

## 2026 Research Grant Application and Guidelines

### Dates for 2026 Applications and Progress Reports

- **March 2, 2026:** Letters of intent are due to FIRST
  - For investigators pursuing a second year of funding, please also submit a letter of intent for a year 2 proposal.
- **March 23, 2026:** Invitation to submit full application emailed to investigators
- **April 1, 2026:** Progress reports for one-year awards are due to FIRST
  - For investigators pursuing a second year of funding, please instead include a progress report for year 1 of funding with the full grant proposal for year 2 (*no progress report due on April 1*).
- **May 4, 2026:** Full grant application due to FIRST
  - For investigators pursuing a second year of funding, include a progress report for year 1 of funding as a separate section in your grant proposal for year 2.
- **August 31, 2026:** Notification of awards
- **October 1, 2026:** Funding start
- **November 30, 2026:** Final progress reports for prior year awards due to FIRST

### Contact Information

Christine Wassel  
Community Engagement Director  
Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc. ®  
PO Box #1067  
Lansdale, PA 19446-0687

Telephone: 215.997.9400 × 2  
Email: [cwassel@firstskinfoundation.org](mailto:cwassel@firstskinfoundation.org)

## Guidelines for Submission of Proposals

1. A **Letter of Intent** (LOI) including project title and abstract of the proposal, information on the Principal Investigator/Institution, NIH Biosketch or Curriculum Vitae and list of other grant funding must be received by 5pm EST on **March 2, 2026**.

After reviewing the letter of intent, the Foundation will invite select applicants to submit a full application.

2. **Grant proposals** must be received in the Foundation office by 5pm EST on **May 4, 2026**.

3. For *LOI and Grant proposals*, electronic submissions are required. Download the respective application form in PDF format. Complete the application and return it to the Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types (FIRST) by *email* to: [cwassel@firstskinfoundation.org](mailto:cwassel@firstskinfoundation.org).

Please include any relevant attachments and name your application with YourLastName\_YourFirstName\_LOI or YourLastName\_YourFirstName\_Grant proposal.

4. Format Requirements: All written materials (e.g., LOI, research proposal, budget, and biosketches) must be prepared in single-spaced Arial 11-point font or comparable standard font. Pages must be 8.5" x 11" in size with no less than one-half inch margins on all sides. Font contained in tables, figures, and letters of support may deviate from these guidelines if legible.
5. **Pilot grants** are available for funding for 1 year, **Research grants** are available for funding for up to a total of 2 years, pursuant to acceptable progress reports after one year and availability of funds. Investigators who were previously awarded a *Research grant* and wish to pursue a second year of funding must submit a LOI and a competitive full grant application for the 2nd year at the regular grant deadlines. Please include a progress report for year 1 of funding as a separate section in your grant proposal for year 2.
6. The narrative portion of *Research Grant proposals* may not exceed **5 pages**. For *Pilot Grants*, a brief narrative (**2 pages**) is encouraged.
7. **Grant Proposals must include:**
  - 7.1. Project Application
    - 7.1.1. Add starting date for the project and a proposed ending date.
    - 7.1.2. For Human Subjects or Animal use, see details in sections 8 and 9.
  - 7.2. Project Abstract
    - 7.2.1. A summary of the proposed project. Please use **lay language** to the extent possible.

### 7.3. Project Budget

- 7.3.1. Provide a detailed one-year budget up to \$15,000 for *Pilot grants*, and up to \$50,000 for *Research Grants*.
- 7.3.2. The Foundation does not fund indirect costs.
- 7.3.3. The budget is not to include funding for equipment greater than \$2,000.
- 7.3.4. Payments will be made to the financial officer of the principal investigator's institution, who will be responsible for administering the funds. Any unexpended funds shall be returned to the Foundation upon completion of the funding period unless an extension is approved by the Foundation.

### 7.4. Biographical Sketch or CV

- 7.4.1. Complete biographical information on the principal investigator, co-investigators, and any other significant personnel. Do not exceed **four pages** per person. Alternatively, *NIH biosketches* may be used and attached to the proposal.
- 7.4.2. Personal Statement - Briefly describe why your experience and qualifications make you particularly well-suited for your role (e.g., PI, mentor, participating faculty) in the project that is the subject of the application. Within this section you may, if you choose, briefly describe factors such as family care responsibilities, illness, disability, and active-duty military service that may have affected your scientific advancement or productivity.
- 7.4.3. Positions and Honors - List in chronological order previous positions, concluding with the present position. List any honors.
- 7.4.4. Selected Peer-reviewed publications - FIRST encourages applicants to limit the list of selected peer-reviewed publications or manuscripts in press to **no more than 15**. Do not include manuscripts submitted or in preparation. The individual may choose to include selected publications based on recency, importance to the field, and/or relevance to the proposed research. When citing articles, provide the PubMed Central (PMC) reference number (e.g., PMCID234567) or PubMed ID (PMID).
- 7.4.5. Research Support - List both ongoing and completed research projects for the past three years (Federal or non-Federally-supported). Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in the application. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and responsibilities of the key person identified on the Biographical Sketch. Do not include number of person months or direct costs.

