

INNOVATION GRANT GUIDELINES

Fall, 2026

OPPORTUNITY

The Garvey Institute for Brain Health Solutions Innovation Grants aim to provide funding for new ideas that have the potential to improve brain health through research, education, patient care and/or advocacy. We will prioritize ideas that have the potential for substantial impact at a population level and can be sustained beyond the grant funding period. Examples of funded projects can be found here:

<https://gibhs.psychiatry.uw.edu/funded-projects/>

AREAS OF FOCUS

For the current round of funding, we are looking for projects that address one of the following areas of focus:

1. Applications of artificial intelligence for behavioral health workforce development

The demand for evidence-based mental healthcare far exceeds the supply of clinicians trained to deliver it. Nearly half of all individuals with mental illness in the United States will never receive any form of care, and the quality of the care for those fortunate enough to receive services is highly variable. New artificial intelligence tools¹ have tremendous potential for expanding the reach and impact of the limited behavioral health workforce. Such tools must be used responsibly, ethically, and balance the potential benefits with potential risks. The Garvey Institute for Brain Health Solutions seeks to fund projects that offer innovative and responsible applications of AI for behavioral health workforce development.

2. Community living and care for serious mental illness

People thrive when they feel safe, healthy, supported and needed. But for many people living with serious mental illnesses (SMI) such as schizophrenia, one or more of these fundamental elements are missing from their community. Rarely are housing, treatment, support services, and a sense of purpose offered in one place, causing individuals with SMI to feel stuck, alone, and hopeless. We seek to fund projects that offer innovative ideas to improve this experience for patients, their loved ones, and/or the behavioral health workforce.

3. Mental health and the law

People living with a serious mental illness are at high risk of being arrested in their lifetime. We seek to fund projects that can improve both health and justice outcomes for those experiencing behavioral health challenges.

4. Behavioral healthcare in the perinatal period

Effective care for perinatal depression, substance use, and other behavioral health challenges is one of the best strategies we have to support families with new children and to prevent future mental health and substance use problems. We seek to fund projects that can offer innovative solutions at what is often a pivotal moment in families' lives.

¹ For simplicity, these guidelines will use the term "artificial intelligence" to refer to a wide range of technologies, inclusive of machine learning, large language models, deep learning, generative AI and more.

5. Neuromodulation

Neuromodulation therapies such as transcranial magnetic stimulation and electroconvulsive therapy can offer relief to the complex needs of those living with depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, catatonia, schizophrenia and other conditions. We seek to fund projects that expand the impact and reach of these therapies.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- Likelihood the project will help advance the Institute's goals to improve brain health at a population level (i.e., significance and impact)
- Approach, innovation and feasibility of the idea
- Qualifications of the project team and strength of collaborations
- Appropriateness of the budget
- Potential to generate additional funding / resources
- Likelihood of sustainability beyond grant funding
- Alignment with existing GIBHS initiatives

FUNDING

GIBHS Innovation Grants are intended to generate initial results that can help generate additional funding and/or resources.

Tier 1 – up to \$25,000, one-year award

Projects that focus on establishing foundational evidence (e.g., needs assessments, building stakeholder or community capacity, etc.).

Tier 2 – up to \$100,000, one-year award

Projects that will collect preliminary data, implement a “proof of concept”, pilot an intervention or seek to scale an idea.

All applications must propose a new project or research direction. Applications may not simply extend previously established research or provide bridge funding for existing work.

ELIGIBILITY

UW Faculty and Fellows (if permitted by their school and department and supported by a faculty member) are eligible to apply as Project Lead. Fellows with an acting instructor title and Junior Faculty should identify and apply with a Supporting Faculty Mentor. We strongly encourage applicants and collaborations from investigators in different units across UW. Individuals affiliated with organizations outside of the University of Washington may apply with a University of Washington affiliated researcher as a Project Lead.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Letters of Intent

LOIs should highlight the innovative nature, potential impact and timeliness of the project as well as the potential to generate additional funding / resources. For this round of funding, Letters of Intent are due **July 15, 2026 at 11:59pm**. The applicant may then be asked to provide additional information or address particular areas of concern in a full proposal. See the **GIBHS Innovation Grant Letter of Intent** for submission details.

Request for Proposals

We will accept full proposals **by request only**. Proposals are not submitted through the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), and an eGC1 form is not required. Animal Care Committee and Human Subjects Committee approval is not required prior to submission but will be required if appropriate prior to award of funds. For this round of funding, full proposals will be due **August 31, 2026 at 11:59pm**.

Proposals will be reviewed by UW faculty experts knowledgeable in the general area of the proposal. External *ad hoc* reviewers may also be solicited. See the **GIBHS Innovation Grant Request for Proposal** for submission details, including review criteria.

Clinical Trials Consultation and Technical Assistance Program (C-TAP)

[C-TAP](#) is a service within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences that supports researchers in conducting clinical trials and other types of human subjects research by providing technical assistance and consultation from experienced faculty and staff. **Innovation Grant applicants are eligible for up to three hours of no-cost consultation while preparing their proposals.** Example services include study planning and design consultation, implementation planning and troubleshooting assistance, and dissemination guidance. C-TAP members are most experienced with clinical intervention trials, but can consult on any study involving human subjects research.

Innovation Grant applicants asked to submit a full proposal may budget for C-TAP services at \$155/hour for additional services. This expense should be written into the applicant's proposed budget.

Before you write C-TAP into your budget, we **strongly encourage** you to meet with C-TAP for a free 30-minute consultation to ensure their services are a match for your project's needs.

Please contact ctap@uw.edu with questions or to request a consultation.

ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS

Projects will be funded for 12 months from the date the budget is set up. In rare instances and with proper justification, no-cost extensions for up to 12 months are possible with GIBHS approval. The Project Lead is responsible for the proper administration of funds. Funds will be distributed to the Project Lead's academic home department.

Innovation Grants must route through a University of Washington department budget (i.e., not through a partner organization such as Seattle Children's, VA Puget Sound, or a non-profit organization). Once awarded, funds may be dispersed to other organizations and will be managed by the Project Lead's academic home department in accordance with University of Washington guidelines. Revenue fund transfers are not allowed to other UW budgets. All spending should be done in accordance with University of Washington and State of Washington policies and procedures.

If awarded, Project Lead's academic home department must request Workday program tags to receive funds. GIBHS will work with the Project Lead's academic home department on this process.

GIBHS will not assume fiscal responsibility for over-expended budgets and any overages must be transferred to the home department of the Project Lead before the end date of project.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Innovation Grant recipients agree to provide a six-month progress report, a final progress report, and budget reconciliation due within 60 calendar days following the end of the funding period.

DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FUNDING SOURCE

Innovation Grant recipients agree to present their work at a GIBHS-sponsored event (e.g., symposia, brown bag presentations, webinars, conferences, etc.). If a publication or presentation results directly or indirectly from work related to the Innovation Grant, it should carry an acknowledgement of funding and support from the Garvey Institute for Brain Health Solutions at UW Medicine.

Please email gibhs@uw.edu if you have any questions.