

Bipolar Disorder Seed Grants for Faculty

The Harvard Brain Science Initiative (HBI) is pleased to announce a new call for proposals for the [HBI Bipolar Disorder Seed Grant Program](#), intended to support research relevant to the basic understanding and treatment of this disorder.

Supported by generous gifts from the Dauten Family Foundation and Sandra Lee Chen and Sidney Chen, this program seeks innovative, visionary projects with new ideas and approaches that may not attract funding from conventional sources. Basic, translational and clinical research addressing fundamental questions about the root causes of bipolar disorder, its underlying biological mechanisms, genetics, and the development of novel treatment strategies can be supported through this program.

Proposals should be focused on early-stage projects, seeding new lines of inquiry that may lead to follow-on funding from NIH and other external funding sources, rather than continuing established projects that have already received other funding.

Please note, funded investigators as well as members of their laboratories will be asked to participate in an annual symposium. Investigators may also be asked to serve as reviewers in future rounds of HBI seed grant programs.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members at the assistant professor level or higher at Harvard University or its affiliated hospitals as of July 1, 2026.
- Collaborations with tenured or tenure-track faculty at other Boston-area academic institutions are encouraged.
- Projects focused on the genetics of bipolar disorder or testing hypotheses that arise from genetic analyses of bipolar disorder are encouraged.
- Faculty may only be PIs on one grant application, individual or collaborative. For collaborative proposals, please be sure to list all PI names on the cover page.
- Faculty who received grants in the last cycle (2025-2027 grants) are **not** eligible to apply in this round. Other past grant recipients are welcome to submit applications for new projects.

- When all other factors are equal, preference will be given to early career PIs and to faculty who have not received any grants from this program to date.

AWARD INFORMATION

- Awards will be made in amounts of **\$200,000 total (\$100,000/year for two years)**
- We anticipate awarding 8 grants this year.
- More information on current awardees is available [here](#).

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Letters of Intent (LOIs), required, are due **Friday Feb 6th, 2026**
Note that LOIs are reviewed on a rolling basis. We can confirm your eligibility and send you a link to the application portal earlier if you submit your LOI earlier.
- Full proposals due **Friday March 6th, 2026**
- Selections will be made in May
- Grants will start July 1st or later

Please note that we are unable to provide extensions.

Letters of intent, due Friday Feb 6th:

Letters of intent are required for us to confirm your eligibility as an applicant, make sure the proposed work fits our guidelines as a seed project, and develop an appropriately-sized review committee.

- [Click here to fill out the LOI form.](#)
- This form will ask for your name, title, contact info and lab address, as well as that of any co-PIs, followed by your proposal title and an abstract of 250 words or fewer.
- Please be sure to list the names of all PIs involved, remembering that faculty may only be PIs on one grant application, individual or collaborative.

You will receive an auto-confirmation of your submission from Qualtrics right away. If you don't receive that, please check in with us before the LOI deadline has passed.

We will send an email confirming your eligibility to apply within one week. Please check back if you do not hear from us in this timeframe.

Full research proposals, due Friday March 6th, should include:

Once your eligibility is confirmed, you will receive a link to the application portal. Please create a PDF file to upload there with the following pieces, in the following order and with PI name(s) in footer of each page:

- **Research Plan**, three pages or less, 11-point Arial font, with one-inch margins, inclusive of any figures and references.
- **NIH Biosketch of PI(s)**
- **Budget:** Project awards will be made in amounts of \$200,000 total (\$100,000 per year for two years). Indirect costs must be budgeted within this award amount and are capped at a maximum rate of 15%
 - Use the PHS 398 Detailed Budget (NIH Form Page 4) for each budget period.
Template found here: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
 - If a collaborative project is proposed, please include separate budget pages for each PI, as Harvard will make separate awards to each collaborator.
 - **Affiliated Hospital or Other Non-Harvard Investigator Projects:**
If a project or collaboration outside of Harvard University is planned, the application must include a letter of support signed by an institution's Authorized Organizational Representative confirming the intent to participate in the project. (Please note that affiliated hospital labs are considered non-Harvard for this purpose, as the hospital is a separate financial institution.)
 - For proposals selected for funding, more detailed budget information may be requested prior to the award being made. If applicable, additional documentation from non-Harvard investigators will be required prior to award (Statement of Intent signed by Institutional Official, statement of work, detailed budget and budget justification).

- **Current and pending support**

- This list should include sponsor name, title of project, award number if known, project period dates, and a brief description of each project. If relevant, a brief overlap statement should also be provided in this section. NIH Other Support formatting is acceptable.

Before submitting, please save your PDF with **PI Last Name_First Name** as file name.

If there are multiple PIs, please save as **Last Name_First Name et al.** using the name of the person submitting the proposal.

You will receive an auto-confirmation of your submission from Qualtrics right away. If you don't receive that, please check in with us before the application deadline has passed.

Within three business days you will also receive a manual email from HBI_Grants@harvard.edu confirming your application is complete. Please check back if you do not hear from us in this timeframe.

Questions?

Please email Parizad Bilimoria at HBI_Grants@harvard.edu.