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PAR-24-268

Biomedical Research Environment & Sponsored Programs Administration Development Program (BRE-SPAD**)**

BRE-SPAD Applicant Video Series: Program Overview

For questions, email

NIGMSBRE-SPAD@nigms.nih.gov

Disclaimer

- This video series and accompanying slides or notes are for informational purposes only. They serve as an overview and are not meant to be comprehensive in coverage of all required components of an application.
- For any submission, applicants are responsible for following the instructions detailed in the [SF424 Guide](#), the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and any Related Notices.

What Is Covered in this Video

1. Introduction to the BRE-SPAD Program
2. BRE-SPAD Developmental Funding Areas
3. Overview of Eligibility
4. Funding Priorities
5. Application Submission Information
6. Next Steps

For questions, email NIGMSBRE-SPAD@nigms.nih.gov

The BRE-SPAD Program: PAR-24-268

Biomedical Research Environment & Sponsored
Programs Administration Development (BRE-
SPAD) Program (UC2- Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

- UC2: High Impact Research and **Research
Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Programs**

BRE-SPAD Program Webpage:

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/mechanisms/Pages/bre-spad.aspx>

Biomedical Research Capacity

- Research capacity is not a “yes/no” or “presence/absence” state.
 - Organizations have different starting points and end-point goals along a continuum.
- Research capacity is multi-faceted:
 - Requires investments of time from faculty, staff & students, research skills, sponsored programs administration functions, grantspersonship, etc.
 - Requires facilities, equipment, supplies, institutional research culture, resources, policies, etc.

Goal of the BRE-SPAD Program

- The NIH acknowledges that enabling full, innovative contributions to the biomedical and behavioral research enterprise requires that a broad and diverse range of institutions have the appropriate foundation for success.
 - Institutions with little NIH funding or research infrastructure may not be able to provide research experiences and training to talented students.
- BRE-SPAD aims to promote broad participation in biomedical research by supporting resource-limited institutions to conduct research, enhance their research environments, and increase sponsored programs administration capacity.
 - Please note that the race, ethnicity, or sex of an institution's current students and faculty will not be considered in the application review process or when making funding decisions.

Award Information

(PAR-24-268)

- Application Due Dates: **February 19**, 2025 & January 27, 2026, 2027.
 - The 2024 due date was changed after NOFO publication via [NOT-GM-25-010](#)
 - Earliest start dates are approximately 11 months after the due date.
- Only New applications are allowed.
 - No Resubmission applications are accepted, but unfunded applicants are encouraged to apply again with a New application.
- Application budgets for Direct Costs should not exceed **\$500,000/year**.
- The maximum project period is **five years**.
- Only one application can be submitted per organization, but multiple organizations can participate in a program.

See Section II, Part 1 and Part 2 of PAR-24-268

BRE-SPAD is a Cooperative Agreement

- NIH staff will have substantial programmatic involvement that is above and beyond the normal stewardship role in awards.
- BRE-SPAD awardees will attend program-wide meetings with NIH.
 - Mostly virtual + an annual in-person meeting (include in your Travel budget).
- Each BRE-SPAD awardee will form a Steering Committee with the following members
 - Two senior level stakeholders from each participating organization's research and/or training enterprise (for example, Department Chair, Dean of the Sciences, Director of Finance, Vice President/Director of Development, etc.).
 - End-users of sponsored program activities, such as biomedical research faculty.
 - Participating Organization PD/PI Mentor(s). Additional mentors from partner organizations are optional (described in Segment 3).
 - NIH Project Coordinator (will be assigned by NIH).

See Part 2, Sections IV and VI of PAR-24-268

What Is Covered in this Video, Segment 2

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BRE-SPAD Developmental Funding Areas

All applications should propose plans in **at least two** of the funding areas listed below:

1-Sponsored Programs Administration Development

- For activities to increase sponsored programs administration capabilities, including staff, resources, training, policy development and other activities related to grants, contracts, activities to increase organizational funds available for research, and technology transfer.

2-Research Environment

- For activities to cultivate growth in research and research education activities. Example activities include, but are not limited to, faculty grant writing training, student research training activities, course-based research development, research symposia, and research oversight policies and implementation.

