



U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative

FY26 Request for Pre-Proposals

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USWBSI RFP: Submission links and information are also available on the [USWBSI FY26 RFP website](#).

Introduction & Overview

FY26 Request for Pre-Proposals (RFP)

RFP Highlights

- **New Funding Cycle:** FY26 starts a new funding cycle for USWBSI projects. All PIs, including those currently funded, will need to complete all the requirements outlined in this RFP for consideration.
- **LOIs Eliminated:** Given delays in the release of the FY26 RFP, Letter of Intent (LOI) submissions and approval are no longer required prior to the pre-proposal stage. All categories are now accepting pre-proposals.
- **New Special Project Option in FHB Outreach.** The USWBSI is seeking FHB outreach focused projects that bridge the gap between research and production practices to mitigate FHB, particularly with farmers who are new to FHB. Special Project - Category 4 outlines the detailed requirements, if interested make sure to review carefully.
- **FY26 Project Terms.** Both 4-year and 2-year project pre-proposals are being accepted for FY26. Keep in mind, funding is contingent on federal appropriations each year and should not be assumed and is not guaranteed.
- **IDC Limitation.** As a reminder, the USWBSI adheres to an IDC limitation (10% of Total Federal Funds Awarded) rather than rate, see details in the category Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary section.
- **Enhanced Pre-Proposal Submission Portal.** The FY26 Submission Portal has been upgraded for an improved user experience. All pre-proposal submissions must use the online system.
- **New CV/CPS Co-PI Uploads.** Now Co-PIs can upload their own CV/CPS forms for Lead PIs to easily add to the project pre-proposal submission. Notify your co-PIs to login and upload at the main [Submission Portal page](#).



RFP Coordination, Action Plan Research Priorities, and Funding Authority

The FY26 Request for Pre-Proposals (RFP) is coordinated by the USWBSI a national multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research consortium whose goal is to develop effective control measures that minimize the threat of Fusarium Head Blight (scab), including the production of mycotoxins, for wheat and barley. Program descriptions for the RFP are based on its recently updated USWBSI Action Plan, which is focused on increasing collaboration and communication for attainment of the Initiative's mission: **"To enhance food safety and supply by reducing the impact of Fusarium Head Blight (scab) on wheat and barley."** Make sure to review the [USWBSI Action Plan](#) to ensure your pre-proposal is aligned with the priorities of the Research Category for your project.

The USWBSI operates on behalf of USDA-ARS. All awards are executed under ARS Assistance Listing 10.001.

USWBSI Research Plan

The U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative is guided by a Steering Committee that includes producers, farm organizations, food processors (i.e., millers, pasta manufacturers, maltsters and brewers), scientists, and consumer groups. Each year, the USWBSI announces, reviews, prepares recommendations, and then submits a comprehensive and optimized research plan designed to achieve the Initiative's Action Plan goals. The annual Research Plan is the USWBSI's funding recommendation for how to most effectively employ the funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress for collaborative scab research.

Eligibility & Applicable Regulations

Eligibility requirements specify that funding of research grants can only be made to eligible principal investigators at [land-grant colleges and universities](#) in the U.S. or to USDA-ARS scientists. All awards (Assistance Listing CFDA No. 10.001) are subject to [2 CFR 200](#), Grant and Cooperative Agreement General Terms and Conditions ([REE-453](#)) as adopted by the USDA at [2 CFR Chapter IV](#), the USDA, Award Terms and Conditions Statutory and National Policy Requirements ([C. Assurances](#)), and compliance with all other terms and conditions mentioned in the award.



Funding Opportunities – USWBSI Research Categories

In alignment with the USWBSI Action Plan, USWBSI funding opportunities are available in four categories. PIs are encouraged to review the different options and select the category that best aligns with their research.

- **Category 1** – Commodity-based and VDHR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects (CPs), see page 8
- **Category 2** – FHB Integrated Management Coordinated Projects (IM-CP), see page 17
- **Category 3** – Research Area Individual Projects, see page 24
- **Category 4** – Special Projects (FHB Outreach focus), see page 32

Within each category a variety of committees, each with a team of experts, have been identified by the FHB community for review of the submissions. Committee chairs are available to assist with technical questions related to the preparation of your pre-proposal. Contact the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (nfo@scabusa.org) for details.

Collaborative Projects Encouraged

In addition to the Coordinated Projects (Category 1 and 2), other collaborative projects within or across research areas are encouraged. PIs in different institutions who intend to collaborate on pre-proposals with similar objectives, methods, etc. should coordinate their efforts to produce a single, unified (multi-PI) pre-proposal. If you are part of a collaborative project, and your proposed project is approved for funding, the funding will ultimately come in the form of a direct agreement (as described in the Eligibility & Applicable Regulations section above) for each of the collaborating PIs' institutions.

Online Submissions

The USWBSI [Submission Portal](#) must be used for the submission of all FY26 pre-proposals. General instructions for the pre-proposal requirements, and supporting documentation for uploads, is outlined in each Category section description. If this is your first time submitting a pre-proposal, you will be prompted to create an account to gain access. The submission portal will be open for at least 30 days prior to the submission deadline. PIs will be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the **deadline for submissions on January 7, 2025**.

Conformance with Instructions for Pre-Proposal Preparation

It is important that all pre-proposals conform to the instructions provided in the FY26 RFP. The USWBSI's Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) may return submissions that are not consistent with these instructions. The NFO must authorize any deviations from these instructions in advance of pre-proposal submission. Deviations must be authorized by written approval from the USWBSI Researcher Co-Chair or the NFO Director of Operations.

Project Duration and Continuations

The FY26 funding cycle offers the option for either 4-year or 2-year term projects. Each year of a multiple-year project is funded annually. The first increment of funding is issued with a new agreement. The following years are each issued as a continuation award with amendments to the original agreement. Awards are funded in 12-month increments regardless of the agreement period of performance (4YR or 2YR). Awards are reviewed annually for successful outcomes on prior year funding and assessed against requirements and funding availability to determine funding amount. If awarded, the amount of a first year of funding may not be the same in Year 2, 3 or 4 of continuation awards, the funding level of each year should not be assumed and is not guaranteed. Annual performance reports and continuation request review/approval will be required for each year of the project. The submitted duration simply establishes the agreement with those terms in place, allowing for the option of

	Pre-Proposals Accepted	4 Year Projects	2 Year Projects
2025	FY26 RFP - 4YR and 2YR Projects		
2026		New FY26 Agreement	New FY26 Agreement
2027	FY28 RFP – 2YR Projects Only	YR2 Continuation Amendment	YR2 Continuation Amendment
2028		YR3 Continuation Amendment	New FY28 Agreement
2029	FY30 RFP – 4YR and 2YR Projects	YR4 Continuation Amendment	YR2 Continuation Amendment
2030		New FY30 Agreement	New FY30 Agreement

continuation amendments for the duration of the term. PIs who are awarded funding will be notified with details about the specific [Continuation Funding Request process](#).

Sponsored Programs Office Signatures

The USWBSI does not require signatures by the Authorized Organizational Representatives (AORs) on Pre-Proposals. If the PI's institution requires approval from the AOR (i.e. Sponsored Programs Administration/Office) on pre-proposals, a form that can be used at the institutional level for obtaining approval by the PI's sponsored programs office is available at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates. If recommended for funding by USWBSI, PIs will be required to include a Letter of Support from their Institution with signature from the Authorized Organizational Representative as part of the funding application for the proposal.

Review Process, Funding Recommendations and Funding Applications

All pre-proposals received by the assigned deadline will be sent for review to one of the designated review panels (i.e. Research Area and Coordinated Project Committees). The Executive Committee will then evaluate the review panels' recommendations and if necessary, modify the pre-proposal requested amounts to conform to the FY26 budget appropriated by Congress and the overall objectives of the Initiative. More detailed information on the review process is available at https://scabusa.org/rfp/FY26/FY26_RFP_ReviewProcess.pdf. Please note that all pre-proposals will be regarded as confidential documents. Distribution will be limited only to parties involved with the review process. The Executive Committee's recommended Research Plan and Budget (RP&B) is then presented to the Steering Committee. Upon approval by the Steering Committee, all PIs whose pre-proposals are recommended for funding by the USWBSI will be asked to compile and formalize their pre-proposal into a funding application. The USWBSI will submit the funding applications as recommendations for review and approval by USDA-ARS.

Revisions to Pre-Proposals Made During the Review Process

In the event of a significant development (e.g., research findings, changed circumstances, unavailability of PI, etc.) that might materially affect the outcome of the review of a pending pre-proposal, the PI (or his/her representative) must contact the Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) to discuss the issue. Depending on the outcome of the discussion, the PI may be allowed to submit a one-page update to the NFO. Submitting additional information must not be used as a means of circumventing page limitations or deadlines.

Reporting Requirements

All recipients are required to provide an annual Performance Report within 90 days of the reporting period end date and a final report upon completion of the project terms. Personalized report templates are provided each year by the USWBSI NFO to PIs upon the completion or nearing completion of their award period with instructions for submission.

Questions? Need Assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the pre-proposal process, please contact the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative's Networking and Facilitation Office by phone at 517.290.5023 or nfo@scabusa.org.



Frequently Asked Questions

To facilitate pre-proposal preparation, a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) site pertaining to preparation and submission of pre-proposals is available.

