

Tough Genes Research Grant — Request for Proposals (RFP)

Grant Amount: \$50,000 (one-time award)

Proposal Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026

About Tough Genes

Tough Genes is a nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating research, supporting families, and advancing treatment options for rare genetic conditions, specifically IRF2BPL-Related Disorder (NEDAMSS). Inspired by the resilience of our community, we invest in science that brings hope and measurable progress to those impacted by rare disease.

Purpose of the Grant

The 2026 Tough Genes Research Grant will provide \$50,000 to support innovative research or treatment development focused on IRF2BPL. This funding opportunity is intended to catalyze progress toward meaningful therapeutic solutions, with a preference for projects that have clear potential for clinical impact or translational value.

Eligibility

Applications are open to:

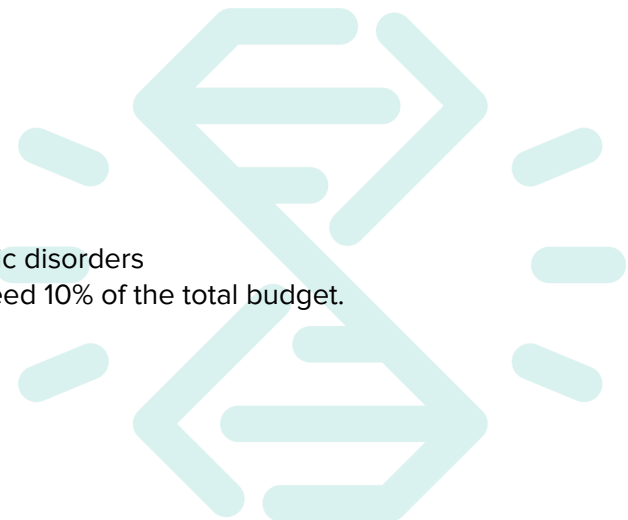
- Researchers and research teams
- Universities and medical institutions
- Biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies
- Collaborative research initiatives

Applicants from around the world are welcome to apply. Previous awardees may apply and both early-stage and established investigators are encouraged to submit proposals.

Funding Scope

The \$50,000 one-time award may be used to support:

- Preclinical or translational research
 - Novel therapeutic development
 - Pilot studies leading to larger-scale trials
 - Technology or method development relevant to genetic disorders
- Indirect costs or administrative overhead may not exceed 10% of the total budget.



Proposal Requirements and Submission Instructions

Applicants should submit a single PDF that includes:

1. Project Title and Abstract
2. Principal Investigator and Institution Information
3. Background and Rationale
4. Specific Aims and Objectives
5. Research Plan (up to 5 pages)
6. Timeline and Milestones
7. Budget and Justification
8. Disclosure of any real or perceived conflicts of interest

Projects involving human or animal research must have appropriate institutional approvals (e.g., IRB/IACUC). Proof of approval will be required prior to fund disbursement.

Any intellectual property resulting from this grant will be governed by the policies of the recipient institution. The recipient agrees to acknowledge Tough Genes in resulting publications and will allow Tough Genes to share findings with the IRF2BPL NEDAMSS research community.

All proposals must be submitted electronically to: **info@toughgenes.org**

Submissions must be received by **February 20, 2026**.

Review and Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed under confidentiality by the Tough Genes Board of Directors and Scientific Advisory Board. Evaluation criteria will include:

- Translational ability to go to clinic
- Potential impact on the rare disease community
- Feasibility and clarity of the research plan
- Alignment with the mission of Tough Genes

Award Notification

Finalists will be notified no later than **April 15, 2026**, and the selected recipient will be announced publicly no later than **May of 2026**. Funds will be distributed within 30 days of the signed award agreement. Awards are subject to compliance with applicable U.S. laws and regulations.

Reporting Requirements

The awardee will be required to provide:

- A **mid-year progress update** (6 months post-award)
- A **final report** summarizing findings, outcomes, and next steps (12 months post-award)

Questions

For additional information, please contact: **info@toughgenes.org**