

Funding Opportunity
NIH High-End Instrumentation Grant Program (HEI) (S10)
PAR-24-264

Link: [High-End Instrumentation \(HEI\) Grant Program](#)

REQUIRED PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING NIH HEI S10 PROPOSALS

Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that there is no duplication of equipment. The Office for Research manages the internal vetting process for this program through the office Core Facilities Administration (CFA). Groups completing LOI process on time will receive priority in cases of conflicting requests.

Faculty interested in submitting a proposal to are required to follow the instructions below. Proposals that do not follow the process below will not be submitted by Sponsored Research.

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

The High-End Instrumentation (HEI) Grant program encourages applications from groups of NIH-supported investigators to purchase or upgrade a single item of high-end, specialized, commercially available instruments or integrated systems. The minimum award is **\$750,001**. There is no maximum price limit for the instrument; however, the maximum award is **\$2,000,000**.

Instruments supported include, but are not limited to, biomedical imagers, high throughput robotic screening systems, X-ray diffractometers, mass spectrometers, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometers, DNA and protein sequencers, biosensors, electron and light microscopes, and cell sorters.

At least three Major Users who have substantial need for the instrument must be identified. Each of these Major Users must be a PD/PI on a distinct active NIH research award (i.e., a grant or a cooperative agreement) in an area of basic, translational, or clinical research. Once the eligibility requirement has been met, additional users with active research awards from NIH or other sources may be added as Major or Minor Users. Investigators with funding from sources such as other Federal agencies (e.g., NSF, DoE, DoD), private foundations, or academic institutions, can be added as Major Users, provided they are engaged in basic, translational or clinical research and can demonstrate a substantial need for the instrument. Major Users supported by NIH research awards should collectively use the instrument at the 35 percent level of the Accessible User Time AUT and the projects supported by NIH research awards (i.e., grants or cooperative agreements) should together use the instrument at the 75 percent level of the Accessible User Time (AUT) or higher.

The Major User group must meet the eligibility requirement at the time of submission. In addition, if/when the application is considered for funding, the HEI Program Staff will check that the Major User group eligibility requirement is also met at the time of award.

DEADLINES

Internal letters of intent due from PIs:	January 22, 2026 (11:59 PM)
Submission status sent to PIs from CFA:	February 3, 2026

NIH deadline, full proposal:

June 1, 2026 (5:00 PM local time)

REQUIRED INTERNAL LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

Required information for the internal letter of intent:

1. Principal Investigator (PI) Name, Department, School
2. Instrument name and description
3. Description and availability of similar instruments at NU
4. Justification of need
5. List of major users
6. Budget or quote for instrument
7. A financial plan for the purchase and long-term operation and maintenance of the instrument during the post-award period. [Link \(NIH Operational Budget Template\)](#)
8. If the instrument will be housed in a core facility, provide
 - a. Core Facility Name
 - b. Letter of support (MUST be provided by Core Faculty Director). [Link \(Internal Letters of Support\)](#)
 - c. Cost share budget and justification: cost share request must satisfy eligibility requirements referenced below
9. Anticipated instrument location: provide building, room #, and space owner
 - a. Description of required renovations (if any)
 - b. Letter of support from space owner committing that properly configured space will be provided for the lifetime of the instrument. [Link \(Internal Letters of Support\)](#)
10. Financial responsibility for continued operations of equipment
 - a. Letter of support from organizational unit responsible for core (typically Department Chair or URIC Director) stating that unit will be responsible for resolving any operational deficit arising from the project and will ensure that the instrument will be maintained and made available to the projects described in the proposal. [Link \(Internal Letters of Support\)](#)

INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS

- LOIs MUST be submitted online by completing the S10 LOI Submissions Form ([Link](#)), by **January 22, 2026 at 11:59 PM**.
- LOIs will be reviewed by Schools and Office for Research leadership.
- PIs will be notified of the proposal status by **February 3, 2026**.

COST SHARING PROCESS

This program does not meet the requirements for voluntary cost share.

- Link: [Office for Research Guidance: Cost Sharing](#)

LETTER OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

If approved to submit, PI must generate proposed text for institutional letters no later than **May 5, 2026**. CFA will provide separate guidance on this process directly to Research Administrator that completes the application.

CONTACTS

Andrew Ott

Director of Core Facilities Administration, OR

a-ott@northwestern.edu
7-1622

Jeff Weiss
Director of Research Core Planning, FSM
jeff-weiss@northwestern.edu
3-0543