

# Breast Cancer Alliance (BCA)

How To Apply

## **Exceptional Project Grants (see FAQs below)**

Breast Cancer Alliance invites clinical doctors and research scientists at any stage of their careers, including post docs, whose current proposal is focused on breast cancer, to apply for an Exceptional Project Grant. This award recognizes creative, unique and innovative research and is open to applicants at institutions in the contiguous United States. No for-profit institutions may apply. This is a one-year grant for a total of \$100,000.

The term of the Exceptional Project Grant is **one year**, beginning in March 2026. **Prior to submission of a formal grant proposal, BCA requires a Letter of Intent (LOI) and a separate CV that must be completed using the online form and must have been submitted at the end of March.** The LOI must contain the applicant's name, job title and institution, contact information, project title and hypothesis, outline the research aim(s) and methods, and include a brief discussion of the project's potential impact. The CV should be in the current NIH biosketch format. The grant provides **salary support** and **project costs** for a total of **\$100,000** (distributed over the one-year period as noted above.) Indirect costs, which are included in the \$100,000 award, must be limited to 8% of total direct costs.

Applicants will be informed by **mid-May 2025** whether they have been invited to proceed with a formal application. Researchers should coordinate with their institutions, as **BCA will accept a maximum of ONLY TWO LOIs PER INSTITUTION (YIG or XP). References for the LOI are not required.**

**Full applications for the Exceptional Project Grant are due mid-July 2025 and are by invitation only, and can be accessed [here](#).** An Independent External Review Committee reviews and evaluates the applications. Based on their results and subsequent review by the Grants Committee, recommendations will be made to the BCA Board for final approval. Applicants will be notified **by mid-February 2025** of the decision regarding their proposals. Winners must submit a midterm report by August 31, 2026 and a final report within 60 days of February 28, 2028. Failure to submit the midterm report will result in forfeiture of any remaining grant funds. A virtual site visit with BCA staff and supporters is also required.

**For questions about the application process email [researchapplications@breastcanceralliance.org](mailto:researchapplications@breastcanceralliance.org)**

**For contract questions email [researchcontracts@breastcanceralliance.org](mailto:researchcontracts@breastcanceralliance.org)**

**For general questions concerning anything NOT covered in our FAQ's below, email [researchgrants@breastcanceralliance.org](mailto:researchgrants@breastcanceralliance.org)**

**\*\*You may only submit an LOI for each proposal for either an Exceptional Project Grant or a Young Investigator Grant. It is your choice as to which application best suits your experience.**

## **Young Investigator Grants (see FAQs below)**

To encourage a commitment to breast cancer research, Breast Cancer Alliance invites clinical doctors and research scientists who are in the early stages of their careers, including post docs, whose current proposal is focused on breast cancer, to apply for funding for the Young Investigator Grant. This grant is open to applicants at institutions in the contiguous United States. No for-profit institutions may apply. This is a two-year grant for a total of \$125,000, with half the grant award being paid out each year.

Applicants for the 2026 award must (i) not have held a tenure track faculty or tenure track research position for more than four years following completion of their training, as of March 1, 2026; (ii) not have been or are not a principal investigator on an NIH R01 or equivalent national/international non-mentored award as of March 1, 2026;

and (iii) dedicate at least 50% of their work effort to research. **This grant is intended to help advance the careers of young researchers who do not yet have their own major grant support but who design and conduct their own independent research projects.**

The term of the Young Investigator Grant is **two years**, beginning in March 2026. The grant provides **salary support** and **project costs** for a total of **\$125,000** (distributed over the two-year period as noted above.) Indirect costs, which are included in the \$125,000 award, must be limited to 8% of total direct costs.

**Prior to submission of a formal grant proposal, BCA requires a Letter of Intent (LOI) and a separate CV that must be completed using the online form and must have been submitted by the end of March 2025.** The LOI must contain the applicant's name, job title and institution at the top of the page, and the applicant's contact information. The document should state the project title and hypothesis, outline the research aim(s) and methods, and include a brief discussion of the project's potential impact. The CV should be in the current NIH biosketch format.

Applicants will be informed by **mid-May 2025** whether they have been invited to proceed with a formal application. Researchers should coordinate with their institutions, as **BCA will accept a maximum of ONLY TWO LOIs PER INSTITUTION (YIG or XP.) References for the LOI are not required.**

**Full applications for the Young Investigator Grant are due mid-July 2025 and are by invitation only and can be accessed [here](#).** An Independent External Review Committee reviews and evaluates the applications. Based on their results and subsequent review by the Grants Committee, recommendations will be made to the BCA Board for final approval. Applicants will be notified **by mid-February 2026** of the decision regarding their proposals. Winners must submit a midterm report by February 28, 2027 and a final report within 60 days of February 28, 2028. Failure to submit the midterm report will result in forfeiture of any remaining grant funds. A virtual site visit with BCA staff and supporters is also required.

**For questions about the application process email [researchapplications@breastcanceralliance.org](mailto:researchapplications@breastcanceralliance.org)**

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**\*\*You may only submit an LOI for each proposal for either an Exceptional Project Grant or a Young Investigator Grant. It is your choice as to which application best suits your experience.**

Internal LOI's due February 4th by 5pm MST

Apply here