Important USWBSI FY26 RFP Dates & Deadlines

Key Actions		Deadline
All FY26 Pre-Proposals  Access the USWBSI Pre-Proposal Submission Form at https://scabusa.org/submissions	USWBSI Submission Portal opens for Pre-Proposal Submissions	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for submission of Pre-Proposal(s) via USWBSI Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*
	PIs with Recommended Pre-Proposals Prepare Funding Application	April 2026*
	Award Agreements Distributed, Agreement Period of Performance Start Date	July 2026*

* Timeline for review, notifications, and agreement distribution is projected, and subject to change.
 All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.



Category 1

**Commodity-based and
Variety Development & Host Resistance
(VDHR) - Uniform Nursery
Coordinated Projects (CPs)**

Category 1 Instructions

Commodity-based and VDHR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects (CPs)

Research Alignment

Does my proposed research belong in a Commodity-based or VDHR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Project? Yes, if the primary focus of your proposed research involves the following and your research aligns with the program descriptions listed below.

Commodity-based Coordinated Projects	Barley (BAR)
	Durum (DUR)
	Hard Winter Wheat (HWW)
Variety Development & Host Resistance (VDHR) - Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects	Spring Wheat Region (VDHR-SPR) <i>States included in this CP: ID, MN, MT, ND, SD</i>
	Northern Soft Winter Wheat (VDHR-NWW) <i>States included in this CP: KY, IL, IN, MI, NY, OH</i>
	Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat (VDHR-SWW) <i>States included in this CP: AR, GA, LA, MD, NC, SC, TX, VA</i>

NOTE: If your state is not listed with one of the VDHR Uniform Nursery CPs, please contact the Networking and Facilitation Office (NFO) for guidance.

Barley Coordinated Project (BAR-CP)

Minimizing the impact of Fusarium head blight (FHB) on barley production in the U.S. requires a multi-dimensional coordinated research effort with focused outputs. The Barley Coordinated Project (BAR-CP) seeks to combine existing lines of productive research with new avenues of investigation to develop a set of tools and disease management strategies that will minimize disease risk and mycotoxin contamination to producers and end-users of barley. This toolbox will be developed in coordination with other research areas (see below) and will consist of: 1) varieties with enhanced levels of resistance to FHB, lower levels of mycotoxins, superior agronomic performance, and good end-use quality developed through access to low-cost genotyping, coordinated nurseries, and doubled haploid line production; 2) chemical and biological formulations, application procedures, disease forecasting models that maximize efficacy, and a set of best management practices that incorporate the current tools available to combat this disease; and 3) new methodologies and germplasm developed through emerging technology and understanding of the disease to reduce the impact of FHB on barley. The Barley CP is organized around goals outlined in the MGMT, GDER, PBG and VDHR sections of the [USWBSI Action Plan](#).

Durum Coordinated Project (DUR-CP)

The Durum Coordinated Project's (DUR-CP) main objective is to develop FHB resistant durum wheat germplasm (lines/cultivars) with low DON levels, good agronomic traits, and good quality traits that will serve the producers, the domestic pasta industry, and the international export market. This includes the use of innovative research methods to develop new lines with underrepresented resistance genes. Reducing the impact of FHB in durum requires a multidisciplinary effort, and therefore strong collaboration occurs among plant breeders, pathologists, geneticists, agronomists and other individuals working in FHB management. The CP also has representation from stakeholders such as durum producers, millers, and pasta manufacturers. The Durum CP is organized around goals outlined in the VDHR and MGMT sections of the [USWBSI Action Plan](#).

Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project (HWW-CP)

The Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project (HWW-CP) is a well-structured initiative aimed at reducing deoxynivalenol (DON) levels in hard winter wheat (HWW) grain to meet the food-grade standards of the European Union (EU), which are stricter than current U.S. regulations. Since approximately half of the HWW produced in the U.S. is exported, there is significant risk that grain from high-scab areas will compromise quality. The HWW-CP is focused on rapidly developing tools and strategies (including breeding and management practices) to lower DON levels in the HWW grain supply. The coordinated project's research is centered on the following activities 1) development of breeding germplasm with a broader foundation of Fusarium head blight (FHB) resistance; 2)



application of emerging tools to map and track FHB resistance, increase selection efficiency and accuracy (using genomics, phenomics, and high-throughput methods), and shorten the breeding cycle through use of doubled haploid/speed breeding and improved parent selection; 3) collaborative evaluation through regional uniform FHB nurseries and release of new varieties with enhanced FHB resistance, reduced DON levels, improved agronomic performance, and superior end-use quality; 4) share the knowledge and germplasm generated; educate and communicate the stakeholders (e.g. producers, the KS, NE, SD, ND, TX, CO, OK, and MT Wheat Commissions, and milling and baking industry) about the efforts, outcomes and impacts of the HWW coordinated project. Further details on HWW-CP activities are illustrated in the figure below. The project is aligned with the goals outlined in the VDHR and MGMT sections of the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative [USWBSI Action Plan](#).

Variety Development and Host Resistance (VDHR)

The VDHR research area for spring wheat and soft winter wheat will be organized around participation in the Uniform Nurseries. States will be aligned as follows: Uniform Regional Scab Nursery for Spring Wheat Parents (VDHR-SPR) - ID, MN, MT, ND, and SD; Uniform Northern Winter Wheat FHB Screening Nursery (VDHR-NWW) - KY, IL, IN, MI, NY, and OH; Uniform Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat FHB Screening Nursery (VDHR-SWW) - AR, GA, LA, MD, NC, SC, TX, and VA. VDHR research will be commodity-based in the case of barley, durum and hard winter wheat coordinated projects. Each Uniform nursery will be coordinated by an appointed chair and be advised by a regional committee. Nurseries will be conducted by individual VDHR CP members in collaboration with a pathologist wherever possible, and data will be reported in a timely manner to the uniform nursery coordinator for incorporation into the final report. Uniform nursery entries will also be haplotyped at the USDA regional genotyping labs. The most promising lines may be entered in the nurseries for a second year of testing at the lines originator's request. Collaborators will make crosses among promising entries to combine FHB QTL, and segregating populations derived from these crosses/populations may be shared. Mapping of new resistance sources will be accomplished through joint phenotyping of populations. Genomic estimated breeding values for FHB resistance will be generated for preliminary breeding lines where available and appropriate. All collaborators will screen varieties and breeding lines entered into statewide performance trials for FHB resistance and provide this information to growers. See the VDHR section of the [USWBSI Action Plan](#) for research goals and needs.

Key Deadlines

Category 1 Commodity-based and VDHR- Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects (CP)	USWBSI Submission Portal Opens	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for PIs to submit FY26 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*

* Timeline for review and notifications is projected, and subject to change. All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.

PI Steps for Category 1 Submission Process

STEP 1

Pre-Proposal Submission Requirements

All PIs must complete the online pre-proposal submission via the [USWBSI Submission Portal](#). PIs are encouraged to review the form once it is available to familiarize yourself with all the required components. PIs will also be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the deadline for submission is reached. Requirements for this online submission tool must include and adhere to the following:

Principal Investigator Contact Information

By logging into the USWBSI website, your contact details will populate based on what is in your login account. Make sure to review and edit if needed.

Project Title of Proposed Research

The title of the project pre-proposal must be brief (**85-character maximum** including spaces and punctuation) yet represent the major thrust of the project. Because this title will be used to provide information to those who may not be familiar with the proposed project, highly technical words or phraseology should be avoided where possible. In addition, phrases such as “investigation of” or “research on” should not be used. Keep in mind titles should be **broad in scope**, allowing for changes in project objectives annually as needed if awarded.

Project Duration

As noted on page 4, PIs have the option to select the duration of the project for either a 2-year or 4-year term. The USWBSI is encouraging longer term (4-year) projects to reduce the significant processing requirements to establish new agreements. Please note, the USWBSI has always awarded funding annually and will continue to do so. Providing your project duration, if awarded, does not guarantee funding for the full-term. Continuation requests are required for subsequent years and are reviewed annually for successful outcomes on prior year funding and assessed against requirements and funding availability. Full funding of future continuation requests should not be assumed. Annual performance reports and continuation award review/approval will be required for each year of the project duration.

Project Type

Indicate if this is a first-time project (never funded by USWBSI) or a continuing project (previously or currently awarded by USWBSI). If continuing, indicate the current/prior Project ID that was funded.

Research Category

Select the specific Coordinated Project under Category 1 for which you have been approved for a pre-proposal.

Primary Research Area (for Commodity-Based CP submissions only)

The USWBSI goals are organized in five key research areas, given the cooperative nature of the Commodity-Based CP projects, please indicate which of the areas noted primarily align with your project: FHB Management (MGMT), Food Safety & Toxicology (FST), Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance (GDER), Pathogen Biology and Genetics (PBG) or Variety Development & Host Resistance (VDHR).

Project Grain Class

Indicate which grain class(es) your new project will focus on; you can choose up to 3 options.



PI and Co-Investigator Background Information – Upload Required

To assist peer reviewers in assessing the competence and experience of the proposed collaborators. The items listed below should **be included for the PI and Co-Investigators** who are expected to work on the project in a significant fashion (e.g. expectation of co-authorship on ensuing publications), whether or not funds are sought for the support. The PI will need to upload the following items for the PI and Co-Investigators:



- **Curriculum Vitae (CV) with Publication List.** The CV should be limited to two pages in length, excluding publications. A presentation of academic and research credentials, e.g., educational, employment and professional history, and honors and awards should be included. A chronological list of all publications in refereed journals during the past five years and non-refereed technical publications that have relevance to the proposed project should be included. The CV and Publication List should be uploaded as one PDF file.
- **Current and Pending Support (CPS) Form.** Download the current CPS form from the FY26 RFP web page at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates. *The provided form is preferred, but other versions of the Current and Pending Support forms are accepted.* Current and Pending Support Forms listing other current public or private support to which key personnel identified in the Pre-Proposal have committed portions of their time are required, whether or not salary support for person(s) involved is included in the budget. Analogous information must be provided for any pending proposals that are being considered by, or that will be submitted in the near future to other possible sponsors. Concurrent submission of identical or similar proposals to the other possible sponsors will not prejudice the review or evaluation by the USWBSI for this purpose. However, a Pre-Proposal that duplicates or overlaps substantially with a proposal already reviewed and funded (or to be funded) by another organization or agency will not be recommended under this program.



