



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS for 2024-2025 GRANTS Faculty Applicants (Ph.D., MD, DVM, or another equivalent degree)

The Breast Cancer Coalition (The Coalition) of Rochester is soliciting breast cancer research proposals. Funding is available for a one-year \$50,000 maximum grant for Faculty Applicants. Eligibility is open to researchers from for-profit or not-for-profit institutions located in the Rochester, Buffalo, Ithaca, or Syracuse regions. Proposals should focus on at least one of the following Coalition research priorities:

- Etiology/cause of breast cancer
- Prevention of breast cancer
- Prevention or halting of metastatic breast cancer
- Cure of breast cancer

Note: Research proposals regarding breast cancer detection or standard of care treatment will not be considered.

Key Dates

Submission Deadline	Proposals must be submitted electronically in PDF form by 5 p.m. Friday, March 1, 2024 . In addition, 7 hard copies of the proposal must be received by the Coalition by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2024 .
Applicant Notification	By May 31, 2024
Grant Award Ceremony	10:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2024 (in-person preferred)

General Information

The Coalition may award one grant with a maximum of \$50,000 to faculty applicants. Consideration and preference will be given to proposals that fulfill any of the following criteria:

1. Further the Coalition research priorities of etiology/cause of breast cancer, prevention of breast cancer, prevention or control of metastatic breast cancer, or cure of breast cancer.
2. Demonstrate innovative conceptual or methodological approaches.
3. Generate preliminary data required to apply for funding from NIH, DOD, or through other grant mechanisms, with clear explanation of how such data will be used to further the applicant's research.
4. Support speculative, exploratory, "high-risk/high-reward" research.
5. Challenge existing paradigms.
6. Encourage high-impact cross-disciplinary research.

Competition is Open to Applicants as Follows:

1. Applicants for the \$50,000 faculty grant must hold a faculty position and Ph.D., DVM, MD, or another equivalent degree. Applicants must have publications in breast cancer research or must be collaborating with an established breast cancer researcher.
2. Applicants must be affiliated with for-profit or not-for-profit institutions in the eligible geographic area, including the Rochester, Buffalo, Ithaca, and Syracuse regions; see bccr.org/research/ for a detailed map. **Research must be conducted in the eligible geographic area. The grant is not transferable.**
3. Prior applicants and grant winners may submit applications for "follow-up grants", a new proposal or resubmission. Applications that are resubmissions or follow-ups must include as Appendix i, a one-page description of how the proposal has been changed and how previous Coalition reviews were addressed, or how the follow-up is different from the original research and how it takes the original research forward.

Requirements Related to Applicant’s Institution:

1. Proper management as well as organizational and accounting systems to administer the award must be available at the host institution.
2. Overhead paid to the applicant’s institution may not exceed 7 percent of the proposal cost and is included in the \$50,000 award maximum. For example, \$46,500 + \$3,500 (overhead calculated at 7 percent) = \$50,000 award.
3. Prior to receipt of funds, the principal investigator’s host institution must enter into a contract with The Coalition.
4. The grantee’s research is subject to The Coalition monitoring process as noted under “Requirements of the Grantee,” below.
5. Grantee’s institution will receive ½ (one-half) of the awarded funds on the date of the award ceremony. A check for the remainder will be issued upon receipt of the six-month progress report (see 8 under “Requirements of the Grantee,” below).
6. The Coalition subscribes to a “just in time” policy for Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval. Applicants are encouraged to initiate these approval processes prior to March 1, 2024. Applicants selected for funding must submit proof of IRB and/or IACUC approval or exemption and copies of relevant protection protocols to The Coalition before monies can be awarded.
7. The grantee’s institution shall keep the award and the name of the grant recipient confidential until announced by The Coalition at the award ceremony/media opportunity.

Requirements of the Grantee

1. Submit all information requested on pages 9 through 24 of this RFP. Additional guidance is provided under “Application Process” on pages 5 through 8.
2. Give a slide presentation summarizing the proposal in a public award ceremony and press conference scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at the Coalition in Rochester, NY (dependent on pandemic public health conditions).

