



Innovation Grants Program

For the innovative improvement of undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in West Virginia

Program Announcement

Innovation Grant FY '26 (11/2025 - 10/2026)

Proposal Deadline

October 1, 2025 by 5 p.m.

Eligibility

Organization: Primarily undergraduate colleges and universities (PUIs) in West Virginia. Faculty from West Virginia University and Marshall University are ineligible; however, proposals will be accepted from branch campuses of these universities.

Principal Investigator (PI) Eligibility: Full-time faculty from four-year PUIs in West Virginia. PIs who have received innovation awards in the two prior years are only eligible to receive an award in this competition as a supplement to a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project.

Limit on Proposals: No institution may submit more than one (1) innovation proposal per year.

Award Information

Type of Award: Cost Reimbursable

Anticipated Award Date: November 30, 2025

Award Period: 12 months

Estimated Number of Awards: 2

Maximum Funding per Award: \$40,000

Anticipated Total Funding: \$80,000

Cost Share Requirement: 50%

Program Description

The purpose of the West Virginia Science, Technology and Research (STaR) Innovation Grants Program is to encourage undergraduate students in West Virginia to pursue careers in science, math, and engineering. The Innovation Grants Program seeks to accomplish this by supporting the purchase of modern instruments and supplies, and provide for minor renovations of advanced undergraduate laboratories. Curriculum enhancements and innovations in classroom instruction, delivery, and pedagogy are central interests of Innovation awards. Equipment and materials purchased should be used primarily for instructional purposes but may also be used to enhance faculty research programs that actively include undergraduates as primary participants.

Proposals in any STEM field will be considered. No institution may submit more than one proposal in one year.

Investigators who received awards in the prior two years are ineligible. Investigators who have not received an Innovation award in the last two years may use the Innovation Grant funds as a supplement to an NSF award. Proposals from Marshall University or West Virginia University main campuses will not be considered; however, proposals from university branch campuses are eligible.

Institutional support of at least 50% is required as a cost share. Up to half of the cost share may be in the form of in-kind support.

Application

Competition for funding from the Research Challenge Fund is strong and STaR receives far more proposals than can be supported. Proposals must be submitted via the Grant Opportunity (GO!) system. Visit wvresearch.org to request an account.

Project Summary: Provide a 250 word summary of your project.

Project Description: Proposals should contain the following information and should not exceed 800 words:

- Current situation in the institution, and the number of students served by the planned changes
- How the project will support curricula changes, classroom/laboratory instruction, and pedagogy.
- Alternative sources of support for the project.
- How this award will benefit students and faculty.

If instruments are to be purchased, please address the following issues:

- Type of instrument(s) to be purchased; the expected cost of the instrument(s); and the name(s) of the faculty members(s) who will have primary responsibility for the instrument(s) and their experience with similar instrumentation.
- Who will use the instrument(s) and how often.
- What the instrument(s) will enable undergraduate students to do that is not possible without the instrument(s)
- Number of students who will benefit from the purchase of the instrument(s).
- Whether special facilities (i.e., extra electrical power outlets, air conditioned rooms, structural supports) will be needed to make full use of the instrument(s) and, if so, whether such facilities are currently available or attainable. Whether other equipment will be needed to make full use of the instrument(s) and, if so, whether such equipment is currently available, or how it will be obtained.
- In academic courses, how will the instrument(s) be integrated into the curriculum and (in a brief statement) what are the anticipated benefits.
- If the instrument(s) are to be used for research, what is the designated project, role of the undergraduate(s), and the long-term benefits of the project.

Budget: Show equipment costs and cost sharing from the institution. A budget spreadsheet template can be downloaded from GO! until the close of the application period. Vendor quotes should be submitted. If there are multiple vendor quotes, please combine them into one Word or PDF file or zip them into a single file before uploading. Vendor quotes should be submitted if available. If you have multiple vendor quotes, please combine them into one Word or PDF file or zip them into a single file before uploading.

Cost Sharing: 50% cost sharing is required.

Indirect Cost Limitations: Overhead costs are not allowed.

Other Budgetary Limitations: Grants may be used only to purchase scientific instruments, equipment, minor renovations, and material supplies or for curriculum development. No funds are to be used for operating expenses, personnel or service contracts. No awards will be made for teaching aids such as slide projectors or computer software. No awards will be made for personal computers that are not linked to or critical to the operation of laboratory equipment.

Review and Award Procedures

The primary selection criteria will be the extent to which the instrument(s), materials and proposed modifications will improve undergraduate STEM education in West Virginia by providing an innovative approach that will encourage more students to undertake careers in STEM. Plans to obtain alternative sources of support for the project will also be considered. Awards will be announced by Nov. 30.

Notification of awards will be made to the submitting PI and submitting organization. PIs whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible. Copies of review comments may be requested by the Principal Investigator.

Reporting Requirements

All recipients of STaR funding are required to provide a written report after the end of the grant period. Recipients are expected to summarize the impact and outcomes of the award, final expenditures, significant insights, numbers of students served, secondary or advanced proposals to other federal, private, or state programs, and overall success of the award. The report is due 60 days after the grant ending date and must be filed using the GO! system reporting function. All requests for extensions must be submitted via a grant modification form found under the Resources tab on our website (<http://wvresearch.org>).

For questions, please contact the program officer:

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