New Co-PI Upload Option for FY26

New this year, Co-PIs can login and upload their own materials for Lead PIs to easily add to their project pre-proposal submission. Notify your co-PIs to login to <https://scabusa.org/submissions/> and simply upload their files on the main page where indicated. Co-PIs should notify Lead PI once files are uploaded. Lead PI will select co-PI in the pre-proposal form and connect to uploaded forms. Lead PIs can upload for co-PIs directly if preferred.



Project Pre-Proposal Materials – Upload Required

The following materials should be developed and uploaded as one Word Doc file in the order noted and adhering to the requirements as specified. Begin by downloading the Project Pre-Proposal Form from https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates.

Project Summary

Fill in the Project Summary Page (limited to 2 pages), using Calibri or Times New Roman 12-point font, and include the following:

- Project Title (same as what is included in the submission form)
- Project Lead PI, Institution and Co-PI(s), Institution(s)
- Project Summary

The text for this portion of the project summary **should not exceed 400 words** and should focus on the following (**all four bullets below must be addressed**):

- Overall project goal(s)
- Project Objectives (list in numbered format) and Expected Outcome(s) for each objective
- Approaches that will be used to accomplish project goal(s) within the period of proposed work
- Statement of Mutual Interest (i.e. how will stakeholders/end-users benefit from this research)

Project Description

The Project Description should immediately follow the Project Summary. This plan must describe how your work specifically fits into the overall Coordinated Project and identify any linkages to other work plans that are part of the Coordinated Project. The Project Description should be formatted using Calibri or Times New Roman 12-point. **NOTE:** Digital images/tables/figures inserted into the Project Description must fit within the ten (10) page limit. (The page length is extended this funding cycle given the Letter of Intent process is no longer required.)

The Project Description should not exceed ten (10) pages in length (including tables and figures) and should describe in clear, concrete terms the substance of your proposed research including the following:

Included within the 10-Page Limit (including figures and tables)

- Title. Same as what is included in the submission form and Project Summary
- Introduction. A clear statement of the goal(s) and supporting objectives should be included. Supporting data pertinent to the proposed project may be included in this section. Present and discuss published literature that is directly related to, and supports, the proposed project.
- USWBSI Action Plan Alignment. Relevance of the project to the goals of the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative with specific reference to the applicable priorities listed in the Action Plan clearly stated. The Action Plan can be viewed at https://scabusa.org/pdfs/uswbsi_action-plan_web.pdf.
- Rationale and Significance. It is understood that FHB is a devastating disease. Acknowledgment of this fact should require no more than one sentence. Concisely present the rationale behind the proposed research; identify the gaps in the knowledge base that your proposed research is trying to fill.
- Research Materials and Methods. Specifically, this section must include:
 - The hypotheses or questions being asked
 - A description of the investigations and/or experiments proposed in the sequence in which the investigation or experiments are to be conducted
 - Techniques and methodologies to be used in carrying out the proposed project, including the feasibility of the techniques. (Describe in step-by-step fashion exactly what techniques, materials and methods will be used.)
 - Results expected
 - Means by which experimental data will be analyzed or interpreted
 - Means of applying results or accomplishing technology transfer, where appropriate
 - Pitfalls that may be encountered
 - Limitations to proposed procedures
 - A detailed (but tentative) schedule/timeline for conducting major steps involved in these investigations and/or experiments for Year 1 (in alignment with Year 1 Budget)

NOTE: Failure to address each of the issues in the bullet list will diminish the likelihood of the success of your pre-proposal being recommended for funding.

NOT Counted Toward the 10-Page Limit – Supplemental Information for the Project Description

Additionally, the following items can be included to support the project description (these items will not be counted toward the ten (10) page maximum).

- References to Project Description. Reference information is required of references cited in the Project Description. Pls must follow accepted scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials. While there is no established page limitation for the references, this section must include bibliographic citations only, and must not be used to provide parenthetical information.
- Facilities and Equipment. All facilities and major items of equipment available for use or assignment to the proposed project during the requested period of support should be described. In addition, items of nonexpendable equipment necessary to conduct and successfully conclude the proposed project should be listed, and if funds are requested for acquisition, justification should be included in the Budget Justification Worksheet and bid documentation should be noted and included in the project description.
- Collaborative Letters of Support or Sub-contractual Arrangements. If the nature of the proposed project requires collaboration or contractual arrangements with other research scientists, corporations, organizations, agencies, etc., the applicant must identify the collaborator(s) and provide a detailed explanation of the nature of the collaboration. Evidence in the form of a letter of collaboration (may be in the form of an e-mail) from all collaborators must be provided to assure reviewers that collaborators or sub-contractors involved have agreed to render the indicated services. The letter of collaboration must include specific details describing the services the collaborator will provide. **NOTE:** All Pre-Breeding/Germplasm projects need to provide letters of collaboration from your collaborators.

Special Category Forms



Breeder Form – Upload Required

If you submit a Pre-Proposal that focuses on the development of varieties, you must also complete and upload a Breeder Form. This form can be downloaded from the USWBSI's website at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates under Category 1 Forms.



Pre-Breeding/Germplasm Form – Upload Required

If the primary output for your proposed project is pre-breeding or development of germplasm, rather than a finished variety for commercial production, you must complete and upload a Pre-Breeding/Germplasm Form. This form can be downloaded from the USWBSI's website at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates under Category 1 Forms.

Budget Materials

PIs will need to provide the following detailed budget documentation. An Excel template with built-in formulas, space for your justification narrative, and auto-generation of the Budget Summary page is available. Make sure to double check that all of your details transferred as intended and all totals match.

Budget Type

Select type that matches the budget template you uploaded - Single Budget if award would be going to only one individual (i.e. PI) or select Multi-PI Budget if project involves multiple PIs at different institutions. If multi-PIs are at same institution, funds can only be dispersed to one PI on one agreement.

Budget Request

Enter the final budget requested dollar amount from your Excel template for your project into the form.



Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary – Upload Required

Utilizing one of the **Excel Budget Justification Templates** (available at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates), complete all the relevant sections and follow the instructions included in the file. Once finalized, upload the Excel Template into your submission.

NOTE: Narrative budget justification for all line-items where funds are requested is required. The narrative descriptive details must be provided within the budget template to justify the request.

Make sure to select the appropriate template for your situation, template options include:

- **Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary Template – Single PI;** single PI/single project
- **Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary Template – Multi-PI;** use for a pre-proposal with multiple PIs on a single project that will be awarded out to multiple PI institutions. In such cases, if a Multi-PI proposed research project is recommended for funding, the awards will go directly to the individuals' institutions. If your pre-proposal has more than two (2) PIs, contact the USWBSI-NFO and a version can be provided to accommodate the number of Co-PIs involved.

When preparing your budget keep these items in mind:

- **Tuition Remission:** Tuition remission is **permitted**.
- **Equipment:** If you include equipment in your budget, additional bid documentation needs to be included in your project description file. Equipment requests are intended for an article of tangible, nonexpendable, property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit per federal definition. You should also include a justification for this equipment in the Budget Justification form.
- **Indirect Cost (IDC) Limitation Policy:** As part of the 2018 Farm Bill - Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 – signed into law (Public Law 115-334) on 12/20/18 and extended through 09/30/26, a fixed Indirect Cost Limitation of 10% was established ([See Title VII, Subtitle C, Section 7303](#), page 332 of bill; page 336

of PDF). Universities may voluntarily elect to use a percentage below 10% for pre-proposals submitted to the USWBSI, however they **cannot charge a rate higher than 10%**.

A formula is included in the budget template to determine the 10% limitation amount, or if lower amount it can be entered instead. **NOTE:** Indirect Costs are not applicable to ARS Scientists and PIs currently funded under Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreements (NACAs).

STEP 2

Pre-Proposal Submission



The [USWBSI Submission Portal](#) must be used for the submission of all FY26 pre-proposals. PIs will be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the deadline for submission is reached. If this is your first time submitting a pre-proposal with the USWBSI, you will be prompted to create an account to gain access and login to the submission form. The submission portal will be open for at least 30 days prior to the submission deadline of January 7, 2026.