3-Pilot Research Project Program (PRP) - **See separate video explaining how this works**

- For the development of a program to administer internal pilot research project funding to faculty conducting biomedical research with the goal of generating preliminary data to enhance competitiveness for securing external research funding.

See Part 2, Sections I and IV of PAR-24-268

How the Pilot Research Project (PRP) Funding Works

BRE-SPAD Application

- Describes the overall PRP Program
 - e.g. scope, **general** types of research, selection process, # of projects, data on interest, training etc. Include details from Section IV, #6c of NOFO.
- Letters of Support from potential PRP applicants/candidates are strongly encouraged

IF
FUNDED
→

After receipt of a BRE-SPAD Award

- Post-award process where NIH reviews information on **specific** pilot research projects selected by your organization
- Described in Section VI of the NOFO and summarized in a different video

What Is Covered in this Video, Segment 3

1. Introduction to the BRE-SPAD Program
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- 3. Overview of Eligibility**
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BRE-SPAD Organization Types

Organization Type	Definition	Characteristics of Eligible Organizations	Receives Developmental funding?
Applicant organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Submits the BRE-SPAD application. -Considered to be a participating organization. 	<p>All Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal entities as defined in PAR-24-268</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Limited amount of NIH funding & biomedical PhDs (see next slide)</p>	Yes
Additional participating organization(s) (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Works with the applicant organization. -Only one member organization of a group of participating organizations serves as the applicant organization. 	Same as Applicant organization (above)	Optional
Partner organization(s) (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Collaborates with the participating organization(s) to provide expertise and services. -May receive consulting or service fees, for example. 	No BRE-SPAD specific characteristics are required for eligibility	No

Overview of Organizational Eligibility

- Higher Education Institutions & Nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) status
- Resource-Limited Institutions defined in PAR-24-268
 - **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), OR**
 - **Tribal entities:**
 - A federally recognized AI/AN Tribe, as defined under 25 U.S.C. 1603(14); or
 - A Tribal college or university, a Tribal health program, or a Tribal organization as defined under 25 U.S.C. 1603 (24), (25), and (26), respectively; or
 - A consortium of two or more of those Tribal entities. **OR**
 - **Non-HBCU or Non-Tribal entity with specific criteria** defined on the next slide and in PAR-24-268

Overview of Organizational Eligibility (cont.)

- Third type of Resource-Limited Institution for BRE-SPAD: **Non-HBCU or Non-Tribal entity** that at the time of application
 - Have not received support from the NIH totaling more than \$6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs) in 4 of the last 7 fiscal years, excluding C06, S10 and all G activity codes; &
 - Have awarded five or fewer biomedical research doctorates (Ph.D.s) on average per year in the most recent five years of data reported in publicly-available NSF NCSES data
 - for example, the earned doctorates by major field of study including biological sciences, health sciences, chemistry, and biological/biomedical sciences within engineering.

Review our online guide for help determining organizational eligibility.

Eligible Individuals for Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI)

- PD/PI should possess the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed project.
- The **contact PD/PI** must be from the applicant organization.
- Each participating organization(s) that is an organization of higher education should have at least one PD/PI that is an academic administrator (for example, Chair, Dean, Provost).
- For applicants that are not organizations of higher education, a PD/PI in a leadership position, as defined by the applicant organization, is required.

See Part 2, Section III of PAR-24-268

End of Segment

What Is Covered in this Video, Segment 4

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Program Considerations

[During this segment of the video, BRE-SPAD Funding Priorities and other information was summarized by showing where to find them in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO, [PAR-24-268](#)), **Part 2, Section I**. The information shared is summarized below.

- It is important to read Part 2, Section I of a NOFO, and the entire NOFO. Highlights here are from the **Program Considerations** section.
- “BRE-SPAD programs are expected to assemble a team of individuals who will promote lasting change at the participating organization(s). This team should include organizational leaders, administrators, and biomedical research faculty, experienced mentors, and knowledgeable steering committee members.”
 - This explains the requirements for certain roles for BRE-SPAD PDs/PIs and Steering Committee Members.
- “The award may be renewed once, for a maximum of up to 10 years of funding per organization; however renewal applications are not guaranteed funding and are dependent upon successful outcomes.”

