
2026 NARSAD DISTINGUISHED INVESTIGATOR GRANT

Requirements & Application Guidelines

Application deadline: Thursday, September 25, 2025 (11:59 p.m. Eastern)

Apply at: <http://bbrfoundation.org/DI>

The Brain & Behavior Research Foundation is the world's largest private funder of mental health research grants. BBRF awards research grants to develop improved treatments, cures, and methods of prevention for mental illness. **The Foundation's Distinguished Investigator Grant Program offers up to \$100,000 for a one-year period** and is intended for established scientists who maintain peer reviewed competitively funded scientific programs. Extensions to the grant will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

BBRF funds the most innovative ideas in neuroscience and psychiatry to better understand the causes and develop new ways to effectively treat brain and behavior disorders. These illnesses include addiction, ADHD, anxiety, autism, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, depression, eating disorders, OCD, PTSD, schizophrenia, as well as research in suicide prevention. BBRF's *Distinguished Investigator Grant* program supports basic and/or clinical investigators and is designed to stimulate the development of key personnel and resources, to facilitate the rapid initiation of research in innovative areas, and to enable investigators to create unique scientific opportunities.

Trans-diagnostic designs involving several disorders are welcome. Some disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease are supported by BBRF but only if primary psychiatric disorders listed above are included in the research design and the proposal emphasizes the work's impact on our understanding of brain and behavior disorders.

The Foundation is committed to spending its entire income for direct support of research. Operational expenses are generously underwritten and covered by separate Foundation Grants. Administrative cost of review is small. Reviewers are members of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Scientific Council, and volunteer their time to evaluate applications; therefore, **no feedback can be provided to applicants**.

**** An automatic e-mail is generated upon submission of the electronic application. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact grants@bbrfoundation.org.**

**** Applications must be submitted electronically through the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation website (<http://bbrfoundation.org/DI>) Faxed, emailed, or mailed applications will NOT be accepted.**

AWARD REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Applicants must be a **full professor** (or equivalent) and maintain peer-reviewed competitively funded scientific programs.
- 2) Applicants **may not** receive the award for a second time.
- 3) **Funding is for one year and is up to \$100,000.** Funding of institutional **overhead at an 8% rate** (excluding equipment) is allowed and overhead must be included within the total budget request which **may not** exceed \$100,000. Equipment, salary, and technical support are typical budget requests, but the Foundation wishes applicants to identify requirements specific to their research and setting.

- 4) Applications must be **completed and submitted online by Thursday, September 25, 2025 (11:59 p.m. ET)**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- 5) Requests for further information will be made to selected investigators.
- 6) Notification of awards will be mailed by March 2026. It is the Foundation's policy to provide no feedback on applications, other than funding notification.

The application should enable reviewers to determine eligibility; judge that independence and productivity are established; establish the relevance of the proposal to the Foundation's mission; and estimate the originality and scientific promise of the investigator.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applications must be submitted electronically via the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation's website as **a single, combined electronic document (PDF), be brief, typed in a standard font no smaller than 11pt., with 1" margins**. Please label each section accordingly (a separate page for each) and include applicant's full name in the upper right corner in the following order:

Section B through F may be up to one page per section.

A. Face Sheet (2 pages below)

- B. One page description of the scientific problem, hypotheses, and plan.
- C. List key personnel, including yourself, engaged on the project, to include: Name, Degree/Position, Title & Role in Project, Department (*Attach NIH biographical sketches for yourself and no more than one other key person—do not exceed 5 pages for the principal investigator and 2 pages for anyone else).
- D. Detailed 12-month budget with the following information: Personnel Name, Role, Percent (%) Effort, Salary, Fringe, Total per Person; Consultant Costs (Specify); Equipment (Itemize); Supplies (Itemize by category); Travel (Specify); Other Expenses; Total Costs.
- E. Other Support: A list of all support including why this request does not overlap with other available sources.
- F. Resources and Environment: Describe clinical or laboratory resources in sufficient detail to establish feasibility of proposed project.

Sections G through L should be included **within four pages. Applications that exceed 4 pages will not be reviewed.**

- G. Background
- H. Specific Aims
- I. Preliminary Results (if available)
- J. Methods of Procedure
- K. Scientific Significance and Relevance for BBRF Mission
- L. References

NOTES:

- ** It should be understood that the BBRF Distinguished Investigator Grant is **highly competitive**. It is expected that only 10 will be funded.
- ** IRB/IACUC approval for human and animal subjects will need to be verified at the **time of the Award**, as will institutional acceptance of the terms of the Award.
- ** In fairness to all applicants, **supplemental material** (i.e., letters of reference/support, appendices) will **NOT** be considered in the review process. Additionally, any material **exceeding the specified length will be discarded**.

The Brain & Behavior Research Foundation is the largest non-governmental, donor-supported organization that distributes funds for brain and behavior disorder research. The Foundation's BBRF Distinguished Investigator Grant Program offers up to \$100,000 for a one-year period and is intended for established scientists who maintain peer reviewed competitively funded scientific programs.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Contact Information *(Please fill out all relevant information below):*

Principal Investigator *(Full Name):*

Position Title *(E.g. Full Professor or equivalent):*

Institution *(E.g. Columbia University):*

Institutional Affiliations:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Please identify all BBRF Scientific Council Members who will be in conflict with your application *(E.g. collaborators, same institution etc.):*

*Completed list of members can be found [HERE](#). If there are no conflicts, please list none.

Distinguished Investigator Grant (*Continued*)

APPLICATION & AREA OF STUDY INFORMATION

The BBRF Distinguished Investigator Grant program supports basic and/or clinical investigator. However, research must be relevant to addiction, ADHD, anxiety, autism, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, depression, eating disorders, OCD, PTSD, schizophrenia, as well as research in suicide prevention.

Area of Study & Research Methods (Please list up to 8 Key Words):

Trans-diagnostic designs involving several disorders are welcome. Some disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease are supported by BBRF but only if primary psychiatric disorders listed above are included in the research design and the proposal emphasizes the work's impact on our understanding of brain and behavior disorders. Please clarify and explain how your project and, if appropriate, the study population fit the Foundation's mission. **(250-word limit):**

Budget Requirement - Please find more information on Award Requirement #3

Total Budget Request (including overhead 8% Maximum, not to exceed \$100,000.00 USD):

Overhead Total (*Excluding Equipment*):

Grants & Contracts/Sponsored Research Office: Institutional Signature (*signifies the applicant's institution's acceptance and acknowledgment of these guidelines*):