3. Use the appropriated funds within the **funding period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Funded research must be conducted in the specified geographic area** (see bccr.org/research/ for a map). **The grant is not transferable.**
4. Show the ability to perform the proposed work within the specified one-year period. (A written request for a “no-cost extension” may be submitted and must include a strong justification for the extension.)
5. Show ownership or ability to access the necessary equipment, facilities, and skills.
6. Use funds only as approved by The Coalition for the accepted proposal. Obtain written Coalition approval for any changes.
7. Demonstrate that necessary certifications and human subjects or animal research approvals are in place prior to beginning research.
8. Submit a six-month progress report and final progress and fiscal reports to The Coalition.
9. Publicize and communicate with the scientific and public communities about the funded research through:
 - a. Award ceremony/media opportunity in Rochester and news release.
 - b. Article profiling the research funded by The Coalition in The Coalition’s quarterly newsletter.
 - c. Participation in Coalition events to disseminate research results.
10. Host an on-site visit for members of The Coalition Research Committee during the research process.
11. Acknowledge the Coalition’s support in all interviews, published articles, posters, and abstracts resulting from the Coalition-funded research.

Review Panel

The Review Panel includes Scientific Reviewers who are members of The Coalition’s Research Advisory Board (RAB). These individuals are medical and scientific professionals and experts in various aspects of the field of breast cancer. The Review Panel also includes Survivor/Advocate Reviewers who are selected from The Coalition’s Research Committee. If at the conclusion of the review process the Review Panel finds none of the submissions merit funding, no grant will be awarded.

Application Process

1. Carefully read all instructions. Submit the proposal electronically as a PDF by 5 p.m. Friday, March 1, 2024. Include all pages and sections of the proposal in one file to submit as one PDF. The upload link for electronic submission is <https://bccr.egnyte.com/ul/FVXxk3hAsi>. In addition, submit 7 hard copies of the proposal by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2024, to:

Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester
Attn: Research Committee Administrator
1048 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

Proposals received electronically after 5 p.m. on March 1, 2024, or in hard copy after 5 p.m. on March 5, 2024, will not be considered. Please contact Research Administrator Silvia Gambacorta-Hoffman (585) 473-8177 or silvia@bccr.org with questions.

2. Application Instructions

- a.** Complete the “Grant Application” cover page.
- b.** Limit the proposal to 10 pages, including the Scientific Abstract and Lay Abstract; not including the cover page, Table of Contents, Acronym Glossary, or Appendices.
- c.** Do not hardcover, bind, or staple hard copies.
- d.** Write in English, double-spaced with one-inch margins, using a 12-point type font. Define all acronyms the first time used i.e. Three Letter Acronym (TLA) – for example, IHC: immunohistochemistry – and provide an acronym glossary.
- e.** Number all pages.
- f.** Include the Principal Investigator’s name in the top right-hand corner of all pages.
- g.** If applicable, IRB and/or IACUC application approval must be pending or approved prior to March 1, 2024. Applicants selected for funding must submit to The Coalition proof of IRB and/or IACUC approval or exemption with copies of relevant protection protocols before funds can be awarded.

- 3. Submit the Application items in the order as follows:**
- a. Table of Contents**
 - b. Acronym Glossary**
 - c. Scientific Abstract**, not to exceed one page. Briefly describe the Background, Objective/Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Study Design, Methodology, and Impact.
 - d. Lay Abstract**, not to exceed one page. Define in **lay terms** the problem addressed by the proposed research and its significance to the breast cancer community. **The lay abstract should not be identical to the scientific abstract.** The lay abstract should be directed toward the breast cancer Survivor / Advocate Reviewers, who are educated and knowledgeable about breast cancer. Note how this project will impact the prevention of breast cancer; halting the progression of metastatic disease; and/or cure, in layman's terms.
 - e. Project Description**, not to exceed eight pages, including the following:
 - 1) Objective of the study, scientific importance, impact, innovation, study design, and research methodology. Address limitations, potential problems, and alternative approaches. If the proposal includes human subjects, include details of informed consent procedures, including the risks and benefits of participating in the research. Potential risks or harm to the participant must be addressed. If subjects will receive remuneration for participation, the potential for the subjects' reporting and behavior to be influenced by such payment must be adequately considered and addressed. Proposals involving the use of animals in research should provide appropriate scientific justification for the use of a particular model, a description of the steps taken to minimize pain/distress, and a rational argument for the number of animals requested, including power calculations.
 - 2) If preliminary data demonstrating the feasibility of the proposed research is available, submit figures and figure legends in the body of the project description.

