# CURE-KY Spark & Sprint 2027
## Phase 1 – Retreat & Launch (0–3 Months)

**Purpose of Phase 1**
Phase 1 kicks off the CURE-KY Spark & Sprint by giving investigators protected time, structure, and collaborators to move from an idea (or early draft) toward a clear grant concept. By the end of Phase 1, teams should have a defined project idea and an initial team.

**When & Where**
Phase 1 begins with an in-person retreat on **Wednesday, January 6, 2027, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** in the **TODD Atrium and TODD 124**, with breakout space in **GLR 121, 125, 131, 135, 141, 145, 151, and 157**. Coffee and donuts will be available at **8:30 a.m.** during registration, and lunch will be provided.

**Who Should Participate**
CURE-KY–affiliated faculty and clinicians who want to develop or advance a grant idea. Projects may be at any stage—from a rough concept to an existing draft. A fully formed proposal is **not** required; Phase 1 is designed to move ideas toward submission.

**How to Participate**
Sparkers: submit ideas through the Sparker survey by **November 6, 2026**.
Collaborators: review ideas before the retreat and join a project after the lightning round.

**What to Expect on January 6**
The retreat runs **8:30 am–1:00 pm**, with registration from 8:30–9:00am, followed by structured activities. Participants will briefly introduce their ideas, work in small groups organized by topic area in the GLR rooms to refine Specific Aims, identify collaborators, and outline next steps, then reconvene to share key takeaways and immediate plans. A working lunch from 12:00–1:00 p.m. will focus on support needs and timelines with CURE-KY leadership. Attendance at the **full retreat** is expected for teams that plan to request seed funding in later phases.

**After the Retreat (3 Months)**
Approximately **3 months after the retreat**, teams that wish to be considered for funding will prepare a **1-page summary** that includes:

- Draft **Specific Aims**
- Brief description of **preliminary data or feasibility**
- A list of **key team members**
- This 1-page document serves as the bridge from Phase 1 into the seed support process in Phase 2.

Participants will complete a brief needs/interest survey so CURE-KY can understand what support (data, methods, collaborators, grant-writing help) is most useful moving forward.

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