Senior Grant Guidelines

I. SUMMARY

The Indiana Academy of Science Senior Research Grants Program provides funding of up to $5,000 to Academy members, or students they sponsor, for the support of novel scientific research. Funding may be used to purchase supplies, support travel and field expenses, pay research assistants, and cover other costs essential to carrying out scientific investigations. Deadlines for submission are March 15 and September 15 of each year. Applications must be submitted through the Indiana Academy of Science website.
For questions, email grants@indianaacademyofscience.org.

II. PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Indiana Academy of Science Senior Research Grants Program is supported by income from the John S. Wright Fund. Since 1964, these funds have provided financial support for a wide range of scientific research projects that align with the Academy's mission and advance science within Indiana. The Research Grants Committee oversees the administration of the program, including developing guidelines, reviewing proposals, and determining funding decisions.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

• Be a current member of the Indiana Academy of Science (IAS) and have been a member in good standing during the preceding year.

• Members who have not previously applied for or received an IAS Senior Research Grant are eligible.

• Students, postdoctoral associates, or non-permanent faculty must have a faculty sponsor who meets the IAS membership requirement and assumes fiscal and administrative responsibility for the grant.

• Grants are awarded to the applicant's affiliated institution or organization, not to individuals. Applications must include authorization from an institutional official with appropriate signing authority.

• Applicants must be willing and able to comply with all reporting, presentation, membership, and acknowledgment requirements outlined in these grant guidelines.

IV. REVIEW PROCESS

Each application is reviewed by multiple members of the Senior Research Grants Committee.

Review criteria include:

- Scientific merit and clarity
- Appropriateness of methodology
- Qualifications of the investigator
- Budget reasonableness and adherence to guidelines
- Alignment with the Academy's mission and contribution to Indiana's scientific community

Preference will be given to:

- Projects contributing directly to Indiana
- Applicants with limited access to external funding
- Start-up projects with potential for future funding
- Projects actively involving undergraduate and graduate students
- Modest funding requests allowing support of multiple projects
- Proposals demonstrating intent to present findings at IAS Annual Meetings or publish in the Proceedings

When multiple applications are deemed meritorious, priority consideration will be given based on the following:

• Demonstrated involvement in IAS committees, leadership roles, or volunteer service

• Length of IAS membership

• Contributions to IAS programs, events, or outreach initiatives

V. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must upload a single PDF file containing all required components, organized in the following order:

- Completed Senior Research Grant Information Form (with all required signatures)
- Cover Page (investigator and sponsor names, affiliations, email addresses, descriptive project title, submission date, funding amount requested, and payment information for the institution)
- Abstract (maximum 300 words)
- Narrative (maximum five pages, single- or double-spaced with double spaces between paragraphs; 10–12 point font; 1" margins) including:
  - Problem statement and study justification
  - Literature review
  - Research objectives, scope, and methodology
  - Other funding efforts
  - Investigator qualifications
  - Expected publication timeline
- References Cited
- Budget (with detailed justifications)
- IRB/IACUC approval or exemption documentation (if applicable)
- Progress Report (if seeking continued funding from a previously funded project)

VI. BUDGET GUIDELINES

Allowable expenses:
- Supplies directly consumed by the project
- Vehicle travel within Indiana (fuel costs, limited rental justification)
- Room and board at study sites
- Wages for students or technicians (not for applicants or sponsors)
- Equipment specific to the project (limited to less than 50% of the total budget request)

Non-allowable expenses:
- Attendance at meetings
- Publication costs
- Institutional overhead or indirect costs
- Salaries for applicants or sponsors
- Pedagogical research
- Computer purchases or computing time

Budgets must include detailed justification for each requested item. Inadequately justified budgets may result in partial or no funding.

VII. FINAL REPORTS AND PUBLICATION EXPECTATIONS

Grant recipients are required to submit a financial accounting and a final scientific report within six (6) months of project completion. Failure to submit required reports will render the recipient ineligible for future Indiana Academy of Science grants.

Grant recipients are expected to present the outcomes of their funded work at a future Indiana Academy of Science Annual Meeting according to the following timeline:

• Fall Grant Cycle recipients must present their work at the Annual Meeting occurring approximately eighteen (18) months after receiving funding.

• Spring Grant Cycle recipients must present their work at the Annual Meeting occurring approximately twelve (12) months after receiving funding.

Recipients must maintain active Indiana Academy of Science membership throughout the grant period and until their presentation obligation has been fulfilled. Annual Meeting registration fees are the responsibility of the recipient and may not be included as an allowable expense in the grant budget.

Failure to present funded research at the required Annual Meeting, without prior approval from IAS, may result in the request for partial or full reimbursement of awarded funds.

Any publications or presentations resulting from IAS-supported research must acknowledge funding from the Indiana Academy of Science.

VIII. MODIFICATIONS TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Requests for project extensions (without additional funds), budget reallocations, or continuation funding must be submitted in writing to the Research Grants Committee Chair. Extensions may be granted for up to six months under normal circumstances.

IX. DEADLINES

Applications are due by March 15 and September 15 annually. Applicants are encouraged to submit early to ensure confirmation of receipt.

X. PUBLIC RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION

As part of the Academy's effort to highlight funded research and promote member achievements, grant recipients agree to participate in promotional and outreach efforts. By accepting grant funding, recipients agree to promptly provide:

• A professional headshot
• Official grant project title
• A short statement explaining their interest in and connection to the Indiana Academy of Science

This information may be used for social media, newsletters, website features, press releases, or other Academy communications.