### 7.5. Research Plan

- 7.5.1. A detailed description of your *research plan* including hypothesis or hypotheses, proposed methodologies, expected results, and strengths and potential pitfalls of the project. See Form for a suggested format.
- 7.5.2. For a year 2 Research proposal, please include a brief progress report on the funded year 1 project as a separate section.

7.6. Resources /Facilities Description.

7.6.1. Please include a *Letter of Commitment* from your institution or department head.

7.6.2. *Letters of Commitment* to collaborate from other research institutions or facilities that will participate in the project.

7.7. Please provide a *timetable* with realistic goals for every 6 months of support. Such information will form the basis of progress reports.

7.8. *Future plans* for the project, including plans for future funding, if applicable.

8. Use of Human Data/Biological Specimens

Research that involves the use of human data or biological specimens is considered human subjects research and must be approved by the Human Subjects Review Board of the applicant's parent institution. Provide the *status of IRB approval process or approval number and date of expiration*.

9. Use of Animals in FIRST-Funded Biomedical Research

Animals shall be used in biomedical research only when no other means of obtaining scientifically sound, valid and useful results are available. The minimum number of appropriate animals required to obtain and validate results shall be used. The acquisition, care and use of animals must be in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations and must be approved by the institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC). Provide a separate *Vertebrate Animal section*, if applicable.

Certifications must be received from research facilities prior to being approved for a research grant that each involved animal facility, its researchers, and employees adhere to the Animal Welfare Act, National Research Council Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and any appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture or National Institutes of Health regulations and standards. In cases requiring the death of an animal, only the most appropriate and humane form of euthanasia shall be used consistent with the purpose of the research.



**Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.®  
2026 Research Grant Application**

Project Application

*Investigator:*

Project Title:	
Date of Application:	
Principal Investigator: Degree: Position: Address:  Phone Number: Fax: Email:	
Sponsoring Institution / Department  Grants Contract Administrator, Name:  Address:  Phone: Fax:	
Endorsing Chairman of the Department: Chairman's Phone Number:	<i>Signature:</i>
Total Funds Requested	
Dates of Proposed Project Period:	
Site of Project:	
Principal Investigator Signature:	

- Animal use                      IACUC approval status pending / approved (*circle*)
- Human subject use              IRB approval status pending / approved (*circle*)

Project Abstract

*Investigator:*

Project Title:	Please do not exceed this page length. Use lay language to the extent possible.
Abstract:	<p><i>Objective:</i></p> <p><i>Aims:</i></p> <p><i>Methods:</i></p> <p><i>Key idea of proposal (how is it an advancement):</i></p> <p><i>Relevance to the mission of the Foundation for Ichthyosis &amp; Related Skin Types:</i></p>



**Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.<sup>®</sup>  
2026 Research Grant Application**

Project Budget - List Direct Costs Only

Investigator:

Project Title:		
Detailed Project Budget From:	Through	Type of

Personnel (Applicant organization only):	Dollar amount requested:
--	--------------------------

Name	Title/Position	% Effort	Salary	Fringe Benefits	Totals
	Principal Investigator				

Subtotals:			
------------	--	--	--

Supplies (please itemize):	
Other:	
Total Request:	\$

**Biographical Sketch**

Please provide the following information for the key personnel and other significant contributors in alphabetical order following the principal investigator. Follow this format for each person. Do not exceed **four** pages.

Investigator:

Project Title:	
Name	Position / Title

Education/Training (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, and include postdoctoral training).

Institution and Location	Degree	Month/Year(s)	Field of Study

Please refer to the Guidelines for Submission of Proposals in order to complete sections 7 a through d of the Biographical Sketch.

## Research Plan

### Suggested Format:

Project Title:	Principal Investigator:
----------------	-------------------------

- I. Hypothesis:
- II. Goals, Objectives and Aims:
- III. Significance: How is this project relevant to advancing an understanding of or treatment for ichthyosis?
- IV. Background / Preliminary Data (For research grants, year 2 applications: include progress report from year 1 studies)
- V. Experimental Design/Methods:
- VI. Potential Pitfalls/Alternatives:
- VII. References:

*Please do not exceed 5 pages, exclusive of references. References with full title and citation, including PMID.*

### Resources/Facilities Description

Specify the facilities to be used for the proposed project. Indicate the performance sites, capacities, pertinent capabilities, and relative proximity to and availability to the project PI and other investigators. Under “Other,” identify relevant support services and indicate the extent to which they will be available to the project.

#### Resources

---

Laboratory:

Clinical:

Animal:

Other:

#### Major Equipment

---

List the most important equipment items readily available for this project, noting the relevant capabilities and location of each:

## Application Checklist

- Project Application
- Project Abstract
- Project Budget
- Biographical Sketches
- Other Support
- Research Plan
- Facilities Description
- Letters of Commitment from Division/Department Head/Chair
- Letters of Commitment from Collaborators
- Institutional certification of adherence to standards for use of animals or humans in biomedical research by Division/Department Head/Chair