PI Required Items Checklist for Category 1 Submission Process

STEP 1

- ☐ Prepare materials for submission per instructions and initiate Pre-Proposal Submission via the [USWBSI Submission Portal](#)
 - ☐ Enter key details in Submission Form
 - ☐ PI Contact Information
 - ☐ Project Title (keep broad in scope, 85 character maximum)
 - ☐ Research Category
 - ☐ Project Grain Class
 - ☐ Research Area (for Commodity-Based CP submissions only)
 - ☐ Project Type
 - ☐ Project Duration
 - ☐ Enter and upload PI and Co-Investigator Information (collect from your Co-PIs)
 - ☐ CV(s)/Publication List(s)
 - ☐ Current & Pending Support Forms
 - ☐ Enter Required Submission Uploads (use the [templates and forms](#) provided for required uploads)
 - ☐ Project Summary and Description (upload as one DOC file meeting requirements noted)
 - ☐ Project Summary (should not exceed 400 words)
 - ☐ Project Description (should not exceed ten pages including tables and figures)
 - ☐ Supplemental Project Description Items (if required, not included in ten-page limit)
 - ☐ References to Project Description
 - ☐ Facilities and Equipment
 - ☐ Collaborative or Sub-contractual Agreements
 - ☐ Letters from Collaborators (required for all pre-breeding/germplasm development related Pre-Breeding Proposals)
 - ☐ Special Category Forms (if required)
 - ☐ Breeder Form (required for all variety development related Pre-Proposals)
 - ☐ Pre-Breeding/Germplasm Form (required for all pre-breeding/germplasm development related Pre-Proposals)
 - ☐ Budget Materials
 - ☐ Budget Type
 - ☐ Budget Request
 - ☐ Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary Template
- NOTE:** Make sure to use appropriate template either Single or Multi-PI

STEP 2

- ☐ Finalize and submit Pre-Proposal via the online Submission Portal

Category 1 Commodity-based and VDHR- Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects (CP)	USWBSI Submission Portal Opens	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for PIs to submit FY26 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*

* Timeline for review and notifications is projected, and subject to change. All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.



Pre-Proposal Submission Link:

[Access the USWBSI Submission Portal](#)

Forms & Templates for Upload:

[All USWBSI FY26 RFP Forms & Templates to Prepare & Upload](#)



Category 2

**FHB Integrated Management
Coordinated Project (IM-CP)**

Category 2 Instructions

FHB Integrated Management Coordinated Project (IM-CP)

Research Alignment

Does my proposed research belong in the FHB Integrated Management Coordinated Project? Yes, if the primary focus of your proposed research involves the following:

Integrated Management Studies	Experiments with randomization and replication of any combination of two or more of the following factors: fungicide application program, genetic resistance, tillage practice, cropping sequence, and other cultural practices targeting <i>Fusarium</i> -infested residues. Please note: <i>It is important that the IM-CP Standard protocols for the operational components of these projects be implemented for all funded projects within the core treatments (for at least one objective) to ensure consistency among the various IM-CP locations. Several significant modifications have been incorporated into the standard protocols for this funding cycle.</i>
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Key Deadlines

Category 2 FHB Integrated Management Coordinated Project (IM-CP)	USWBSI Submission Portal Opens	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for PIs to submit FY26 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*

* Timeline for review and notifications is projected, and subject to change. All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.

PI Steps for Category 2 Submission Process

STEP 1

Pre-Proposal Submission Requirements

All PIs submitting a pre-proposal to the FHB Integrated Management Coordinated Project must complete the online pre-proposal submission via the [USWBSI Submission Portal](#). PIs are encouraged to review the form once it is available to familiarize yourself with all the required components. PIs will also be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the deadline for submission is reached. Requirements for this online submission tool must include and adhere to the following:

Principal Investigator Contact Information

By logging into the USWBSI website, your contact details will populate based on what is in your login account. Make sure to review and edit if needed.

Project Title of Proposed Research

The title of the project pre-proposal must be brief (**85-character maximum** including spaces and punctuation) yet represent the major thrust of the project. Because this title will be used to provide information to those who may not be familiar with the proposed project, highly technical words or phraseology should be avoided where possible. In addition, phrases such as “investigation of” or “research on” should not be used. Keep in mind titles should be **broad in scope**, allowing for changes in project objectives annually as needed if awarded.



Project Duration

As noted on page 4, PIs have the option to select the duration of the project for either a 2-year or 4-year term. The USWBSI is encouraging longer term (4-year) projects to reduce the significant processing requirements to establish new agreements. Please note, the USWBSI has always awarded funding annually and will continue to do so. Providing your project duration, if awarded, does not guarantee funding for the full-term. Continuation requests are required for subsequent years and are reviewed annually for successful outcomes on prior year funding and assessed against requirements and funding availability. Full funding of future continuation requests should not be assumed. Annual performance reports and continuation award review/approval will be required for each year of the project duration.

Project Type

Indicate if this is a first-time project (never funded by USWBSI) or a continuing project (previously or currently awarded by USWBSI). If continuing, indicate the current/prior Project ID that was funded.

Research Category

Select Category 2: FHB Integrated Management Coordinated Project (IM-CP).

Project Grain Class

Indicate which grain class(es) your new project will focus on; you can choose up to 3 options.



PI and Co-Investigator Background Information – Upload Required

To assist peer reviewers in assessing the competence and experience of the proposed collaborators. The items listed below should **be included for the PI and Co-Investigators** who are expected to work on the project in a significant fashion (e.g. expectation of co-authorship on ensuing publications), whether or not funds are sought for the support. The PI will need to upload the following items for the PI and Co-Investigators:

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV) with Publication List.** The CV should be limited to two pages in length, excluding publications. A presentation of academic and research credentials, e.g., educational, employment and professional history, and honors and awards should be included. A chronological list of all publications in refereed journals during the past five years and non-refereed technical publications that have relevance to the proposed project should be included. The CV and Publication List should be uploaded as one PDF file.
- **Current and Pending Support (CPS) Form.** Download the current CPS form from the FY26 RFP web page at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates. *The provided form is preferred, but other versions of Current and Pending Support forms are accepted.* Current and Pending Support Forms listing other current public or private support to which key personnel identified in the Pre-Proposal have committed portions of their time are required, whether or not salary support for person(s) involved is included in the budget. Analogous information must be provided for any pending proposals that are being considered by, or that will be submitted in the near future to other possible sponsors. Concurrent submission of identical or similar proposals to the other possible sponsors will not prejudice the review or evaluation by the USWBSI for this purpose. However, a Pre-Proposal that duplicates or overlaps substantially with a proposal already reviewed and funded (or to be funded) by another organization or agency will not be recommended under this program.



New Co-PI Upload Option for FY26

New this year, Co-PIs can login and upload their own materials for Lead PIs to easily add to their project pre-proposal submission. Notify your co-PIs to login to <https://scabusa.org/submissions/> and simply upload their files on the main page where indicated. Co-PIs should notify Lead PI once files are uploaded. Lead PI will select co-PI in the pre-proposal form and connect to uploaded forms. Lead PIs can upload for co-PIs directly if preferred.



Project Pre-Proposal Materials – Upload Required

The following materials should be developed and uploaded as one Word Doc file in the order noted and adhering to the requirements as specified. Begin by downloading the Project Pre-Proposal Form from https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates.

Project Summary

Fill in the Project Summary Page (limited to 2 pages), using Calibri or Times New Roman 12-point font, and include the following:

- Project Title (same as what is included in the submission form)
- Project PI, Institution and Co-PI(s), Institution(s)
- Project Summary

The text for this portion of the project summary **should not exceed 400 words** and should focus on the following (**all four bullets below must be addressed**):

 - Overall project goal(s)
 - Project Objectives (list in numbered format) and Expected Outcome(s) for each objective
 - Approaches that will be used to accomplish project goal(s) within the period of proposed work
 - Statement of Mutual Interest (i.e. how will stakeholders/end-users benefit from this research)

Project Description

The Project Description should immediately follow the Project Summary. This plan must describe how your work specifically fits into the overall Coordinated Project and identify any linkages to other work plans that are part of the Coordinated Project. The Project Description should be formatted using Calibri or Times New Roman 12-point. **NOTE:** Digital images/tables/figures inserted into the Project Description must fit within the ten (10) page limit. (The page length is extended this funding cycle given the Letter of Intent process is no longer required.)

The Project Description should not exceed ten (10) pages in length (including tables and figures) and should describe in clear, concrete terms the substance of your proposed research including the following:

Included within the 10-Page Limit (including figures and tables)

Title. Same as what is included in the submission form and Project Summary

- Introduction. A clear statement of the goal(s) and supporting objectives should be included. Supporting data pertinent to the proposed project may be included in this section. Present and discuss published literature that is directly related to, and supports, the proposed project.
- USWBSI Action Plan Alignment. Relevance of the project to the goals of the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative with specific reference to the applicable priorities listed in the Action Plan clearly stated. The Action Plan can be viewed at https://scabusa.org/pdfs/uswbsi_action-plan_web.pdf.
- Rationale and Significance. It is understood that FHB is a devastating disease. Acknowledgment of this fact should require no more than one sentence. Concisely present the rationale behind the proposed research; identify the gaps in the knowledge base that your proposed research is trying to fill.
- Research Materials and Methods. Specifically, this section must include:
 - The hypotheses or questions being asked
 - A description of the investigations and/or experiments proposed in the sequence in which the investigation or experiments are to be conducted
 - Techniques and methodologies to be used in carrying out the proposed project, including the feasibility of the techniques. (Describe in step-by-step fashion exactly what techniques, materials and methods will be used.)
 - Results expected
 - Means by which experimental data will be analyzed or interpreted
 - Means of applying results or accomplishing technology transfer, where appropriate
 - Pitfalls that may be encountered

- Limitations to proposed procedures
- A detailed (but tentative) schedule/timeline for conducting major steps involved in these investigations and/or experiments for Year 1 (in alignment with Year 1 Budget)

NOTE: Failure to address each of the issues in the bullet list will diminish the likelihood of the success of your pre-proposal being recommended for funding.

NOT Counted Toward the 10-Page Limit – Supplemental Information for the Project Description

Additionally, the following items can be included to support the project description (these items will not be counted toward the ten (10) page maximum).

