



National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences



# **COBRE Phase 3 Pre-application Webinar**

**July 31, 2023  
2:30 – 4:00 PM**

## NIGMS Staff Participation

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- **Michele McGuirl**, Chief, Research Advancement Programs Branch
- **Crina Frincu**, Program Officer and COBRE Phase 3 Lead
- **Federico Bernal**, Program Officer and COBRE Phase 1 and Phase 2 Lead
- **Nina Sidorova**, Scientific Review Officer
- **Andrea Culhane**, Grants Management Specialist

**Q&A via Chat Window, moderated by Michele McGuirl**



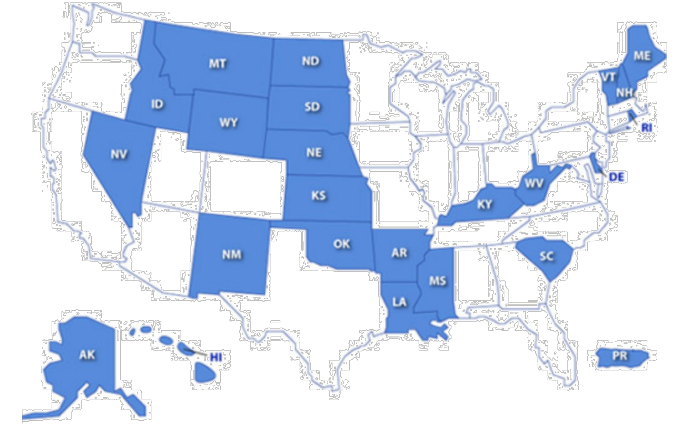
# Overview of IDeA COBRE Program

## 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



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

## PAR-23-216

**Due date: September 26, 2023**

FY	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3	
	Due Date	Council	Due Date	Council	Due Date	Council
2024	January 30, 2023	October 2023	May 29, 2023	January 2024	September 26, 2023	May 2024
2025	January 30, 2024	October 2024	May 29, 2024	January 2025	September 24, 2024	May 2025
2026	January 30, 2025	October 2025	May 28, 2025	January 2026	September 30, 2024	May 2026

**PAR-22-250**

**PAR-23-063**

***CURRENT NOFO: PAR-23-216***



# COBRE Phase 3: Program Objectives

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## Solidify the research base built in Phases 1 and 2

- Support Pilot Projects
- Option to provide funding for **new faculty** hires **–NEW IN PHASE 3–**

## 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



## General Considerations Before Applying

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- Read the [NOFO](#) – **ONLY “NEW” APPLICATIONS ALLOWED** –*NEW IN PHASE 3*–
- 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

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## 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)

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### 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 **–NEW IN PHASE 3–**



# Application Requirements - Overall

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## Overall Plan for the Center

- **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
- **Data Management Sharing Plan (DMSP)**
- **Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP)**



## 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). **–NEW IN PHASE 3–**
- 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.
- 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.

## Overall: Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP)

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- NIH recognizes the strength that arises from a diverse scientific workforce: foster innovation, enhance competitiveness, improve research quality, advancing participation of underserved populations, etc.
- All applications must include a PEDP (1-page maximum) as an “Other Attachment” in the Overall component.
- PEDP should describe how expanded inclusivity advances the scientific and technical merit of the proposal and their alignment with the Research Strategy
- The examples provided in the NOFO are standardized language developed for all funding mechanisms. Your PEDP should align with the overall goals of your COBRE program.
- If funds are requested for the implementation of the PEDP, the request must be included in the Administrative Core budget.
- PEDP will be evaluated by reviewers as part of the scorable criteria.



## Administrative Core Requirements

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- **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** **–NEW IN PHASE 3–**
- **Faculty recruitment** (any career stage): up to \$250K/year DC **–NEW IN PHASE 3–**
- **Letters of Support Not Allowed under this component**



## Requirements for Research Cores (Optional) –NEW IN PHASE 3–

- **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)



# The COBRE Review Process: STEP 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

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- 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

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## **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

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- 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

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- 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. **–NEW IN PHASE 3–**
- Cores should continue to develop strong user bases that include PPLs, COBRE personnel, and others at the institution and beyond.



# IDeA Funding Restrictions

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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.**



**Thank you!**

**Please enter your questions into  
the chat box.**