- 3) Note collaborative efforts and affirm that facilities, services, and equipment necessary to complete the proposed research are available. (Provide details of facilities and equipment in Appendix d.)
- 4) Note the potential to leverage this project with additional funding and plans to disseminate the research findings.
- 5) Include why the proposal “matters,” ways it is special, its significance, and its potential impact. **It is very important to detail how the research meets and furthers The Coalition’s priorities of etiology, prevention of breast cancer, halting the progression of metastasis, or cure.**

4. Submit appendices as follows:

- a. Detailed Budget.** Use the form provided to give a detailed accounting of supplies, services, and facilities required to support the execution and completion of the proposed science. Publication expenses should be limited to a maximum of \$1,500.00.
- b. Budget Justification.** Provide all pertinent budget details. Indicate how the budget was calculated, including salary justification for investigators, graduate and post-doctoral students, faculty consultants, and technicians. List all key personnel who will contribute to the project, whether or not they will receive salary support from this award and their role in the project.
- c. Additional Monetary Support.** Provide details of all other current and pending grant support for the applicant. Indicate and address how any overlaps with the funds requested from The Coalition will be adjusted if an overlapping grant receives funding.
- d. Facilities and equipment support.** Provide descriptions of facilities and equipment support.
- e. Biographical sketch of the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s).** An updated biosketch using the current version of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Biosketch is REQUIRED.
- f. Personal Statement providing the following:**
 - How the investigator sees their proposal advancing The Coalition’s research goals.

- A statement describing the investigator's specific interests and experiences in Breast Cancer research.

g. Literature Cited.

List all references. Use the American Medical Association (AMA) citation style. Reference only relevant and current literature.

h. Letters of support from professional colleagues – Required.

Letters confirming institutional support, availability of any core instrumentation that is central to the work proposed in the project, or support from collaborators are required and must include the applicant's name, proposal title, colleagues' institution, and relationship to the applicant.

- i. If **resubmission**, a one-page description of how the proposal has been changed and how previous Coalition reviews have been addressed. If a **follow-up application to an awarded Coalition grant**, a one-page description of how this study is different from the original research and how it takes the original research forward.

5. Statement and Signature.


 Breast Cancer COALITION		2024-2025 Grant Application	
		Category <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty (\$50,000) (Select One) <input type="checkbox"/> Pre- & Post-Doctoral Trainee/Fellow (\$25,000)	
Project Title			
Indicate Proposal Categories (<i>choose up to 3</i>):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Biomarkers <input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Bioinformatics <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Signaling and Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Cellular Biology <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Etiology/Pathophysiology <input type="checkbox"/> Genetics/Epigenetics <input type="checkbox"/> Genomics/Proteomics/Metabolomics <input type="checkbox"/> Immunology/Immunotherapy <input type="checkbox"/> Metastasis/Prevention of Metastasis <input type="checkbox"/> Prevention	
Has this project been submitted previously to the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If Yes, What Year?			
Applicant Name (Last, First, Middle)			
Applicant Degree(s) (<i>for trainee/fellow indicate level of progress toward Doctorate or goals</i>)			
Applicant Organization			
Type of Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Private Nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
Applicant's Relevant Position Titles			
Department/Lab/Equivalent			
Mailing Address			
Phone		Fax	E-mail
Human Subjects Research <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If Yes ⇨		IRB Approval? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Exemption <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Assurance Compliance Number
Vertebrate Animals <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If Yes ⇨		IACUC Approval? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Exemption <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Animal Welfare Assurance Number
Possible Biohazards <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		If selected for grant, proof of IRB or IACUC approval or exemption and copies of relevant protection protocols will be required before funding can be awarded.	
Administrative Official Signing for Applicant Organization			
Name			
Title			
Mailing Address			
Phone		E-mail	

Table of Contents

Acronym Glossary.

