

**To:** UTHealth Houston community

**From:** Kevin Morano, PhD, Senior Vice President, Academic and Faculty Affairs

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**Date Sent:** Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025

**Subject:** Apply now: New seed grants to support dementia research

The recently approved **Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT)** is a major new initiative aimed at transforming dementia-related research and care across the state. Established through Senate Bill 5 (SB 5) and Senate Joint Resolution 3 (SJR 3) in the most recent legislative session, DPRIT will receive \$3 billion in allocated funding over the next 10 years, pending voter approval on the upcoming statewide ballot. Anticipated DPRIT award mechanisms include investigator-initiated biomedical and neurology-related research grants, commercialization initiatives based on neurotechnologies with societal impact, and recruitment and infrastructure support programs.

To best position UTHealth Houston investigators to be competitive for DPRIT funding, the Office of the President is launching a **DPRIT Seed Funding Program** with an initial investment of \$500,000 to generate preliminary data. This program is being supported through generous contributions from community-based donors to the President's Excellence Fund, embodying the crucial role philanthropy plays in support of the institution's research mission.

Nine (9) awards of \$50,000 will be given with a six-month window of support to coincide with anticipated DPRIT funding cycles to open in early 2026. Additionally, five (5) mini-grants of \$10,000 will be provided to support smaller, less resource-intensive projects (e.g., data mining/re-analysis, initial community outreach). Where appropriate, multi-principal investigator applications are encouraged.

Applications must include the following for consideration, with a due date of **Oct. 1, 2025**, and anticipated notification of funding **Nov. 1, 2025**:

1. Title, PI(s), and scientific abstract (abstract 250 words max) clearly stating relevance to dementia prevention, treatment/therapies, or translational/clinical research, with commercialization potential if applicable.
2. Lay abstract (150 words max) explaining goals and impact of project suitable for sharing with the UTHealth Houston donor community.
3. Specific aims (1 page) and research plan (up to 3 pages, not including references).
4. Budget with budget justification (1 page). PI effort cannot be included in the budget.
5. Current CV(s) of PI/MPI.

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file via email to: [DPRITseed@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:DPRITseed@uth.tmc.edu).

Questions may also be submitted at this address. Applications will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee and final funding decisions made by the Office of the President.