

CURE-KY Spark & Sprint 2027

Overview and Timeline

Spark and Sprint

The CURE-KY Spark & Sprint is a year-long program designed to help CURE-KY investigators turn promising ideas into competitive grant submissions. The program provides structure, mentorship, and resources to move projects from early concept to full proposal within 12 months.

When & Where

Phase 1 begins 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. registration, and lunch will be provided.

Who Should Attend

CURE-KY–affiliated faculty and clinicians who want to develop or advance a grant idea. Projects may be at any stage—from early concept to an existing draft. You do not need a fully formed proposal; the event is designed to move ideas toward submission.

Funding Available

Maximum awards of **\$10,000 per team**. Each CURE-KY Key Personnel member will receive **\$2,500 in discretionary funds** if the team submits a competitive grant within 12 months of phase 1.

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.

12-Month Grant Development Timeline

Phase 1 – Retreat & Launch (0–3 months)

Attendance at the full retreat is expected for teams seeking support. By approximately 3 months, teams seeking funding submit a one-page summary of draft Specific Aims, preliminary data or feasibility, and key team members. Leadership reviews these summaries and determines which teams advance to Phase 2.

Phase 2 – Seed Support (3–6 months)

Selected teams complete a Phase 2 survey identifying funding, services, and support needs. Seed support may fund preliminary analyses, pilot data, RA/analyst time, or other feasibility work. Teams submit brief progress updates to track progress toward a complete grant application.

Phase 3 – Intensive Grant-Writing Support (6–12 months)

Teams that meet Phase 3 criteria (strong aims page, draft sections, data or clear feasibility plan, and an identified target mechanism) may receive funding for professional grant-writing support and assistance as needed. The goal is at least one full grant submission within ~12 months of the retreat.

