



WV-INBRE Request for Applications for Genomics and Data Science Core Facility Vouchers

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Applications Due: February 13, 2026 to March 13, 2026
Award Announcement: March/April 2026

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Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

The WV-INBRE program in Y25 is providing support of biomedical research in the form of vouchers to offset costs incurred in the SMART and/or Data Science core facilities. This solicitation is open to applications from investigators at WV-INBRE Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) and Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs). This program is directed by Dr. Travis Salisbury and Dr. James Denvir (Marshall University).

Programmatic goal: The purpose of these awards is to allow investigators to generate and analyze new genomics and multiomics data to increase the competitiveness of NIH RO1, RO3 and other investigator-initiated proposals in the biomedical sciences.

Section II. Award Information

- Estimated Number of vouchers in Y25: 5-10
- Total Anticipated voucher value in Y25: \$50,000 - \$100,000
- Limit on voucher value per award: up to \$10,000 direct costs per award

- Applications may be submitted between February 13, 2026 and March 13, 2026.
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis (i.e., as they are received).
- Applications received after 5 PM on March 13, 2026 will not be considered.
- Awardees will be notified in March/April 2026.
- Awarded funds must be expended by July 31, 2026.

Section III. Eligibility and Application Requirements

The following classes of investigators are eligible to apply: (1) Tenure track and tenured faculty at all WV-INBRE PUIs and CTCs, and (2) research track faculty (e.g., research assistant professors) at the PUIs and CTCs. Applications from postdoctoral fellows and students will not be accepted. Applications in which the principal investigator has a primary appointment at a lead institution (Marshall or West Virginia University) are not eligible.

Applications must rely on the use of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technologies (e.g., bulk or single cell RNA-Seq, spatial transcriptomics, Methyl-Seq, whole exome, miRNA, microbiome studies, etc.) or the analysis of existing genomic or informatic data. Applications may also request support for (1) analysis of existing data or (2) expansion of an existing funded project to allow more samples or additional analyses. Proteomics and metabolomics data generation and analytics will also be considered with the support of outside collaborating facilities if feasible.

Investigators may not apply for funds that are allocated in funded grants regardless of funding source. For this program, PUI or CTC investigators may receive a WV-INBRE DRPP award (e.g. major award or pilot grant award) and a voucher award in the same grant year, if (1) the voucher request is for a project different from the funded DRPP project, (2) genomic analysis isn't part of their funded DRPP project and the application didn't budget for the genomic supply costs, or (3) the DRPP has budgeted genomic supply costs, but the investigator will exceed that amount as the project progresses.

WV-INBRE Thematic Considerations: The current research theme for WV-INBRE is Cellular and Molecular Biology with an emphasis on biomedical diseases in humans. For these applications, projects should be focused on the cellular and molecular basis of biomedical disease or treatment of disease.

Limit on Number of Proposals: Individual investigators may only submit one application per year. There is no limit on the number of proposals a given institution may submit.

Section IV. Application Process and Submission Information

Notification of Intent to Apply: Not required.

Application Package

The voucher application must contain the following completed sections:

- a) PHS398 face page with contact information (form page 1) including signature from business/institutional official.
- b) PHS398 form page 2 (complete all sections including project summary, relevance and performance sites)
- c) NIH Biographical Sketches of the Principal Investigator and any co-investigators or collaborators. For the bibliography section, you may provide an actual listing of your publications or provide a link to publications in SciENcv or My Bibliography.
- d) Detailed budget page with costs listed under “other costs” and itemized as SMART Core and/or Data Science Core (398 form page 4)
- e) Budget for the Entire Project Period (398 form page 5); only one year of funding may be requested.
- f) Detailed budget justification. Your budget justification should be provided on a separate page or on PHS398 form page 5. Quotes provided by the directors of the SMART and/or Data Science Core must be included in this section.
- g) Checklist page
- h) Goals and specific aims
- i) Introduction and background
- j) Approach
- k) Methods of analysis
- l) Expected outcomes
- m) Plans for external grant applications based on the data obtained in the proposal
- n) Literature cited
- o) Vertebrate Animal Section 4 Points and/or Human Subject Protection if needed

PHS398 forms can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>. Please use the most recent version of all PHS forms including the NIH Biographical Sketch.

The combined narratives of sections (h) through (m) must not exceed 3 pages.

Applications that depend on animal tissues must provide evidence of prior institutional approval including the four points of animal welfare (VAS 4 points) and an IACUC approval letter. Applications that involve the use of human subjects must include the PHS398 sections for human subject research and have IRB panel approval before an award can be made. NIGMS administratively reviews the Administrative Core recommended proposals and requires IACUC and IRB approval letters before giving their approval.

Research plan, budget and mentoring: Applicants must conference with Dr. Salisbury and Dr. Denvir to determine feasibility, experimental design and cost of the proposal. Next Generation Sequencing projects will be completed in the Marshall University SMART Core. Data analytics will be supported by personnel with relevant experience in the Data Science Core. Dr. Salisbury and Dr. Denvir will serve as primary points of contact and assist in the coordination of the voucher program. Dr. Salisbury, Dr. Denvir and other core personnel will serve as mentors as suitable.

