

2024 BBRF YOUNG INVESTIGATOR GRANT

Application Guidelines

Application Acceptance Period: January 23, 2024 – March 12, 2024

Apply at: www.bbrfoundation.org/YI



The **Brain & Behavior Research Foundation** is the largest non-government, donor-supported organization that distributes funds for psychiatric brain and behavior disorder research. **The Foundation's BBRF Young Investigator Grant (YI)** program offers **up to \$35,000 a year for up to two (2) years** to enable promising investigators to either extend their research fellowship training or to begin careers as independent research faculty.

The program is intended to facilitate innovative research opportunities and supports basic, as well as translational and/or clinical investigators. All research must be relevant to our understanding, treatment and prevention of serious psychiatric disorders such as: schizophrenia; bipolar; mood and anxiety disorders or early onset brain and behavior disorders.

In addition to supporting the full ranges of relevant neurobiological and psychobiological basic science, we also support clinical science, which can include careful studies using qualitative research approaches or research generating preliminary data to explore a new hypothesis generated by clinical experience or large sample studies.

The BBRF Young Investigator Grant is not sufficient to support expensive large sample patient-based studies, but it may be possible to attach a study to a clinical project already under way or for which other funding has become available. Some examples of preliminary clinical studies include:

1. Support for an add-on study to identify a biomarker in the context of an ongoing clinical trial.
2. Determining if a computer-based cognitive or other remediation enhances effectiveness of cognitive agents.
3. Proof of principle study to see if efficacy is detected with a new treatment.
4. Testing a novel hypothesis within an already established data set.

These examples do not define the Foundation's specific goals but illustrate feasibility of expensive clinical research in the context of the BBRF Grants Program. The Foundation is committed to spending all contributions for direct support of research. Operational expenses are covered by separate Foundation grants. Administrative cost of review is small—reviewers are members of the Foundation's Scientific Council and volunteer their time to evaluate applications; therefore, **no feedback can be provided to applicants**.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS:

1. BBRF welcomes diversity with BBRF grant applications including gender, race, ethnicity, and culture of the applicant, and geographic location for their proposed work.
2. Applicants must have a doctoral level degree (e.g., M.D. with [minimum PGY-IV] training, Ph.D., Psy.D., Pharm.D., etc.) and already be employed in research training or a faculty research position. The YI Grant is intended to support advanced post-doctoral fellows, instructors and assistant professors (or equivalent). *Pre-doctoral students, first year post-doctoral fellows, faculty who serve(d) as a principal investigator (PI) on a NIH R01 grant are not eligible. Investigators at the rank of associate professor or equivalent are also not eligible (assistant professors who serve(d) as a principal investigator (PI) on a NIH R01 or equivalent grant are not eligible for the BBRF Independent Investigator Grant).*
3. Applicants must have an on-site mentor or senior collaborator who is an established investigator in areas relevant to psychiatric disorders. The mentor/sponsor role is usually extensive for fellowship extension (mentor), and more senior colleague/advisor (sponsor) for an applicant prepared to initiate independent science.
4. Applicants may only apply twice for an initial BBRF Young Investigator Grant.
5. **Applicants are eligible for a maximum of two BBRF Young Investigator Grants.** Prior grantees who are

currently advanced post-doctoral, instructor or assistant professor can apply for a second grant. However, grants cannot overlap in time, **only one application for a second BBRF YI Grant is permitted**, and substantial productivity on the first grant must be documented and the applicant must show how a second grant will facilitate competition for a NIH R01 grant or equivalent.