- References to Project Description. Reference information is required of references cited in the Project Description. Pls must follow accepted scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials. While there is no established page limitation for the references, this section must include bibliographic citations only, and must not be used to provide parenthetical information.
- Facilities and Equipment. All facilities and major items of equipment available for use or assignment to the proposed project during the requested period of support should be described. In addition, items of nonexpendable equipment necessary to conduct and successfully conclude the proposed project should be listed, and if funds are requested for acquisition, justification should be included in the Budget Justification Worksheet and bid documentation should be noted and included in the project description.
- Collaborative Letters of Support or Sub-contractual Arrangements. If the nature of the proposed project requires collaboration or contractual arrangements with other research scientists, corporations, organizations, agencies, etc., the applicant must identify the collaborator(s) and provide a detailed explanation of the nature of the collaboration. Evidence in the form of a letter of collaboration (may be in the form of an e-mail) from all collaborators must be provided to assure reviewers that collaborators or sub-contractors involved have agreed to render the indicated services. The letter of collaboration must include specific details describing the services the collaborator will provide.

Special Category Form



IM-CP Trials Summary Form – Upload Required

If you submit a Pre-Proposal for Category 2, you must also complete an IM-CP Trials Summary Form. The purpose of the form is that it will allow the review panel to readily see what site-specific decisions are made by the PI in developing their trials. This form can be downloaded from the USWBSI's Website at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates under Category 2 Forms.

Budget Materials

Pls will need to provide the following detailed budget documentation. An Excel template with built-in formulas, space for your justification narrative, and auto-generation of the Budget Summary page is available. Make sure to double check that all of your details transferred as intended and all totals match.

Budget Type

Select type that matches the budget template you uploaded - Single Budget if award would be going to only one individual (i.e. PI) or select Multi-PI Budget if project involves multiple Pls at different institutions. If multi-Pls are at same institution, funds can only be dispersed to one PI on one agreement.

Budget Request

Enter the final budget requested dollar amount from your Excel template for your project into the form.



Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary – Upload Required

Utilizing one of the **Excel Budget Justification Templates** (available at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates), complete all the relevant sections and follow the instructions included in the file. Once finalized, upload the Excel Template into your submission.

NOTE: Narrative budget justification for all line-items where funds are requested is required. The narrative descriptive details must be provided within the budget template to justify the request.

Make sure to select the appropriate template for your situation, template options include:

- **Budget Justification Template – Single PI;** single PI/single project
- **Budget Justification Template – Multi-PI;** use for a pre-proposal with multiple PIs on a single project that will be awarded out to multiple PI institutions. In such cases, if a multi-PI proposed research project is recommended for funding the awards will go directly to the individuals' institutions. If your pre-proposal has more than two (2) PIs, contact the USWBSI-NFO and a version can be provided to accommodate the number of Co-PIs involved.

When preparing your budget keep these items in mind:

- **Tuition Remission:** Tuition remission is **permitted**.
- **Equipment:** If you include equipment in your budget, additional bid documentation needs to be included in your project description file. Equipment requests are intended for an article of tangible, nonexpendable, property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit per federal definition. You should also include a justification for this equipment in the Budget Justification form.
- **Indirect Cost (IDC) Limitation Policy:** As part of the 2018 Farm Bill - Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 – signed into law (Public Law 115-334) on 12/20/18 and extended through 09/30/26, a fixed Indirect Cost Limitation of 10% was established ([See Title VII, Subtitle C, Section 7303](#), page 332 of bill; page 336 of PDF). Universities may voluntarily elect to use a percentage below 10% for pre-proposals submitted to the USWBSI, however they **cannot charge a rate higher than 10%**. A formula is included in the budget template to determine the 10% limitation amount, or if lower amount it can be entered instead. **NOTE:** Indirect Costs are not applicable to ARS Scientists and PIs currently funded under Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreements (NACAs).

STEP 2

Pre-Proposal Submission



The [USWBSI Submission Portal](#) must be used for the submission of all FY26 pre-proposals. PIs will be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the deadline for submission is reached. If this is your first time submitting a pre-proposal with the USWBSI, you will be prompted to create an account to gain access and login to the submission form. The submission portal will be open for at least 30 days prior to the submission deadline of January 7, 2026.

PI Required Items Checklist for Category 2 Submission Process

STEP 1

- ☐ If approved, prepare materials for submission per instructions and initiate Pre-Proposal Submission via the [USWBSI Submission Portal](#)
- ☐ Enter key details in Submission Form
 - ☐ PI Contact Information
 - ☐ Project Title (keep broad in scope, 85 character maximum)
 - ☐ Research Category
 - ☐ Project Grain Class
 - ☐ Project Type
 - ☐ Project Duration
 - ☐ Enter and upload PI and Co-Investigator Information (collect from your Co-PIs)
 - ☐ CV(s)/Publication List(s)
 - ☐ Current & Pending Support Forms
- ☐ Enter Required Submission Uploads (use the [templates and forms](#) provided for required uploads)
 - ☐ Project Summary and Description (upload as one DOC file meeting requirements noted)
 - ☐ Project Summary (should not exceed 400 words)
 - ☐ Project Description (should not exceed ten pages including tables and figures)
 - ☐ Supplemental Project Description Items (if required, not included in ten-page limit)
 - ☐ References to Project Description
 - ☐ Facilities and Equipment
 - ☐ Collaborative or Sub-contractual Agreements
 - ☐ Letters from Collaborators
 - ☐ Special Category Forms
 - ☐ IM-CP Trials Summary Form
 - ☐ Budget Materials
 - ☐ Budget Type
 - ☐ Budget Request
 - ☐ Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary Template

NOTE: Make sure to use appropriate template either Single or Multi-PI

STEP 2

- ☐ Finalize and submit Pre-Proposal via the online Submission Portal

Category 2 FHB Integrated Management Coordinated Project (IM-CP)	USWBSI Submission Portal Opens	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for PIs to submit FY26 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*

* Timeline for review and notifications is projected, and subject to change. All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.



Pre-Proposal Submission Link:
Forms & Templates for Upload:

[Access the USWBSI Submission Portal](#)

[All USWBSI FY26 RFP Forms & Templates to Prepare & Upload](#)



Category 3

Research Area Individual Projects

Category 3 Instructions

Research Area Individual Projects

Research Alignment

Does my proposed research belong in the Research Area Individual Project Category? Yes, if your research is in one of the following research areas and aligns with the program descriptions listed below.

Research Area Individual Projects	FHB Management (MGMT)
	Food Safety and Toxicology (FST)
	Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance (GDER)
	Pathogen Biology and Genetics (PBG)
	Other – Pre-proposals that do not fit into a specific research area or coordinated project may also be submitted in this Category

FHB Management (MGMT)

The FHB Management (MGMT) research area supports research to develop effective and economical disease management practices that reduce FHB severity and mycotoxins in small grain crops to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the wheat and barley industries. This research area involves: tillage practices, crop sequences, and other cultural practices targeting *Fusarium*-infested residues; fungicides and biocontrol agents with demonstrated field efficacy, and their application technologies; the refinement and deployment of disease prediction and forecasting models, and disease management decision tools; and studies of pathogen survival, inoculum production, dispersal, infection, colonization, mycotoxin production, fungicide sensitivity, and other factors with the ultimate goal of mitigating unacceptable levels of mycotoxins in symptomatic or asymptomatic grain. See the MGMT section of the [USWBSI Action Plan](#) for research goals.

Food Safety and Toxicology (FST)

The Food Safety and Toxicology (FST) research area supports research on food safety and food processing issues related to the presence of *Fusarium* spp. mycotoxins in wheat and barley grain. Practical outcomes of research in this area include: 1) analytical tools that can be used by small grain producers, elevators, millers, and processors, to rapidly and reliably identify mycotoxin-contaminated grain; 2) develop appropriate strategies to deal with contaminated grain; and 3) diagnostic data on *Fusarium* spp. mycotoxins required for development of FHB resistant/tolerant varieties of wheat and barley. See the FST section of the [USWBSI Action Plan](#) for research goals.

Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance (GDER)

The Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance (GDER) research area (RA) places its primary focus on understanding mechanisms of resistance to *Fusarium* head blight (FHB) and identification of wheat and barley gene variants that can be deployed to increase FHB resistance and/or reduce DON accumulation. GDER also supports utilization of gene editing and transgenic strategies as methodologies to better understand resistance mechanisms with the goal to improve FHB resistance. However, GDER places priority on strategies that can be deployed without transgenesis; gene discovery and transformation of non-cereal systems will be supported only for the purpose of rapidly screening potential anti-*Fusarium* genes. See the GDER section of the [USWBSI Action Plan](#) for research goals.

Pathogen Biology and Genetics (PBG)

Research in this area includes studies that address: 1) mycotoxin biosynthesis in vivo or in planta, host-pathogen interactions, pathogen natural diversity and population dynamics, and responses of the pathogen to host resistance mechanisms and different environmental and field conditions. 2) discovery of epiphytic and endophytic microbes and microbial communities useful for FHB control. Research in PBG should provide translational results to stakeholders and other USWBI committees that will lead to improved disease control and/or toxin reduction strategies. See the Pathogen Biology and Genetics (PBG) section of the [USWBSI Action Plan](#) for research goals.

Key Deadlines

Category 3 Research Area Individual Projects	USWBSI Submission Portal Opens	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for PIs to submit FY26 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*

* Timeline for review and notifications is projected, and subject to change. All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.

