2026 THRIVE Award Cycle

Eligibility & Application Pathway

- These instructions apply to investigators seeking funding through the **HESI THRIVE Research Grant Program**.
- **Only investigators who submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) and are formally invited by the THRIVE Advisory Board may submit a full application.**
- All decisions of the THRIVE Advisory Board are final and not subject to appeal.

What Types of Studies Is THRIVE Seeking?

THRIVE believes that improving quality of life for cancer patients and survivors requires a deeper understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying treatment-related toxicity. The Research Grant Program is intended to **catalyze innovative, translational research** that advances this goal.

Priority areas include:

- Fundamental understanding of toxicity associated with cancer drugs or therapies
- Identification and translational application of key biomarkers of toxicity
- Development of **in vivo, in vitro, or in silico** models to predict early or emerging toxicities in pediatric or adult populations
- Improved understanding of how protective co-therapies or modified exposure protocols influence therapy-induced damage
- Discovery of novel protective therapies or dosing strategies

THRIVE funding is designed to lay the foundation for future protective interventions, mitigation strategies, and next-generation treatments that enable patients and survivors to truly thrive.

Letter of Intent (LOI)

Purpose

The LOI provides a high-level overview of the proposed study to assess scientific merit, feasibility, and alignment with THRIVE program goals.

Required Content: Research Abstract

The abstract should:

- Identify the clinical or scientific problem or gap being addressed.
- State the specific aims.
- Summarize relevant literature or prior work.
- Describe the study design, methods, and evaluation/analysis plan.
- Explain how the work will:
  - Characterize or predict when and how adverse effects may occur following cancer treatment, and/or
  - Support development of approaches to prevent or lessen these effects.

Preference is given to studies that involve both a nonclinical and a clinical researcher in the study design, conduct, or analysis.

Optional Supporting Materials

- **Biographical Sketch**: Education and training (chronological), positions and honors (chronological), and past/current research support (past 3 years).
- **Relevant Publications**: Short list of peer-reviewed publications from the past 5 years relevant to the proposed research.

LOI Submission

- The LOI application is completed **entirely online** through **ProposalCentral**: https://proposalcentral.com.
- Most fields are completed directly within the online system; **only a limited number of items require upload** (e.g., CV/biographical sketch, optional supporting documents).
- Applicants must complete and keep current their ProposalCentral Professional Profile (steps 1–10).
- ORCID iD linkage is strongly encouraged and can be completed within the Professional Profile.
- All required sections must be completed, including the **electronic signature (e-signature)** acknowledging that the information submitted is accurate to the best of the applicant's knowledge.
- Upon successful submission, applicants should receive an **automated confirmation email**.
- If a confirmation email is not received, applicants should contact **ProposalCentral** for technical assistance.
- **No deadline extensions will be granted.****

LOI Review & Notification

- LOIs are reviewed by the THRIVE Advisory Board.
- Applicants will be notified by email if they are invited to submit a full application.

Full Grant Application

Submission

- The full application is **completed entirely online through ProposalCentral**: https://proposalcentral.com.
- Most application components are completed within the online system; only a small number of materials require upload (e.g., CVs/biographical sketches).
- **Invited applicants will receive notification from the HESI THRIVE Program Manager**.
- Applicants must complete all required sections, including the electronic signature (e-signature) certifying that the information provided is accurate to the best of their knowledge.
- Upon submission, applicants should receive an automated confirmation email.
- **If a confirmation email is not received, applicants should contact ProposalCentral for technical assistance.**
- No deadline extensions will be granted.**

Required Sections

1. Project Abstract and Lay Summary

- Describe the project objectives, procedures, and significance.
- Explain relevance to predicting, preventing, or reducing adverse effects of cancer therapy.
- Provide a plain-language lay summary suitable for a nontechnical audience.

2. Research Plan

Include:

- Project Title
- Background and Significance
- Specific Aims
- Research Design and Methods
- Timetable
- Project Personnel (name, role, institution, percent effort)
- Resources and Environment

3. Budget (Direct Costs Only)

- Maximum award: USD $50,000
- Direct costs only (e.g., personnel, supplies, equipment essential to the project).
- Indirect/administrative costs are not allowed.

- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to confirm with their institution in advance that acceptance of a direct-cost-only award will not result in indirect cost charges.**
- Include a detailed budget justification.

Costs Not Allowed include, but are not limited to:

- **Indirect or administrative costs**
- **Construction or renovation**
- **Non-essential capital equipment**
- **Office equipment or furniture**
- **Equipment service contracts**
- **Non–study-related travel**
- **Tuition, journal subscriptions, dues, memberships, or publication fees**

4. Research Approval Letter

- IRB and/or IACUC approval is required for studies involving human participants or animals.
- If not available at submission, an institutional letter of support is required.
- Funding is contingent upon receipt of all required approvals prior to study start.

5. Biographical Information & Publications (Appendix)

- Biographical sketches for key investigators.
- Relevant publications from the past 5 years only**.**

Application Review Criteria

Applications are evaluated by the THRIVE Advisory Board based on:

- Significance and Scientific Merit
- Approach and Feasibility
- Innovation
- Investigator Qualifications and Environment
- Ethical and Regulatory Compliance
- Potential for Long-Term or Follow-on Funding

Grant Terms (Summary)

- **Project Period**: Up to 24 months
- **Payment Schedule**:
  - 75% upon execution of funding agreement and receipt of IRB/IACUC approval

    - 25% upon completion of agreed milestones
- **Reporting**: 12-month progress report and final report required
- **Allowable Costs**: Direct costs only; unused funds must be returned
- **Acknowledgment**: All publications and presentations must acknowledge support from the HESI THRIVE Initiative

Contacts & Support

- **Technical issues with ProposalCentral**: Contact ProposalCentral support directly.
- **Questions about application requirements or the THRIVE process**: Contact **HESI THRIVE** at **research@hesithrive.org**.

This document is intended as a concise guide. Applicants are responsible for ensuring full compliance with all THRIVE program requirements and ProposalCentral instructions.