# DHART SPORE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

**ELECTRONIC RECEIPT DATE**

**Application Submission Deadline: November 3, 2026**

***Please note that you will submit through Indiana CTSI's grants management software, WebCAMP. The WebCAMP user's guide is available under the funding announcement here:***
https://indianactsi.org/translational-research-development/open-funding-opportunities/

# DHART SPORE DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Developmental Research Program (DRP) is a component of the multi-institutional **D**evelopmental and **H**yperactive **Ra**s **T**umor (DHART) SPORE. This SPORE program aims to improve the diagnosis and management of tumors arising in individuals with neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) and other inherited "Rasopathy" syndromes through basic, translational, and clinical research. These tumors include plexiform neurofibroma, malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor (MPNST), optic track glioma, juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML), and subsequent malignant neoplasms caused by prior exposure to mutagenic chemotherapy and/or radiation. Research proposals investigating the role of somatic *NF1* mutations in cancers such as glioblastoma, adenocarcinoma of the lung, melanoma, and myeloid leukemia will also be considered for support. **Basic, translational, and clinical research projects that focus on targeting oncogenic N-Ras, K-Ras, or H-Ras proteins will not be considered for DHART SPORE DRP support.** The DHART SPORE Developmental Research Program (DRP) supports innovative (high risk/high reward) pilot projects to advance the diagnosis and treatment of early stage tumors and advanced cancers characterized by germline and somatic *NF1* mutations through rigorous translational research in the areas of population science, therapeutics, and mechanisms of disease, and by facilitating collaborative interactions between DRP-funded scientists and other SPORE investigators.

**Awards:** We anticipate funding up to 3 DRP projects at $50,000 - $75,000 each. Awards will be valid for 12 months, and we expect that most projects will be funded for one year. Awardees are expected to spend the funds during the current SPORE fund year. However, a second year of funding is potentially available for projects demonstrating substantial progress and a high likelihood of long-term success through a competitive re-application process. Please note that multiple sources of funding support the DRP awards. As a result, the IDC rate can vary depending on the source of funding. Please do not include IDC in your budget proposal, but be aware that if a proposal is funded, the maximum allowable IDC from the source funder will be applied.

**Eligibility:** Proposals will be accepted from clinical, population, and basic science investigators at DHART SPORE and non-SPORE academic institutions. Application is limited to faculty who are scientifically independent by the criteria of eligibility to apply for NIH R01 awards, but who do not currently hold R01 funding for NF1-related research as a Principal Investigator. Faculty members with NIH career development awards (K08; K23) are **not** eligible to apply for DRP funds.

# APPLICATION PROCESS AND SUBMISSION

**Applications:** DRP applications consist of:

1. A cover page signed by the Principal Investigator (PI) and their department chair.
2. A single page containing an abstract of no more than 350 words, briefly summarizing the project and a 200-word statement describing the relevance to the goals of the DHART SPORE.
3. A non-redundant 2-page scientific proposal that includes aims, background, preliminary data (if available), and research plan, including a concise description of the methods used in the approach to test the hypothesis/hypotheses adequately. All figures and tables must be included within the 2-page proposal, and appendices are not permitted. A bibliography listing citations to published work is the only item not included in the 2-page limit.
4. The NIH Biographical Sketch of the Principal Investigator (PI) and any key collaborators.
5. An itemized budget page and budget justification. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** When utilizing one of the DHART SPORE Core facilities, please ensure that you include the associated costs as a separate line item in your budget. Additionally, you must provide a letter of support from the respective Core Director that outlines the work being conducted in the Core and the associated costs. **Please also refer to the Budgetary Guidelines below for additional requirements for core usage.**

Proposals must use 11 point Arial font style throughout (except for Figure Legends) and 0.5 inch margins. Proposals that do not conform to the submission guidelines stated above will be returned without review.

**Submission: The submission deadline is November 3, 2026.**

- Contract and grant approval are not required to apply.
- Submissions are via the 'Start a submission' link found on the Indiana CTSI website.
- You must use the application forms available on the Indiana CTSI website and check the DRP box on the application to indicate you are submitting under this mechanism.

**Application review:** Applications will be reviewed by the DHART SPORE Steering Committee and prioritized based on translational potential, scientific quality, qualifications, and track record of the PI, potential for development of the project to a full project or clinical trial, and relevance to the goals of the DHART SPORE.

**Anticipated Funding Start Date: December 1, 2026.**

**Budgetary Guidelines:** Funds may be used to support up to 10% of the PI's salary (at a level equivalent to or below the allowable NIH cap), other research personnel, supplies, or small equipment. Funds cannot be used to purchase large equipment. Applicants may propose to utilize DHART SPORE Core facilities to advance the scientific goals of their DRP project. The costs of these studies should be deducted from the overall budget, and **a letter from the Core Director should be included** outlining the work being done in the Core and the associated costs. Please do not include IDC in your budget proposal, but be aware that if a proposal is funded, the maximum allowable IDC from the source funder will be applied.

**Obligations of the Successful Applicant:** Awardees are invited to participate in DHART SPORE activities and will present at the yearly program retreat. A progress report must be submitted at the end of the funding period.

Any questions can be directed to Kevin Shannon (e-mail: kevin.shannon@ucsf.edu) and/or Jaishri Blakeley (e-mail: jblakel3@jhmi.edu).

For WebCAMP submission questions, contact Julie Driscol (judrisco@iu.edu)