



Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama
P.O. Box 531225, Birmingham, AL 35253
Tel: (205) 413-4600
www.bcrfa.org

Request for Proposals: Alabama Breast Cancer Research

BCRFA Announces 2026 Funding Opportunity for AL Researchers

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama (BCRFA) seeks to accelerate breast cancer research in Alabama and generate extramural funding through its annual grant cycle. All areas of breast cancer research – *including basic and population sciences proposals* - will be considered for funding.

Award Categories (number of awards will be based on available funding)

- **BCRFA Two-Year Research Grant:** Grants will be \$100,000 (\$50,000 for one year with an additional \$50,000 for a second year based on first-year outcomes and reporting).
- **BCRFA Catalyst Award:** Single-year \$25,000 award for early investigators.
 - Eligible applicants include: research scientists/research assistant professors (less than three years of faculty appointment) and Pre or Postdoctoral Fellows (2-5 years of training).
 - Applicants should write their independent project and outline how they plan to move forward with the research in the year.
 - An optional preliminary review of the Catalyst Awards is available to applicants who desire it and are submitted according to the timeline below.

The BCRFA is a nonprofit organization raising funds and awareness for breast cancer research in Alabama. Since its founding in 1996, the organization has invested over \$17 million in cutting-edge breast cancer research initiatives across the state.

Funding Goals

- Support new avenues of yet-unfunded cancer research
- Catalyze basic research into translational research
- Propel early-stage breast cancer research into well-developed investigations able to attract high-level funding from national research institutes
- Save lives by ultimately eliminating breast cancer as a public health threat

Funding Limitations

Use of BCRFA funds is limited to laboratory/research personnel, supplies, and/or services directly required for the project. *Funds may not be used for indirect costs, publication costs, travel costs, or investigator salaries (exception made for Catalyst awards which allow up to 1/2 of award funds for Pre or Postdoc salary support).*

- The BCRFA will only fund one proposal per investigator at a time. Researchers currently receiving support from the BCRFA are not eligible.
- Researchers may only submit one application for funding consideration per RFP cycle, regardless of award category.
- Researchers from UAB should apply for BCRFA support through the O'Neal Invests grant cycles unless a project falls outside of the O'Neal Invests categories, or for the Catalyst Award if eligible.

Proposal Requirements

- **Completed BCRFA proposal cover page** including:
 - Descriptive title of the research project
 - Award submission category (Two-year Research Grant or Single-Year Catalyst Award)
 - Applicants should select category: basic science or population science
 - Contact information of primary investigators and co-PIs
 - Co-Is should be listed as listed as investigators/key personnel, not as co-PIs
 - Layman's Abstract of project, including hypothesis, relevance, significance, and innovation
 - Impact/Results from past BCRFA support
- **Project overview**, including:
 - Specific aims, background, and key data to support your hypothesis (figures/graphs may be used within page limitations)
 - Description of how you will test the hypothesis
 - Summary of expected outcomes and how completion of this project could support a future grant application
- **Project budget** (NIH template or other format accepted), noting specifically how BCRFA funds will be utilized
- **Application page limit:** A 3-page limitation for project overview. *Cover page, budget, references, and biographical sketches are not included in the page count.*
- **Submission procedure:** Submit proposal as a single PDF (document or workbook) to beth@bcrfa.org

Proposal Submission and Funding Timeline

- **Proposals will be accepted between August 1, 2026, and October 1, 2026.** Proposals submitted after October 1 will not be considered.
- **BCRFA is offering an RFP Q & A session via Zoom from 1 -2 pm on Wednesday, August 5**
 - Contact Beth at Beth@BCRFA.org to receive the link to the session and participate
- **Deadline for Pre-Review Option for Catalyst Award Applicants:** September 1, 2026
 - Mentor pre-review period Sept 3-15
- **Grant Award Notifications:** December 1, 2026
- **Funds Disbursement:** December 15, 2026

Reporting

Grant recipients will be required to submit a progress and funding utilization report within nine months of receipt of funds. All publications and presentations must acknowledge BCRFA funding.

Contact for Questions + Email Submission

- **Beth Davis, President & CEO** | beth@bcrfa.org | (205) 413-4600

About the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama

Founded in 1996, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama (BCRFA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to find a cure for breast cancer by funding promising breast cancer research in Alabama and raising community awareness and funding for that research. BCRFA funds promote a comprehensive approach to battling breast cancer by fueling collaborative and innovative research to help diagnose, treat, prevent, and eradicate the disease. Thanks to generous community support, BCRFA's lifetime investment in life-saving research is over \$17 million. All funding stays in Alabama, but the impact is worldwide. Learn more about our mission and breakthroughs at www.bcrfa.org.

BCRFA Proposal Cover Sheet

TITLE OF PROJECT:

AWARD CATEGORY: Two-Year Research Grant____ Catalyst Award____

TYPE OF PROJECT (Select if applying for either category): Basic Science____ Population Science____

PI Name (Last, First), Degrees: _____

PI Email:_____

PI Institution*:_____

PI Position/Title:_____

PI Department: _____

Co-PI Name (Last, First), Degrees:_____

Co-PI Email:_____

Co-PI Institution*:_____

Co-PI Position/Title:_____

Co-PI Department: _____

Other Investigators/Key Personnel:

Name:_____

Institution/Department:_____

Name:_____

Institution/Department:_____

LAYMAN'S ABSTRACT (approximately 250 word limit – maintain legibility):

IMPACTS/RESULTS FROM PAST BCRFA FUNDING SUPPORT (if applicable):

** Researchers from the UAB should only apply for BCRFA research support via the O'Neal Cancer Center's O'Neal Invests request for proposals cycles rather than via the BCRFA's annual RFP unless project falls outside of their award guidelines or to apply for Catalyst Award as junior investigator.*