

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

Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase 3

Notice of Funding
Opportunity
PAR-23-216

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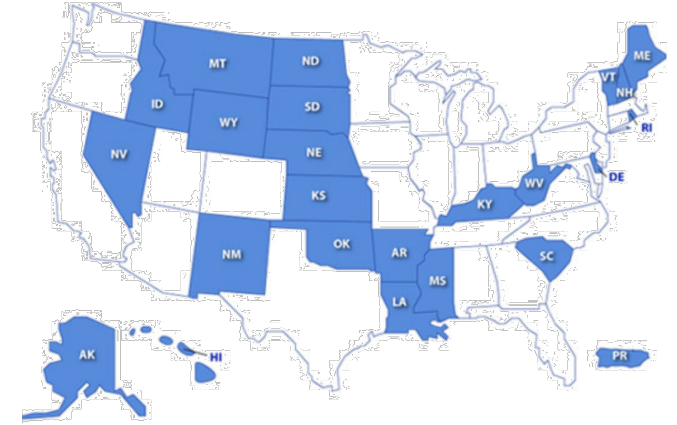
Overview of IDeA COBRE Program

IDeA Program

Build research capacity in states and territories with lower levels of NIH funding

Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)

- Support a thematic, multidisciplinary research center
- 3 sequential phases, 5 years each
- **122** distinct COBRE awards totaling **\$202,570,146**
- IDeA Dashboard tracks all funded awards



Phase 1:
Developmental

Phase 2:
Strengthening and
Enhancement

Phase 3: Sustaining
and Transitional

COBRE Phase 3: Program Objectives: PAR-23-216

Solidify the research base built in Phases 1 and 2

- Support Pilot Projects
- Option to provide funding for **new faculty** hires

Continue the support of research infrastructure

- Support existing or enhancing Research Cores established in Phase 1 or 2 or establish new Research Cores if required for accomplishing Phase 3 scientific goals
- No Alterations and Renovations are allowed for Phase 3

Implement strategies to sustain research excellence beyond COBRE funding

- Retain the current research capacity and sustain research excellence in the Center's scientific area after COBRE funding has ended



COBRE Phase 3: General Considerations

- Read the NOFO – ONLY “NEW” APPLICATIONS ALLOWED
- COBREs are NOT P01s
- COBREs are NOT training grants
- COBRE Phase 3 is using a P30 Center Core Grant activity code
- **Communicate with institutional leaders**
 - Success of the COBRE is dependent on institutional commitments
 - The PI receives salary support (minimum LOE of 1.2 months) but not research support from the COBRE – a service to the institution that deserves recognition and support
- **Leverage other NIH-supported resources, especially current COBRE, INBRE, and IDeA-CTR programs at your institution/state**
 - Cores should not be duplicative of existing resources



Institutional Eligibility

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 research scientist

- Must have primary faculty appointment at the applicant institution at the time of submission
- Must have expertise in or closely related to the Center's research area
- Must have mentoring and administrative experience to direct the COBRE
- May be the PD/PI of the current COBRE Phase 2 PD/PI or a replacement PD/PI
- Multiple PD/PI allowed, with no more than **2 PD/PIs** – requires 1.2 person-months minimum effort, with **maximum 2.4 person-months** total effort collectively for all PD/PIs

COBRE Phase 3: Required Program Components

- **Overall**
- **Program Accomplishments** during prior COBRE support
- **Center Organization and Management Plan**
- **Plan for an Advisory Committee (AC)**
 - Three external members, one senior institutional official, and one senior faculty member appointed by the senior institutional official
- **Letter of Support** that outlines the institution's strategic priorities in research and how the COBRE aligns with the institution's strategic priorities, describes the existing biomedical research infrastructure, and outlines the commitment to support the resources beyond the period of support



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

- Purpose: to emphasize good data management practices and set the expectation for maximizing sharing of scientific data generated by NIH-funded research awards (NOT-OD-21-013).
- DMSP is required and ***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) should be included in the Overall component in the “Other Plans” attachment. ***Only one DMSP is required per application***.
- If funds are requested for DMSP implementation, they must be included in the Administrative Core budget; the total COBRE budget remains \$750,000 DC/year.

