

Research Advancement
Programs Branch (RAP),
Division for Research
Capacity Building
(DRCB), NIGMS

Renewal of Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase 2

Notice of Funding Opportunity PAR-23-063

Slides updated March 13, 2025

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Overview of IDeA COBRE Program

Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) Program -
Build research capacity in 23 states and Puerto Rico with lower levels of NIH funding

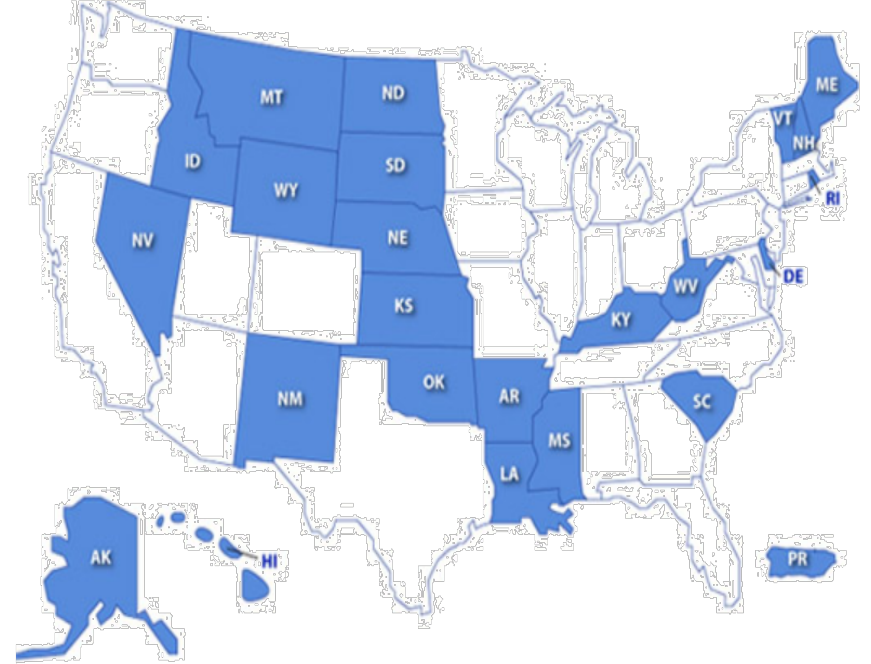
IDeA Centers for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)

Support a broadly themed research center

127 distinct COBRE awards

3 sequential phases, 5 years each

- [IDeA Dashboard](#) tracks all funded awards



COBRE Phase 2: Program Objectives: PAR-23-063

- **Continue the development of a critical mass of investigators with expertise in the Center's scientific interest areas**
 - Support Research Projects within in the COBRE's scientific area
 - Develop Pilot Projects to expand the Center's research area
 - Get RPLs ready to compete for peer-reviewed external funding
- **Strengthen the Center through further improvement in research infrastructure**
 - Support existing or establish new core facilities that are essential to support the research of the Center
 - No Alterations and Renovations are allowed for Phase 2

COBRE Phase 2: General Considerations

- **COBRE is NOT a P01 Grant!**
 - COBRE PI: role is to administer and mentor (lead by example)
 - Research Projects (RPs) are “stand-alone” (within scientific area of the COBRE but a link to other RPs is neither required nor expected)
 - RPs are one of several components in an application.
 - RP leaders (RPLs) are expected to graduate in 2-3 years and are replaced with new RPLs
- **COBRE is NOT a Training Grant!**
 - The focus is on faculty development, not student involvement

COBRE Phase 2: Eligible Institutions

- **Eligible Organizations**

- Only recipient organizations with COBRE Phase 2 Center awards that are active, including those in a no-cost extension, on the application due date are eligible to apply.

- **Foreign Institutions**

- Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) are not eligible to apply.
- Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations are not eligible to apply.
- Foreign components are not allowed.

PD/PI Eligibility (applies to all PD/PIs if MPI* COBRE)

- **Established biomedical researcher scientist**
- **Must** have administrative and mentoring experiences to lead the COBRE
- Primary faculty appointment **must** be at the applicant lead institution
- **Must** devote a minimum of 3 person months per year and a max. of 6
- **Must** hold, as PD/PI, at least one active, peer-reviewed, and externally funded research grant in the scientific area of the COBRE
- A COBRE PD/PI may not simultaneously serve as a INBRE or IDeA-CTR PD/PI nor can an INBRE or IDeA-CTR PI simultaneously serve as a PD/PI of an INBRE,
- * MPIs allowed, with no more than 2 PD/PIs – requires 3 person-months minimum effort, with maximum 6 person-months total effort collectively for all PD/PIs

Research Project Leader (RPL) Eligibility

- **Must** qualify as either NIH [Early Stage Investigators](#) (ESIs) or as [New Investigators](#) (NIs)
- **Must** hold independent multi-year faculty appointments
- **Must** devote a minimum of 6 person months per year
- More than half the RPLs **must** hold primary appointments at the applicant institution
- A COBRE RPL cannot receive simultaneous research support as a project lead from any other IDeA parent award.