PI Steps for Category 3 Submission Process

STEP 1

Pre-Proposal Submission Requirements

All PIs must complete the online pre-proposal submission via the [USWBSI Submission Portal](#). PIs are encouraged to review the form once it is available to familiarize yourself with all the required components. PIs will also be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the deadline for submission is reached. Requirements for this online submission tool must include and adhere to the following:

Principal Investigator Contact Information

By logging into the USWBSI website, your contact details will populate based on what is in your login account. Make sure to review and edit if needed.

Project Title of Proposed Research

The title of the project pre-proposal must be brief (**85-character maximum** including spaces and punctuation) yet represent the major thrust of the project. Because this title will be used to provide information to those who may not be familiar with the proposed project, highly technical words or phraseology should be avoided where possible. In addition, phrases such as “investigation of” or “research on” should not be used. Keep in mind titles should be **broad in scope**, allowing for changes in project objectives annually as needed if awarded.

Project Duration

As noted on page 4, PIs have the option to select the duration of the project for either a 2-year or 4-year term. The USWBSI is encouraging longer term (4-year) projects to reduce the significant processing requirements to establish new agreements. Please note, the USWBSI has always awarded funding annually and will continue to do so. Providing your project duration, if awarded, does not guarantee funding for the full-term. Continuation requests are required for subsequent years and are reviewed annually for successful outcomes on prior year funding and assessed against requirements and funding availability. Full funding of future continuation requests should not be assumed. Annual performance reports and continuation award review/approval will be required for each year of the project duration.

Project Type

Indicate if this is a first-time project (never funded by USWBSI) or a continuing project (previously or currently awarded by USWBSI). If continuing, indicate the current/prior Project ID that was funded.

Research Category

Select the Category 3 Research Area whose description and priorities your project is designed to address. Research Area Program Descriptions are provided on page 24 and corresponding research priorities can be accessed through the [USWBSI's Action Plan](#).

Project Grain Class

Indicate which grain class(es) your new project will focus on; you can choose up to 3 options.



PI and Co-Investigator Background Information – Upload Required

To assist peer reviewers in assessing the competence and experience of the proposed collaborators. The items listed below should **be included for the PI and Co-Investigators** who are expected to work on the project in a significant fashion (e.g. expectation of co-authorship on ensuing publications), whether or not funds are sought for the support. The PI will need to upload the following items for the PI and Co-Investigators:

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV) with Publication List.** The CV should be limited to two pages in length, excluding publications. A presentation of academic and research credentials, e.g., educational, employment and professional history, and honors and awards should be included. A chronological list of all publications in refereed journals during the past five years and non-refereed technical publications that have relevance to the proposed project should be included. The CV and Publication List should be uploaded as one PDF file.
- **Current and Pending Support (CPS) Form.** Download the current CPS form from the FY26 RFP web page at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates. *The provided form is preferred, but other versions of Current and Pending Support forms are accepted.* Current and Pending Support Forms listing other current public or private support to which key personnel identified in the Pre-Proposal have committed portions of their time are required, whether or not salary support for person(s) involved is included in the budget. Analogous information must be provided for any pending proposals that are being considered by, or that will be submitted in the near future to, other possible sponsors. Concurrent submission of identical or similar proposals to the other possible sponsors will not prejudice the review or evaluation by the USWBSI for this purpose. However, a Pre-Proposal that duplicates or overlaps substantially with a proposal already reviewed and funded (or to be funded) by another organization or agency will not be recommended under this program.



New Co-PI Upload Option for FY26

New this year, Co-PIs can login and upload their own materials for Lead PIs to easily add to their project pre-proposal submission. Notify your co-PIs to login to <https://scabusa.org/submissions/> and simply upload their files on the main page where indicated. Co-PIs should notify Lead PI once files are uploaded. Lead PI will select co-PI in the pre-proposal form and connect to uploaded forms. Lead PIs can upload for co-PIs directly if preferred.



Project Pre-Proposal Materials – Upload Required

The following materials should be developed and uploaded as one Word Doc file in the order noted and adhering to the requirements as specified. Begin by downloading the Project Pre-Proposal Form from https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates.

Project Summary

Fill in the Project Summary Page (limited to 2 pages), using Calibri or Times New Roman 12-point font, and include the following:

- Project Title (same as what is included in the submission form)
- Project PI, Institution and Co-PI(s), Institution(s)
- Project Summary – The text for this portion of the project summary **should not exceed 400 words** and should focus on the following (**all four bullets below must be addressed**):
 - Overall project goal(s)
 - Project Objectives (list in numbered format) and Expected Outcome(s) for each objective
 - Approaches that will be used to accomplish project goal(s) within the period of proposed work
 - Statement of Mutual Interest (i.e. how will stakeholders/end-users benefit from this research)

Project Description

The Project Description should immediately follow the Project Summary. The Project Description should provide a clear statement of the work to be undertaken and must include research objectives for the period of the proposed work and expected significance; relation to longer-term goals of the PI's project; and

relation to the present state of knowledge in the field, to work in progress by the PI under other support and to work in progress elsewhere.

The Project Description should be formatted using Calibri or Times New Roman 12-point font. Bold formatting should only be used for section headings or used minimally to emphasize importance or significance. **NOTE:** Digital images/tables/figures inserted into the Project Description must fit within the ten (10) page limit.

The Project Description should not exceed ten (10) pages in length (including tables and figures) and should describe in clear, concrete terms the substance of your proposed research including the following:

Included within the 10-Page Limit (including figures and tables)

- Title. Same as what is included in the submission form and Project Summary
- Introduction. A clear statement of the goal(s) and supporting objectives or research questions of the proposed project should be included. The most significant published work in the field under consideration, including the work of key project personnel on the current application, should be reviewed. The current status of research in this field of science should also be described including, but not limited to, any ongoing USWBSI-recommended work currently underway. Preliminary data pertinent to the proposed research may be included in this section. Present and discuss published literature that is directly related to, and supports, the proposed research.
- USWBSI Action Plan Alignment. Relevance of the project to the goals of the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative with specific reference to the applicable priorities listed in the Action Plan clearly stated. The Action Plan can be viewed at https://scabusa.org/pdfs/uswbsi_action-plan_web.pdf.
- Rationale and Significance. It is understood that FHB is a devastating disease. Acknowledgment of this fact should require no more than one sentence. Concisely present the rationale behind the proposed research; identify the gaps in the knowledge base that your proposed research is trying to fill. If applicable, please indicate if the research proposed here could lead to successful acquisition of grant funds from other agencies.
- Research Materials and Methods. Specifically, this section must include:
 - The hypotheses or questions being asked
 - A description of the investigations and/or experiments proposed in the sequence in which the investigation or experiments are to be conducted
 - Techniques, methodologies and procedures to be used in carrying out the proposed project, including the feasibility of the techniques. (Describe in step-by-step fashion exactly what techniques, materials and methods will be used and plans for preservation, documentation, and sharing of data, samples, physical collections, curriculum materials and other related research and education products.)
 - Results expected
 - Means by which experimental data will be analyzed or interpreted
 - Means of applying results or accomplishing technology transfer, where appropriate
 - Pitfalls that may be encountered
 - Limitations to proposed procedures
 - A detailed (but tentative) schedule/timeline for conducting major steps involved in these investigations and/or experiments for Year 1 (in alignment with Year 1 Budget)

NOTE: Failure to address each of the issues in the bullet list will diminish the likelihood of the success of your pre-proposal being recommended for funding.

NOT Counted Toward the 10-Page Limit – Supplemental Information for the Project Description

Additionally, the following items can be included to support the project description (these items will not be counted toward the ten (10) page maximum).

- References to Project Description. Reference information is required of references cited in the Project Description. PIs must follow accepted scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials. While there is no established page limitation for the references, this section must include bibliographic citations only, and must not be used to provide parenthetical information outside of the project description.
- Facilities and Equipment. All facilities and major items of equipment available for use or assignment to the proposed project during the requested period of support should be described. In addition, items of nonexpendable equipment necessary to conduct and successfully conclude the proposed project should be listed (including dollar amounts), and if funds are requested for acquisition, justification should be included in the Budget Justification Worksheet and bid documentation should be noted and included in the project description.
- Collaborative Letters of Support or Sub-contractual Arrangements. If the nature of the proposed project requires collaboration or contractual arrangements with other research scientists, corporations, organizations, agencies, etc., the applicant must identify the collaborator(s) and provide a detailed explanation of the nature of the collaboration. Evidence in the form of a letter of collaboration (may be in the form of an e-mail) from all collaborators must be provided to assure reviewers that collaborators or sub-contractors involved have agreed to render the indicated services. The letter of collaboration must include specific details describing the services the collaborator will provide.

Budget Materials

PIs will need to provide the following detailed budget documentation. An Excel template with built-in formulas, space for your justification narrative, and auto-generation of the Budget Summary page is available. Make sure to double check that all of your details transferred as intended and all totals match.

Budget Type

Select type that matches the budget template you uploaded - Single Budget if award would be going to only one individual (i.e. PI) or Multi-PI Budget if project involves multiple PIs at different institutions. If multi-PIs are at same institution, funds can only be dispersed to one PI on one agreement.

Budget Request

Enter the final budget requested dollar amount from your Excel template for your project into the form.



Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary – Upload Required

Utilizing one of the **Excel Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary Templates** (available at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates), complete all the relevant sections and follow the instructions included in the file. Once finalized, upload the Excel Template into your submission.

