dues [^] Student tuition and fees [^] Books and periodicals [^] Office and laboratory furniture [^] Office equipment and supplies [^] Rental of office or laboratory space [^] Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories [^] Recruiting and relocation expenses [^] Non-medical services to patients (<i>Travel to a clinical site or patient incentives are allowable.</i>) [^] Salary of principal investigator [^] Honoraria and travel expenses for visiting lecturers [^] Indirect costs

- **Regulatory Approvals:**
 - For projects involving human subjects, vertebrate animals, and/or select agents research, prior IRB, IACUC, and/or IBC approval is not required at the time of application submission. However, it is expected that the appropriate protocols will be submitted so approval is imminent at the anticipated project start date. All applicable institutional approvals must be in place before award funds can be released. *IRB protocols must be submitted for review within 30 days of notice of*

award and final IRB approval provided to Cancer Center administration within 60 days of NoA.

- For projects involving cancer studies being conducted at UNMC, the relevant protocols must be submitted simultaneously to the IRB and to the FPBCC Scientific Review Committee (SRC). Contact the FPBCC Protocol Review and Monitoring System (PRMS) office at 402-559-4232 with questions regarding this process.

APPLICATION FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

Required Application Components:

1. **Application completed and uploaded in InfoReady**
2. **Description of Proposed Research** (Project Title, Scientific Abstract (500-word limit), Lay Abstract (500-word limit))
3. **Research Plan** A. Specific Aims (1-page limit); B. Background Significance and Innovation, C. Preliminary Studies (if applicable), D. Approach (6-page limit)
4. **References**
5. **Detailed Budget** (must use [PHS 398 Form Page 4](#) budget template)
6. **Budget Justification**
7. **NIH Biosketch** for the Principal Investigator (5-page limit)
8. **Other Research Support** for the Principal Investigator
Note: Other Support demonstrates active and pending support; the purpose of this document is to allow for assessment of an investigator's overall research commitment and to identify any overlap with existing projects.
9. **Underrepresented Populations form**

General Formatting Requirements: Minimum 0.5-inch margins and Arial 11-point font are required. (Smaller type size may be used for figures and legends.)

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINE:

All applications must be submitted in [InfoReady](#) no later than **11:59 PM CT on Monday, November 17, 2025**. Proposals not adhering to the page limitations, formatting requirements, and/or application deadline will not be reviewed. Final funding decisions are expected to be made in December 2025; investigators will be notified at that time.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by members of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center ACS IRG Review Committee, which includes faculty representing a majority of UNMC departments that are involved in various aspects of cancer research. These individuals have been asked to serve on the Review Committee based on their cancer research focus and expertise, home department, and academic rank to ensure that the Committee has adequate representation and input from an appropriate cross-section of the NU cancer research community.

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

- Reviewers will be instructed to consider scientific merit, innovation, and feasibility in the application scoring criteria.
- Other review factors that will be considered include appropriateness of the project for the ACS IRG seed grant mechanism, as well as the likelihood of future research productivity of the investigator.
- The FPBCC has a special interest in submissions that address the following **Special Areas of Emphasis (SAEs)**. The purpose of identifying these SAEs is to encourage submissions in these focus areas:
 1. **Community-Engaged Research:** The FPBCC and its Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) are charged with the development of research that incorporates the input of and directly serves the needs of the population within our catchment area, which includes the entire state of Nebraska. Projects demonstrating evidence of interaction with the FPBCC COE are a funding priority. Refer to the [COE webpage](#) for additional information and resources. *Significant preference will be given to submissions that involve the community in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the research and that PIs are strongly encouraged to work with the Associate Director of COE, Dr. Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway (swatanabe@unmc.edu), to facilitate community interactions.*
 2. **Priority Cancers:** The FPBCC COE has identified several cancers that pose significant incidence, morbidity and/or mortality burdens and disparities in Nebraska and represent important opportunities to improve cancer outcomes for our catchment population. Projects focusing on the following cancers will be prioritized for funding:

- Sites for comprehensive growth: **Brain, Breast, GI (Colorectal and Pancreas), Lung, and Prostate**
- Sites for additional growth: **Heme Malignancies and Melanoma**

3. Strategic Thematic Areas: The FPBCC is strategically focused on the following four transcenter research themes and applications relating to these themes are strongly encouraged:

- **Rural and Frontier Health**
- **Obesity and Nutrition**
- **Novel Cancer Therapeutic Interventions**
- **Precision Prevention and Medicine**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions regarding this funding opportunity, please contact Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Administration at buffettcancercenter@unmc.edu.