COBRE Phase 3: Required Program Components

Administrative Core

- **Management Plan:** administrative, fiscal, and scientific activities
- **Evaluation Plan:** monitor performance of all Center components
- **Implementation Plan:** sustain research excellence beyond COBRE funding
- **Pilot Projects Program (required):** *describe the program, but do not include research plans for individual pilot projects*
 - Should encourage the exploration of novel ideas, build on the Center's scientific strengths, extend to research fields that are beyond the Center's research area, prioritize ESI/NI
 - Each PP: **up to \$100K** for a 1-year project, maximum 2 PPs per investigator during Phase 3
 - Placeholder budget for PPP: **up to \$400K/year**
- **Faculty recruitment** (any career stage): up to \$250K/year DC



COBRE Phase 3: Research Cores (Optional)

- **A Core should support the pilot projects and the scientific area of the Center**
- **Core Director** must have appropriate expertise and experience to manage the Core
- **Enhancing/expanding/consolidating existing resources** is encouraged; a new Core is allowed but must be well justified
- **Funds for equipment and instrumentation** are allowed
- **Business plan** to manage use of the Core should be provided, including prioritization of service requests, current and anticipated user base, user fee structure, and maintenance costs
- **Letters of Support** from an institutional leader or leaders of established Research Cores **may be included** under this component (**or** under Overall)



Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) (Phase 3) – Transitional Centers (P30 Clinical Trial Optional)

PAR-23-216

Next Application Due Date: September 30, 2025

FY	Due Date	Council
2024	September 26, 2023	May 2024
2025	September 24, 2024	May 2025
2026	September 30, 2025	May 2026



The COBRE Review Process: STEP 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- Review of all COBREs is organized by the NIGMS Scientific Review Branch (SRB)
- All applications go through Administrative Review by the Program Officers and Scientific Review Officers
 - All applications deemed non-compliant/not eligible are withdrawn
- **To avoid your application 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 divided among Special Emphasis Panels (SEPs)

- Number of panels depends on the number of applications
- Reviewer Orientation Meetings: same material is given to all reviewers

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
 - Administrative Core, Research Core

Process

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

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



Preparation Advice to Applicants

- Read the [NOFO's review criteria \(Section V\)](#) – the critique templates contain these criteria/questions
- **DO NOT duplicate** letters of support.
- **List the names of people submitting letters** for each of the components.
- **Indicate the Core Title** at the beginning of each component summary. Reviewers have access to full applications **but not in 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.



Additional Information about the Review

- Reviewers will evaluate the progress and outcomes of Phase 1 and 2.
 - The outcomes for Phase 1 and 2 RPLs should be detailed and include grant applications submitted/awarded, publications, patents filed, tenure/promotion, currently held positions.
 - New investigators recruited to the organization in the Center's research area during the Phase 1 and 2 awards should be listed.
- If a PPP has previously been in place, provide a list of PPLs supported, their current employment status, and grants submitted/awarded attributable to the pilot support.
- The **State of the Center** should include #investigators in the Center's research area, resources available, and summary of the overall impact over the past 10 years of COBRE funding.
- Cores should continue to develop strong user bases that include PPLs, COBRE personnel, and others at the institution and beyond.



IDeA Funding Restrictions

The PD(s)/PI(s) may not use COBRE funds to support research activities in his/her laboratory. This includes supplements.

- PI is not eligible for research project support from this COBRE or any other COBRE (including all three phases), INBRE, or IDeA-CTR award.

COBRE Pilot Project Leaders cannot receive simultaneous support as a project lead from other parent IDeA awards

- Includes INBRE, IDeA-CTR, or a different COBRE
- PPLs *may be eligible* to lead IDeA projects funded by supplements if allowed by the NOSI.



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