NOTE: Narrative budget justification for all line-items where funds are requested is required. The narrative descriptive details must be provided within the budget template to justify the request.

Make sure to select the appropriate template for your situation, template options include:

- **Budget Justification Template – Single PI;** single PI/single project
- **Budget Justification Template – Multi-PI;** use for a pre-proposal with multiple PIs on a single project that will be awarded out to multiple PI institutions. In such cases, if a multi-PI proposed research project is recommended for funding, the awards will go directly to the individuals' institutions. If your pre-proposal has more than two (2) PIs, contact the USWBSI-NFO and a version can be provided to accommodate the number of Co-PIs involved.

When preparing your budget keep these items in mind:

- **Tuition Remission:** Tuition remission is **permitted**.
- **Equipment:** If you include equipment in your budget, additional bid documentation needs to be included in your project description file. Equipment requests are intended for an article of tangible, nonexpendable, property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit per federal definition. You should also include a justification for this equipment in the Budget Justification form.
- **Indirect Cost (IDC) Limitation Policy:** As part of the 2018 Farm Bill - Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 – signed into law (Public Law 115-334) on 12/20/18 and extended through 09/30/26, a fixed Indirect Cost Limitation of 10% was established ([See Title VII, Subtitle C, Section 7303](#), page 332 of bill; page 336 of PDF). Universities may voluntarily elect to use a percentage below 10% for pre-proposals submitted to the USWBSI, however they **cannot charge a rate higher than 10%**. A formula is included in the budget template to determine the 10% limitation amount, or if lower amount it can be entered instead. **NOTE:** Indirect Costs are not applicable to ARS Scientists and PIs currently funded under Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreements (NACAs).

STEP 2

Pre-Proposal Submission



The [USWBSI Submission Portal](#) must be used for the submission of all FY26 pre-proposals. PIs will be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the deadline for submission is reached. If this is your first time submitting a pre-proposal with the USWBSI, you will be prompted to create an account to gain access and login to the submission form. The submission portal will be open for at least 30 days prior to the submission deadline of January 7, 2026.

PI Required Items Checklist for the Category 3 Submission Process

STEP 1

- ☐ Prepare materials for submission per instructions and initiate Pre-Proposal Submission via the [USWBSI Submission Portal](#)
 - ☐ Enter key details in Submission Form
 - ☐ PI Contact Information
 - ☐ Project Title (keep broad in scope, 85 character maximum)
 - ☐ Research Category
 - ☐ Project Grain Class
 - ☐ Project Type
 - ☐ Project Duration
 - ☐ Enter and upload PI and Co-Investigator Information (collect from your Co-PIs)
 - ☐ CV(s)/Publication List(s)
 - ☐ Current & Pending Support Forms
 - ☐ Enter Required Submission Uploads (use the [templates and forms](#) provided for required uploads)
 - ☐ Project Summary and Description (upload as one DOC file meeting requirements noted)
 - ☐ Project Summary (should not exceed 400 words)
 - ☐ Project Description (should not exceed 10 pages including tables and figures)
 - ☐ Supplemental Project Description Items (if required, not included in page limit)
 - ☐ References to Project Description
 - ☐ Facilities and Equipment
 - ☐ Collaborative or Sub-contractual Agreements
 - ☐ Letters from Collaborators
 - ☐ Budget Materials
 - ☐ Budget Type
 - ☐ Budget Request
 - ☐ Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary Template
- NOTE:** Make sure to use appropriate template either Single or Multi-PI

STEP 2

- ☐ Finalize and submit Pre-Proposal via the online Submission Portal

Category 3 Research Area Individual Projects	USWBSI Submission Portal Opens	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for PIs to submit FY26 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*

* Timeline for review and notifications is projected, and subject to change. All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.



**Pre-Proposal Submission Link:
Forms & Templates for Upload:**

[Access the USWBSI Submission Portal](#)
[All USWBSI FY26 RFP Forms & Templates to Prepare & Upload](#)



Category 4

Special Projects Focused on FHB Outreach

Category 4 Instructions

Special Projects Focused on FHB Outreach

FHB Outreach Funding Opportunity

Outreach Strategies for Enhanced FHB Awareness and Mitigation with New Generations of Farmers

Priority Alignment

USWBSI coordinated research has advanced our understanding of Fusarium Head Blight (FHB), and disease management including the development of new FHB resistant varieties. Effective communication and outreach about the advances in research with the new generation of farmers, who may lack firsthand knowledge of FHB and its consequences, is critical to the effective implementation of disease control practices. Various outreach efforts are already in place, but with FHB impacting crops in additional regions, changing production practices increasing FHB risk, and a new generation of farmers in regions first impacted by FHB, now is a critical time to enhance awareness and promote proactive FHB management to our principal stakeholders.

FHB Outreach	This funding opportunity seeks to support projects that bridge the gap between research and production practices to mitigate FHB, particularly with farmers who are new to FHB. The USWBSI is seeking proposals to develop and implement innovative outreach and communication strategies to close knowledge gaps, improve farmer preparedness, and support widespread adoption of FHB mitigation practices. Priority will be given to PI's who collaborate to develop project(s) with a broad scope, covering multiple production regions and grain classes.
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Projects funded under this call should:

- Increase knowledge of FHB and its risks to wheat, barley and durum farmers who may have seen limited impact of the disease.
- Promote adoption of integrated disease management approaches (e.g., resistant varieties, crop rotation, fungicide selection, application technology).
- Develop novel outreach strategies that are regionally relevant and farmer centric.
- Foster collaboration among researchers, extension agents, crop consultants and grower groups.
- Include farmer feedback mechanisms to ensure effective learning and relevance.
- Identify the most effective media channels to expand reach.
- Plan to present results and progress to the USWBSI Executive and Steering Committees as well as at the National FHB Forum.

Key Deadlines

Category 4 Special Projects – FHB Outreach	USWBSI Submission Portal Opens	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for PIs to submit FY26 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*

* Timeline for review and notifications is projected, and subject to change. All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.

PI Steps for Category 4 Submission Process

STEP 1

Pre-Proposal Submission Requirements

All PIs must complete the online pre-proposal submission via the [USWBSI Submission Portal](#). PIs are encouraged to review the form once it is available to familiarize yourself with all the required components. PIs will also be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the deadline for submission is reached. Requirements for this online submission tool must include and adhere to the following:

Principal Investigator Contact Information

By logging into the USWBSI website, your contact details will populate based on what is in your login account. Make sure to review and edit if needed.

Project Title of Proposed Research

The title of the project pre-proposal must be brief (**85-character maximum** including spaces and punctuation) yet represent the major thrust of the project. Because this title will be used to provide information to those who may not be familiar with the proposed project, highly technical words or phraseology should be avoided where possible. In addition, phrases such as “investigation of” or “research on” should not be used. Keep in mind titles should be **broad in scope**, allowing for changes in project objectives annually as needed if awarded.

Project Duration

As noted on page 4, PIs have the option to select the duration of the project for either a 2-year or 4-year term. The USWBSI is encouraging longer term (4-year) projects to reduce the significant processing requirements to establish new agreements. Please note, the USWBSI has always awarded funding annually and will continue to do so. Providing your project duration, if awarded, does not guarantee funding for the full-term. Continuation requests are required for subsequent years and are reviewed annually for successful outcomes on prior year funding and assessed against requirements and funding availability. Full funding of future continuation requests should not be assumed. Annual performance reports and continuation award review/approval will be required for each year of the project duration.

Project Type

Indicate if this is a first-time project (never funded by USWBSI) or a continuing project (previously or currently awarded by USWBSI). If continuing, indicate the current/prior Project ID that was funded.

Research Category

Select Category 4: Special Projects Focused on FHB Outreach

Project Grain Class

Indicate which grain class(es) your new project will focus on; you can choose up to 3 options.



PI and Co-Investigator Background Information – Upload Required

To assist peer reviewers in assessing the competence and experience of the proposed collaborators. The items listed below should **be included for the PI and Co-Investigators** who are expected to work on the project in a significant fashion (e.g. expectation of co-authorship on ensuing publications), whether or not funds are sought for the support. The PI will need to upload the following items for the PI and Co-Investigators:

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV) with Publication List.** The CV should be limited to two pages in length, excluding publications. A presentation of academic and research credentials, e.g., educational, employment and professional history, and honors and awards should be included. A chronological list of all publications in refereed journals during the past five years and non-refereed technical publications that have relevance to the proposed project should be included. The CV and Publication List should be uploaded as one PDF file.

- **Current and Pending Support (CPS) Form.** Download the current CPS form from the FY26 RFP web page at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates. *The provided form is preferred, but other versions of Current and Pending Support forms are accepted.* Current and Pending Support Forms listing other current public or private support to which key personnel identified in the Pre-Proposal have committed portions of their time are required, whether or not salary support for person(s) involved is included in the budget. Analogous information must be provided for any pending proposals that are being considered by, or that will be submitted in the near future to, other possible sponsors. Concurrent submission of identical or similar proposals to the other possible sponsors will not prejudice the review or evaluation by the USWBSI for this purpose. However, a Pre-Proposal that duplicates or overlaps substantially with a proposal already reviewed and funded (or to be funded) by another organization or agency will not be recommended under this program.



New Co-PI Upload Option for FY26

New this year, Co-PIs can login and upload their own materials for Lead PIs to easily add to their project pre-proposal submission. Notify your co-PIs to login to <https://scabusa.org/submissions/> and simply upload their files on the main page where indicated. Co-PIs should notify Lead PI once files are uploaded. Lead PI will select co-PI in the pre-proposal form and connect to uploaded forms. Lead PIs can upload for co-PIs directly if preferred.