COBRE Phase 2: Required Program Components

- **Overall Plan for the Center**
 - **Program Accomplishments** –research productivity, increase in number of investigators, ability of COBRE RPL graduates to obtain independent research support, PPL productivity (if applicable), development and use of infrastructure
 - **Center Organization and Management Plan**
 - **Plan for an Advisory Committee (AC)**
 - **Mentoring Plan** for RPLs –mentor selection, mentoring strategies
 - **Letter of Support** from a senior institutional official – outline alignment with institutional strategic plan alignment; institutional commitment of resources

Overall: Data Management and Sharing Plan (NOT-OD-22-189)

- Purpose is to emphasize good data management practices and set the expectation for maximizing the sharing of scientific data generated by NIH-funded research awards (NOT-OD-21-013)
- New requirement for competing (type 1 or type 2) applications submitted for receipt dates after January 25, 2023 – **reviewed by Program staff**
- The description of the elements to be included in the DMSP and a template can be found in the NIH Scientific Data Sharing webpage
- DMSP incorporates Data Management and Genomic Data Sharing (removed from the Resource Sharing Plan, which is still required)
- DMSP (1-2 pages recommended) should be included in the Overall component in the “Other Plans” attachment. **Only one DMSP is required per application.**
- If a budget is requested for DMSP implementation (expected to be rare), it must be included in the Administrative Core; the total COBRE budget remains \$1.5 million DC/year

COBRE Phase 2: Required Program Components

- **Administrative Core**
 - **Management Plan:** administrative, fiscal, and scientific activities
 - **Evaluation Plan:** monitor performance of all Center components and RPL progress; clear timelines and milestones expected; mitigation strategies
 - **RPL Development Plan:** develop and transition RPLs to independent research funding
 - **Plans for training of RPL mentors:** identify how mentor performance will be assessed
 - **Plans for identifying replacement RPLs:** application requirements and review
 - **Pilot Projects Program (required):** *describe the program, but do not include research plans for individual pilot projects*
 - **Faculty recruitment** (optional, open to all ranks)

COBRE Phase 2: Required Program Components (part 2)

- **Research Projects**

- Minimum of 2 RPs, Maximum of 5
- ***RPs are not R01s*** –6 pages for 2-3 years of work, goal is to prepare for submission of an R01-like research grant
- Letter of Support – from an institutional leader; must demonstrate a commitment to support a multi-year appointment for the RPL
- Projects should describe a research question appropriate for 2-3 years.
- Preliminary data are helpful, but not required
- Projects should make good use of the Research Cores – both RPs and Core components should describe their expected interactions

COBRE Phase 2: Required Program Components (part 3)

- **Research Projects (continued)**
 - Projects should identify any new areas for scientific growth and ensure appropriate mentorship is provided (external mentors are allowed)
 - If the RP involves Human Subjects and/or a Clinical Trial, a mentor with extensive experience in clinical research should be assigned to the RPL
 - The Personal Statement of the RPL's Biosketch should describe the RPL's current and prior peer-reviewed research grant funding and note the role (i.e., PI, project leader, collaborator, etc.)

COBRE Phase 2: Research Cores (Optional)

- Core Directors must have the appropriate expertise to lead the Core
- Details of how the Core will operate
- Description of how the Core will serve the needs of the RPLs
- Outline the Core's userbase in Phase 1 and plans for future growth
- Justification for support of new instrumentation
- Justification for modification, consolidation, or elimination of Cores
- Justification for any newly proposed Cores
- Business plan for the operation of the Core
- ***Research Cores should be unique. Duplication of services is not allowed. Leveraging of existing facilities is encouraged.***

**IDeA Renewal of Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)
Phase 2
(P20 Clinical Trial Optional)
PAR-23-063**

Next Application Due Date: May 28, 2025

FY	Due Date	Council
2024	May 29, 2023	January 2024
2025	May 29, 2024	January 2025
2026	May 28, 2025	January 2026

The COBRE Phase 2 Review Process: STEP 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- Review of all COBRE Phase2 applications is organized by the NIGMS Scientific Review Branch (SRB)
- All applications go through Administrative Review by the Scientific Review Officers
- All applications deemed non-compliant/not eligible are withdrawn
- **To avoid your application from being withdrawn:**
- **Read and follow the instructions in the current NOFO carefully!**
- Try to apply a few days prior to the deadline, check your application, and make corrections, if needed

STEP 2 – SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

Applications are reviewed by a Special Emphasis Panel (SEP)

- Reviewer Orientation Meeting by Program and Review

Reviewer Assignments

- At least three reviewers are assigned to each application
 - Overall: three primary reviewers
 - At least two reviewers are assigned to each of the components
 - Overall, Administrative Core, each Research Projects and each Scientific Core.

Process

Assigned reviewers comment on each component, then the panel discusses the Overall

Reviewers will evaluate the progress and accomplishments of current COBRE Phase 1 for Renewals

Voting: All panel members vote on the Overall Center only (not individual components)

Preparation Advice to Applicants

- **Read the NOFO's review criteria (Section V) carefully** – the critique templates contain these criteria/questions
- **DO NOT duplicate** letters of support. Avoid including letters of support that do not add substance – it can limit the pool of reviewers
- **Include the Component Title at** the beginning of each component summary. Reviewers have access to full applications **but not during the Recruitment Phase** when only summaries are available.
- Use the PHS Assignment form to indicate expertise needed but **DO NOT** suggest reviewer names. You may provide names of those who **SHOULD NOT** review your application.

IDeA Funding Restrictions

- **The PD(s)/PI(s) may not use COBRE funds to support research activities in his/her laboratory. This includes supplements unless allowed by the NOSI or NOFO**
 - PI is not eligible for research support from this COBRE or any INBRE, COBRE or IDeA-CTR award
- **COBRE Research and Pilot Project Leaders are not eligible** for simultaneous research funding from two IDeA programs (other INBRE, COBRE or IDeA-CTR)
- **COBRE supported investigators may serve as mentors** of COBRE RPLs and PPLs as appropriate

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