

Busch Biomedical Grants Frequently Asked Questions 2026

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Only full-time members of the Rutgers faculty at the time of application may apply. This designation includes non-tenure-track, tenure-track, and tenured faculty. The following are NOT eligible to apply: coadjutant appointees, teaching and research assistants, post-doctoral fellows, visiting faculty members, and full-time administrators.

2. How is an “early career applicant” defined for the Early Career Pilot Grants track? For purposes of the Early Career Pilot Grants track, early career applicants are defined as:

- a) Individuals who not received tenure as of June 1, 2026 (tenure-track applicants); or
- b) Individuals who completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training (whichever date is later) *after* June 1, 2016 (non-tenure track applicants).

3. How is an “mid- to senior-career applicant” defined for the New Direction Pilot Grants track? For purposes of the New Direction Pilot Grants track, mid- to senior-career applicants are defined as:

- a) Individuals who have received tenure as of June 1, 2026 (tenure track applicants); or
- b) Individuals who completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training (whichever date is later) *before* June 1, 2016 (non-tenure track applicants).

4. I am classified as an “early career applicant” based on the definition in the solicitation. May I apply for the New Direction Pilot Grants track?

No. The New Direction Pilot Grants track is only open to mid- and senior-career applicants as defined above.

5. How is a “new direction” for the applicant’s work defined for purposes of the New Direction Pilot Grants track?

A project for the New Direction track should illustrate a significant departure from the applicant’s previously (including currently) funded work. It could represent, for example: the exploration of untested of new theories, approaches, or methods in the applicant’s research area of interest; incorporation of elements from additional disciplines; or an applicant’s venture into a new research area. The applicant is ultimately responsible for justifying this new direction in the proposal and how pilot funding through this grant would help advance the applicant’s research in this new direction.

6. Would my start-up funds count against the solicitation’s cap of \$400,000 for direct costs of funding support?

No. This cap only refers to total annual *extramural support* (federal and private) as principal investigator.

7. I recently received a Busch Grant, am I eligible to apply?

No, if you received a Busch Biomedical Grant in the prior five award cycles, you are not eligible to apply.

8. Can I apply to both the Busch Biomedical Grant Program and for another internal grant?

Individuals cannot have another internal funding application pending for the same project at the time of submission.

9. Can I apply for two Busch Grants with two different projects?

Applicants may only submit one application as the lead PI. They may, however, serve as a collaborator on additional Busch Grants if applicable.

10. Can I apply with a co-PI from another university?

Busch Biomedical Grants are intended to be single investigator grants. However, collaborators on the grant may be both internal and external to Rutgers. Funds cannot be used to pay for salary for faculty, staff, or students at another university.

11. Can I apply to the Busch Biomedical Grant Program or serve as a collaborator on an applicant's proposal if I also intend to become a reviewer?

No. If you intend to become a reviewer during this cycle, then you cannot apply to the grant program or serve as a collaborator on another applicant's proposal.

12. What is the maximum award amount?

The maximum that you can request for a Busch Biomedical Grant is \$60,000, regardless of track.

13. Is there any disadvantage to requesting the maximum amount of \$60,000 (provided it's fully justified)?

There is no disadvantage to asking for the maximum amount, however, it's possible that you will be awarded less than the amount that you are requesting. It depends on the amount of funding available and the number of applications that we receive.

14. Can I request to purchase equipment over \$5,000?

No, Busch funds cannot be used to purchase major equipment (items over \$5,000).

15. Can grant funds be used for faculty salary?

No, Busch Biomedical Grants may not be used for summer salary, salary supplement, or to pay any part of the grant recipient's salary.

16. Can I include letters of support with my application?

Letters of support will not be reviewed or accepted. However, we do encourage potential

applicants to discuss their proposal with their department before applying. If your application is awarded, you will need to enter your application into RAPSS and receive departmental approval.

17. Is my project appropriate for Busch funding?

Busch grants support basic biomedical research; i.e., research which aims to increase understandings of the underlying mechanisms of living organisms and how they contribute to our knowledge of disease and its effects on physiological and behavioral processes. Projects that are clinical or translational in nature are not eligible for funding through the Busch Program. For further information on basic biomedical sciences, visit the NCBI's [report](#) "Research Training in the Biomedical, Behavioral, and Clinical Research Sciences."

18. Can I change my application after submission?

Once submitted via InfoReady you will be unable to make changes to your application directly. Please contact [University-Wide Funding Opportunities](#) to request assistance with editing your application. Changes will not be accepted after the submission deadline.

19. Do we need to upload the proposal into RAPSS?

Proposals need to be uploaded into RAPSS only after they are awarded.

20. If awarded, when will I have access to the funds?

Access to the funds will not be made available until the new award has been entered into the Research Administration and Proposal Submission System (RAPSS) and all compliance requirements have been met (IRB, IACUC, etc.).