6. Only one principal investigator is allowed per application.
7. Funding is for one or two years and is up to \$35,000 per year. **The Foundation does not pay institutional overhead on the BBRF Young Investigator Grant Program.**
8. The Foundation allows considerable flexibility in the use of funds: equipment, stipends, etc., are all acceptable as long as the support is in the service of the BBRF Young Investigator Grant research project.
9. Applications must be submitted by **Tuesday, March 12, 2024, no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern.**
10. **Grant approval notifications will be mailed in September 2024. It is the Foundation's policy to provide no feedback on applications, other than funding notification. The earliest grant start date is January 15, 2025.**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Applications must be submitted online via www.bbrfoundation.org/YI. Applicants must first complete the online form, and then upload the application in **a single PDF document**.
 - Each section must be on a separate page. Please follow the order of the application as follows and adhere to the maximum number of pages allowed for each section indicated in parentheses.
 - Label each section and include applicant's name in upper right corner of each page.
 - Please follow NIH format guidelines: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts with a font size of 11 or larger with minimum of ½ inch margins.
- (a) **Face Sheet (3 pages - Please refer to the last 3 pages)** – Included on the face sheet please list all Scientific Council Member conflicts a list can be found on the website [here](#).
 - (b) **Abstract (less than 500 words)** – a summary of the research project written in lay terms. If the proposal is funded, this material may be used in the Foundation's announcements.
 - (c) **Applicant C.V. (5 pages)** – NIH biosketch OR the biography portion of the curriculum vitae only, with current grant support listed.
 - (d) **Proposal (2 pages with no appendices)** – a letter from the applicant outlining training and/or project goals that will be accomplished within the grant period. One representative project should be described in sufficient detail to elucidate hypothesis, significance, sample size, feasibility, and central methodology. Figures, tables, diagrams, et.al., must be included within the 2-page limit.
 - (e) **Research Training/Career Plans (½ page)** – brief description of present or recently completed research training, and applicant's future career plans. This grant is intended for fellowship **extension** or early faculty support.
 - (f) **Budget (1 page/itemized table format in US \$)** – a budget description specifying the amount requested with a brief justification and indicating whether applicant is applying for a one- or two-year grant. Requests must not exceed \$35,000 per year. The budget statement should define the unique contribution of this grant to applicant's research activities and note the impact of this grant on other institutional support available to applicant. **Specific assurance that receipt of this grant will not result in duplication of funding or reduction of support from the host institution is required.** *The Foundation does not pay institutional overhead on the BBRF Young Investigator Grant Program.* The applicant's research funding must be listed, and should include any support pending, as well.

- (g) **Mentor/Sponsor Letter (1 page per mentor)** – a letter from an on-site* mentor stating how the grant will enhance applicant's training or facilitate transition to an independent investigator. (**If you do not have an on-site mentor, please contact Suzanne Haber ([send email](#)) or Judy Ford ([send email](#)).* A second letter from an additional mentor may be included if the mentor provides an area of expertise not otherwise available. If a second mentor letter must be included, it must explain the second mentor's unique role in the project and not simply be a letter of support. An applicant's sponsor letter for more advanced applicants needs to specify departmental/institutional support for the applicant including percent time research protected.
- (h) **Mentor C.V. (5 pages per mentor) – NIH biosketch** OR the biography portion of the curriculum vitae only.
- (i) **References (1 page, optional)** – a listing of up to ten bibliographical references may be included.
- (j) **Collaborator Letter (1 page, optional)** – letter of commitment from essential project collaborators (**not** letter of reference), addressed to the applicant, briefly explaining the specific contribution, and confirming a willingness to collaborate.
- (k) **Institutional Assurance Letter (1 page)** – which includes the **applicant's institutional signature (i.e., Grants & Contracts/Sponsored Research Office)**, thereby signifying the institution's acceptance and acknowledgment of these guidelines.

(l) Applicants applying for a SECOND Young Investigator Grant ONLY:

1. Concurrent YI Grants are not allowed

2. Final Progress Report (1 page) – The applicant must submit a final progress report of the following:

- a. Use half a page to justify the second submission.
- b. If the second application is in a different scientific direction from the first, details are required for how it advances the investigator towards independence.
- c. State clearly how this second application refines your approach.
- d. Indicate why the previously funded period did not complete the research and/or what went wrong with the first project such that a new one should be considered.

** IRB/IACUC approval for human and animal subjects must be verified at the time of the Grant (do not include IRB/IACUC with application), as well as institutional acceptance of the Foundation's Grant Agreement.

** In fairness to all applicants, supplemental material (i.e., appendices) will **NOT** be considered in the review process. Applications not following the guidelines will be administratively rejected.

** Funds will be granted to universities, institutions or medical research centers operating in the United States, Canada, or any foreign country. All international applicants are welcome to apply. Researchers need not be U.S. citizens.

For inquiries, please email: grants@bbrfoundation.org

