



Notice of Intent: Research Challenge Grant RFP

To make researchers aware of upcoming release of Request for Proposals for the FY28 Research Challenge Grant (RCG)

Program Announcement

Notice of Intent: Research Challenge Grant RFP

RFP Publication

October 2026

NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) TO PUBLISH A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

STaR Program: Research Challenge Grant, FY28

Date of Notice: 9/11/2026

Purpose of This Notice

The STaR Division of the WV Higher Education Policy Commission intends to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in October 2026 for the Research Challenge Grant, FY28. This Notice of Intent is being issued in advance of the formal RFP to provide prospective applicants early awareness of the program's scope and key changes, allowing time to prepare for a competitive application process.

This is not a solicitation for proposals. No applications will be accepted, and no funding decisions will be made, based on this notice. Full eligibility criteria, application requirements, evaluation criteria, and submission instructions will be detailed in the forthcoming RFP.

Program Overview

- Anticipated RFP Release: October 2026
- Total Program Funding: \$1,680,000*
- Grant Cycle Duration: 4 years
- Award Structure: The grant conditions and award structure have been revised to align with the structure of the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR RII: E-RISE (EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM Excellence) grant program ([NSF 25-522](#)). Previous RCG awards were intended to prepare West Virginia-based researchers for competitive pursuit of the NSF EPSCoR Track-1 awards. With the discontinuation of the Track-1 program and its partial replacement by the E-RISE program, the RCG has been similarly adapted to continue its mission of increasing the competitiveness of West Virginia proposals for research-focused EPSCoR programs.

*Total funds available for all successful RCG FY28 award(s)

What Happens Next

The full RFP, including detailed eligibility requirements, application procedures, evaluation criteria, and award terms, is anticipated to be released in October 2026. Prospective applicants are encouraged to monitor www.wvresearch.org/current-opportunities for the official RFP announcement and to prepare accordingly.

For questions, please contact the program officer:

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