Project Pre-Proposal Materials – Upload Required

The following materials should be developed and uploaded as one Word Doc file in the order noted and adhering to the requirements as specified. Begin by downloading the Project Pre-Proposal Form from https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates.

Project Summary

Fill in the Project Summary Page (limited to 2 pages), using Calibri or Times New Roman 12-point font, and include the following:

- Project Title (same as what is included in the submission form)
- Project PI, Institution and Co-PI(s), Institution(s)
- Project Summary

The text for this portion of the project summary **should not exceed 400 words** and should focus on the following (**all four bullets below must be addressed**):

- Overall project goal(s)
- Project Objectives (list in numbered format) and Expected Outcome(s) for each objective
- Approaches that will be used to accomplish project goal(s) within the period of proposed work
- Statement of Mutual Interest (i.e. how will stakeholders/end-users benefit from this research)

Project Description

The Project Description should immediately follow the Project Summary. The Project Description should provide a clear statement of the work to be undertaken and must include objectives for the period of the proposed work and expected significance; relation to longer-term goals of the PI's project; and relation to the present state of knowledge in the field, to work in progress by the PI under other support and to work in progress elsewhere.

The Project Description should be formatted using Calibri or Times New Roman 12-point font. Bold formatting should only be used for section headings or used minimally to emphasize importance or significance. **NOTE:** Digital images/tables/figures inserted into the Project Description must fit within the ten (10) page limit.

The Project Description should not exceed ten (10) pages in length (including tables and figures) and should describe in clear, concrete terms the substance of your proposed project including the following:

Included within the 10-Page Limit (including figures and tables)

- Title. Same as what is included in the submission form and Project Summary
- Introduction. A clear statement of the goal(s) and supporting objectives, target audience and outreach methods of proposed project should be included. Supporting data pertinent to the proposed project may be included in this section. Present and discuss published literature that is directly related to, and supports, the proposed project.
- USWBSI Action Plan Alignment. Relevance of the project to the goals of the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative with specific reference to the applicable priorities listed in the Action Plan clearly stated. The Action Plan can be viewed at https://scabusa.org/pdfs/uswbsi_action-plan_web.pdf.
- Rationale and Significance. It is understood that FHB is a devastating disease. Acknowledgment of this fact should require no more than one sentence. Concisely present the rationale behind the proposed project; identify the gaps in the knowledge base that your proposed project is trying to fill. If applicable, please indicate if the project proposed here could lead to successful acquisition of grant funds from other agencies.
- Research Materials and Methods. Specifically, this section must include:
 - The hypotheses or questions being asked
 - Techniques, materials and methods to be used in carrying out the proposed project, including the feasibility of the techniques. (Describe in step-by-step fashion exactly what techniques, materials and methods will be used and plans for preservation, documentation, and sharing of findings.)
 - Results expected
 - Means by which results will be analyzed or interpreted
 - Pitfalls that may be encountered
 - A detailed (but tentative) schedule/timeline for conducting major steps involved i for Year 1 (in alignment with Year 1 Budget)

NOTE: Failure to address each of the issues in the bullet list will diminish the likelihood of the success of your pre-proposal being recommended for funding.

NOT Counted Toward the 10-Page Limit – Supplemental Information for the Project Description

Additionally, the following items can be included to support the project description (these items will not be counted toward the ten (10) page maximum).

- References to Project Description. Reference information is required of references cited in the Project Description. Pls must follow accepted scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials. While there is no established page limitation for the references, this section must include bibliographic citations only, and must not be used to provide parenthetical information outside of the project description.
- Facilities and Equipment. All facilities and major items of equipment available for use or assignment to the proposed project during the requested period of support should be described. In addition, items of nonexpendable equipment necessary to conduct and successfully conclude the proposed project should be listed (including dollar amounts), and if funds are requested for acquisition, justification should be included in the Budget Justification Worksheet and bid documentation should be noted and included in the project description.
- Collaborative Letters of Support or Sub-contractual Arrangements. If the nature of the proposed project requires collaboration or contractual arrangements with other research scientists, corporations, organizations, agencies, etc., the applicant must identify the collaborator(s) and provide a detailed explanation of the nature of the collaboration. Evidence in the form of a letter of collaboration (may be in the form of an e-mail) from all collaborators must be provided to assure reviewers that collaborators or sub-contractors involved have agreed to render the indicated services. The letter of collaboration must include specific details describing the services the collaborator will provide.

Budget Materials

PIs will need to provide the following detailed budget documentation. An Excel template with built-in formulas, space for your justification narrative, and auto-generation of the Budget Summary page is available. Make sure to double check that all of your details transferred as intended and all totals match.

Budget Type

Select type that matches the budget template you uploaded - Single Budget if award would be going to only one individual (i.e. PI) or Multi-PI Budget if project involves multiple PIs at different institutions. In multi-PIs are at same institution, funds can only be dispersed to one PI on one agreement.

Budget Request

Enter the final budget requested dollar amount from your Excel template for your project into the form.



Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary – Upload Required

Utilizing one of the Excel '**Budget Justification Worksheet & Budget Summary' Templates** (available at https://scabusa.org/research_rfp-FY26/forms_templates), complete all the relevant sections and follow the instructions included in the file. Once finalized, upload the Excel Template into your submission.

NOTE: Narrative budget justification for all line-items where funds are requested is required. The narrative descriptive details must be provided within the budget template to justify the request.

Make sure to select the appropriate template for your situation, template options include:

- **Budget Justification Template – Single PI;** single PI/single project
- **Budget Justification Template – Multi-PI;** use for a pre-proposal with multiple PIs on a single project that will be awarded out to multiple PI institutions. In such cases, if a multi-PI proposed research project is recommended for funding, the awards will go directly to the individuals' institution. If your pre-proposal has more than two (2) PIs, contact the USWBSI-NFO and a version can be provided to accommodate the number of Co-PIs involved.

When preparing your budget keep these items in mind:

- **Tuition Remission:** Tuition remission is **permitted**.
- **Equipment:** If you include equipment in your budget, additional bid documentation needs to be included in your project description file. Equipment requests are intended for an article of tangible, nonexpendable, property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit per federal definition. You should also include a justification for this equipment in the Budget Justification form.
- **Indirect Cost (IDC) Limitation Policy:** As part of the 2018 Farm Bill - Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 – signed into law (Public Law 115-334) on 12/20/18 and extended through 09/30/26, a fixed Indirect Cost Limitation of 10% was established ([See Title VII, Subtitle C, Section 7303](#), page 332 of bill; page 336 of PDF). Universities may voluntarily elect to use a percentage below 10% for pre-proposals submitted to the USWBSI, however they **cannot charge a rate higher than 10%**. A formula is included in the budget template to determine the 10% limitation amount, or if lower amount it can be entered instead.
NOTE: Indirect Costs are not applicable to ARS Scientists and PIs currently funded under Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreements (NACAs).

STEP 2



Pre-Proposal Submission

The [USWBSI Submission Portal](#) must be used for the submission of all FY26 pre-proposals. PIs will be able to start the submission process, save and return as needed until the deadline for submission is reached. If this is your first time submitting a pre-proposal with the USWBSI, you will be prompted to create an account to gain access and login to the submission form. The submission portal will be open for at least 30 days prior to the submission deadline of January 7, 2026.

PI Required Items Checklist for Category 4 Submission Process

STEP 1

- ☐ If approved, prepare materials for submission per instructions and initiate Pre-Proposal Submission via the [USWBSI Submission Portal](#)
 - ☐ Enter key details in Submission Form
 - ☐ PI Contact Information
 - ☐ Project Title (keep broad in scope, 85 character maximum)
 - ☐ Research Category
 - ☐ Project Grain Class
 - ☐ Project Type
 - ☐ Project Duration
 - ☐ Enter and upload PI and Co-Investigator Information (collect from your Co-PIs)
 - ☐ CV(s)/Publication List(s)
 - ☐ Current & Pending Support Forms
 - ☐ Enter Required Submission Uploads (use the [templates and forms](#) provided for required uploads)
 - ☐ Project Summary and Description (upload as one DOC file meeting requirements noted)
 - ☐ Project Summary (should not exceed 400 words)
 - ☐ Project Description (should not exceed 10 pages including tables and figures)
 - ☐ Supplemental Project Description Items (if required, not included in page limit)
 - ☐ References to Project Description
 - ☐ Facilities and Equipment
 - ☐ Collaborative or Sub-contractual Agreements
 - ☐ Letters from Collaborators
 - ☐ Budget Materials
 - ☐ Budget Type
 - ☐ Budget Request
 - ☐ Budget Justification Worksheet & Summary Template
- NOTE:** Make sure to use appropriate template either Single or Multi-PI

STEP 2

- ☐ Finalize and submit Pre-Proposal via the online Submission Portal

Category 4 Special Projects – FHB Outreach	USWBSI Submission Portal Opens	November 25, 2025
	Deadline for PIs to submit FY26 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via Submission Portal	January 7, 2026
	Pre-Proposal Review and Funding Determinations	January-February 2026*
	PIs Notified of Pre-Proposal Decision	March 2026*

* Timeline for review and notifications is projected, and subject to change. All submitters will be notified by the USWBSI Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO) regarding final timing.



Pre-Proposal Submission Link:
Forms & Templates for Upload:

[Access the USWBSI Submission Portal](#)
[All USWBSI FY26 RFP Forms & Templates to Prepare & Upload](#)