Use Three Letter Acronym (TLA) – for example, IHC: immunohistochemistry.

Scientific Abstract – Required

Not to exceed one page. Briefly describe the Background, Objective/Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Study Design, Methodology, and Impact. Ensure all acronyms are defined in the glossary.

Lay Abstract - Required

Not to exceed one page. Define in **lay terms** the problem addressed by the proposed research and its significance to the breast cancer community. **The lay abstract should not be identical to the scientific abstract.** The lay abstract should be directed toward the breast cancer survivor/advocate reviewers. Note how this project will impact the prevention of breast cancer; halting the progression of metastatic disease; and/or cure, in layman's terms. Ensure all acronyms are defined in a glossary.

Project Description - Required

Using **no more than 8 pages**, detail your project, referring to requirements set out in the Request for Proposals per page 6 (3c). If preliminary data demonstrating the feasibility of the proposed research is available, submit figures and figure legends in the body of the description. Proposals will be reviewed by scientific and survivor/advocate reviewers. Ensure all acronyms are defined in the glossary.

Appendix a: Detailed Budget – Required

Personnel Salaries (provide personnel justification in Appendix b: Budget Justification)

Some salary costs may be appropriate for graduate and post-doctoral students, faculty consultants, and technicians.

Category	Amount	Expense Justification
Individual Salaries (list, including role)		

Fringe Benefits (list)

Equipment (list)

Supplies, Testing Fees, Purchase of cell cultures and clinical specimens (list)

Experimental Expenditures (list)

Core Facility Fees (list)

Travel Expenses (list)

Publication Expenses – limited to \$1,500 (list)

Other Expenses, including postage and phone (list)

Budget Total:

Revised October 2023

Appendix b: Budget Justification - Required

Include individual budget item details. Personnel salary justification is required. Include the percentage of the Principal Investigator's time that will be dedicated to the project. Requests for salary may be appropriate for graduate students, post-doctorate fellows, faculty consultants, and technicians. The budget should be well-constructed with funds appropriately allocated to best support the execution and completion of the proposed science. Publication expenses should be limited to a maximum of \$1,500. Institutional overhead may not exceed 7 percent of the proposal cost. $\$46,500 + \$3,500$ (overhead calculated at 7 percent) = the \$50,000 maximum grant award.

Appendix c: Additional Monetary Support - Required

List all other grant support to the candidate by funder and amount. Indicate and address any overlaps with the funds requested from The Coalition. For each current or pending grant include:

- Organization
- Funding Date
- Proposal Name
- Status: Current or Pending
- Grant amount(s)
- Does the grant involve breast cancer research?
 Yes No
If yes, state the Specific Aims of the research.
- Is there any scientific overlap with the research proposal to the Coalition?
- How will the grant proposal to the Coalition be adjusted if an overlapping grant receives funding?

Appendix d: Facilities Support

List and describe facilities and equipment available for the proposed research (NIH style acceptable).

Facilities	Description
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Appendix e: Completed current version of NIH Biographical Sketch of Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s), including post-docs – Required.

Appendix f: Personal Statement – Required

A written statement noting how the investigator sees their proposal advancing Coalition research goals and describing the investigator’s specific interests and experiences in breast cancer research.

Appendix g: Literature Cited - Required

List all references using the AMA citation style. The references should be limited to relevant and current literature.

Appendix h: Letters of Support from Professional Colleagues – Required.

Letters confirming institutional support, availability of any core instrumentation that is central to the work proposed in the project, or support from collaborators are required and must include applicant name, proposal title, colleagues' institution, and relationship to the applicant.

Appendix i: If resubmission, describe in one page how the proposal has been changed and how previous Coalition reviews have been addressed. If a **follow-up application to an awarded Coalition grant**, provide a one-page description of how this study is different from the original research and how it takes the original research forward. – **Required.**

Statement and Signature – Required

Applicant/Principal Investigator: I certify that the statements made herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. I agree to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required reports if a grant is awarded.

_____ Date _____
Applicant Signature

_____ Date _____
Administrative Official Signature