Achievement milestones. Applicants must list proposal-specific achievements (deliverables) as part of the application. Examples of achievements include completion of specific aims, acquisition of new methods, presentations and/or publications. Manuscript publication is highly encouraged. At a minimum, WV-INBRE requires presentation at a scientific meeting within a year of the voucher award. The WV-INBRE summer symposium is an acceptable venue for findings derived from these proposals. All publications and presentations must acknowledge support from the Core Facilities and WV-INBRE (NIH grant P20GM103434)

Submission process: Please combine all components of your application into a single pdf and email the document to Travis Salisbury at salisburyt@marshall.edu.

Proposal Due Date: All applications must be received by 5 PM on February 13, 2026.

Section V. Allowable Costs:

Voucher funds may only be used for costs accrued by the SMART and Data Science Cores. Proteomics and metabolomics projects needing support from outside collaborating facilities will be considered if feasible. Subawards will not be issued since all costs will be debited against the WV-INBRE SMART and DSC budgets. Salaries, equipment, publication and travel costs are not allowed in this application. However, successful applicants may apply for equipment, publication and travel funds via other ongoing funding mechanisms under the Faculty Research Development (FRD) Program; for information on all FRD funding, please contact Werner Geldenhuys at werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu. Drs. Salisbury, Denvir and other core personnel will serve as mentors for applications involving NGS and informatic analysis. Mentor fees are not required and should not be included in your application budget.

Institutional Matching Funds: Not required or expected.

Section VI. Application Review Process

The primary review criteria for voucher applications will be (1) significance and relevance to biomedical research, (2) qualifications of the investigator, (3) quality of the experimental approach, (4) institutional environment (e.g., equipment and resources) and (5) likelihood of generating publishable data and leveraging additional grant funding. Applications from investigators who have previously received a core facility voucher will additionally be reviewed on the success of their previous voucher-supported project.

Applications will initially be reviewed by a review panel consisting of three lead faculty including the SMART and DSC Core Directors or their delegates. Applications will be scored using the standard (1-9) scoring system. This panel will make recommendations for funding to the WV-INBRE Administrative Core (AC); the AC will then submit their recommendations to the WV-INBRE External Advisory Committee

(EAC) and, as necessary, the NIH/NIGMS for final approval. We expect to notify all applicants in March/April 2026.

Section VII. Award Administration Information

Voucher awards and amounts are dependent on the receipt of the parent grant at the requested levels. All funds must be expended no later than July 31, 2026. Questions about the application process (eligible projects, allowable costs, etc.) should be addressed to Travis Salisbury. Dr. Salisbury can be contacted by phone (304-696-7314) or by email (salisburyt@marshall.edu).

Section VIII. WV-INBRE Program Contacts

WV-INBRE Program Officers:

Trupti Joshi, MBBS, ADB, MS, PhD, WV-INBRE Principal Investigator, 304-696-4810, joshitr@marshall.edu

Stan Hileman, PhD, WV-INBRE, Program Coordinator, 304-319-2254, smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu

Travis Salisbury, PhD, SMART Core Director, 304-696-7314, salisburyt@marshall.edu

Jim Denvir, PhD, Data Science Core Director, 304-696-7327, denvir@marshall.edu

Piyali Dasgupta, PhD, Student Data Collection, 304-696-3612, dasgupta@marshall.edu

Scott Levick, PhD, WV-INBRE Mentoring Coordinator, 304-293-2418, scott.levick@hsc.wvu.edu

Section IX. Notifications

Notification of awards will be made to the submitting PI and the applicant's organization. PIs whose proposals are declined for funding will be advised as promptly as possible. Copies of anonymous reviewer comments will be provided upon request.

Section X. Responsibilities of SMART-Data Science voucher recipients.

1. All recipients of WV-INBRE funding including SMART/DSC vouchers are required to provide a written report to the WV-INBRE Administrative Core to be submitted as part of the annual progress report (RPPR). As part of the progress report, recipients are expected to summarize the impact and results of their work, describe progress toward specific aims, describe the work of graduate and undergraduate

students involved in the project, and list presentations, publications and new grant proposals to other programs including federal, private, or state programs.

2. Completion of the Undergraduate Student Tracking Form is required. If undergraduate students are involved in the planning or execution of the research project, the Principal Investigator must complete and submit an Undergraduate Student Tracking Form (available from Dr. Dasgupta).
3. Voucher recipients may be asked to give oral or poster presentations at the WV-INBRE Summer Symposium and/or Executive Committee/External Advisory Committee meetings.
4. The WV-INBRE program and the SMART/DSC Cores are evaluated based on their productivity, which includes presentations, publications and grants. Recipients are strongly encouraged to present and publish their findings. Investigators must acknowledge support from the SMART/DSC Cores and WV-INBRE program (NIH grant P20GM103434) in all presentations and manuscripts.