Funding Priorities

[During this segment of the video, BRE-SPAD Funding Priorities and other information was summarized by showing where to find them in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO, [PAR-24-268](#)), **Part 2, Section I. The information shared is summarized below.**

- “...The following applications will be considered low priority for funding, even if other aspects review favorably. Low priority applications include those that:
 - Fail to demonstrate that there will be sufficient faculty or staff time for research, mentoring of student researchers, grant writing, or student activities.
 - Propose to fund ongoing activities currently supported through organizational funds. BRE-SPAD is intended to build capacity that would not be possible without the funds, not to free up organizational funds.”]

What Is Covered in this Video, Segment 5

1. Introduction to the BRE-SPAD Program
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Where are the instructions for my NIH grant application? (I)

1. **The SF424 Application Guide** is the overall/general instruction set that NIH uses.
 - Linked in Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) and on <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>
 - There are several different subsets, e.g.: F = Fellowships, R = Research Instructions. BRE-SPAD uses the **R instructions**.
 - Because the SF424 is general, specific instructions are included elsewhere.

The Overview of Application Information Video has more information on how to complete a BRE-SPAD application (using the SF424 & NOFO highlights).

Where are the instructions for my NIH grant application? (II)

2. The NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) has program-specific information and instructions.
- The NOFO supersedes the SF424 where they differ.
 - There may be additional instructions, more specific instructions, or instructions that negate the SF424 instructions.

Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Components of Participating Organizations	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) National Eye Institute (NEI) National Institute on Aging (NIA) National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) <small>All applications to this funding opportunity announcement should fall within the mission of the Institutes/Centers. The following NIH Offices may co-fund applications assigned to those Institutes/Centers.</small> Office of Data Science Strategy (ODSS)
Funding Opportunity Title	Biomedical Research Environment & Sponsored Programs Administration Development (BRE-SPAD) Program (UC2- Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
Activity Code	UC2 High Impact Research and Research Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Programs

The Overview of Application Information Video has more information on how to complete a BRE-SPAD application (using the SF424 & NOFO highlights).

Where are the instructions for my NIH grant application? (III)

3. **Any Notices published after** the NOFO has been released.
- Supersede the NOFO if they differ.
 - May clarify information in the NOFO.
 - May add to or subtract from the NOFO.
 - Important to periodically check Part 1 of the NOFO or the NIH Guide for any new Notices.

Subscribe to the NIH Guide:

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/subscribe.htm>

- Official publication to track NIH's grant policies, guidelines, and newly published funding opportunities and notices.

Funding Opportunity Title

Biomedical Research Environment & Sponsored Programs Administration Development (BRE-SPAD) Program (UC2- Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Activity Code

UC2 High Impact Research and Research Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Programs

Announcement Type

New

Related Notices

- **April 4, 2024** - Overview of Grant Application and Review Changes for Due Dates on or after January 25, 2025. See Notice [NOT-OD-24-084](#).
- **August 31, 2022**- Implementation Changes for Genomic Data Sharing Plans Included with Applications Due on or after January 25, 2023. See Notice [NOT-OD-22-198](#).
- **August 5, 2022**- Implementation Details for the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. See Notice [NOT-OD-22-189](#).

Funding Opportunity Number (FON)

PAR-24-268

Use our list of the major BRE-SPAD application components & lengths

- This list is found on the BRE-SPAD webpage > **Things to Do Before Applying**
 - Link to “Review required and suggested application page lengths for key application components”
- It is a list of the major documents needed for a BRE-SPAD application, with suggested or maximum lengths

Suggested section lengths in the Research Strategy are not requirements, are rough guidelines, and do not represent characteristics of more favorable or more competitive applications. Applicants are not required to use all 30 pages of this document, especially if not applying to all three developmental funding areas.

Application Attachment or Component	Maximum or Suggested Length (if any)	Which applicants must include this?
R&R Other Project Information Form		
Project Summary/Abstract	≤ 30 lines of text	Required for all
Project Narrative	3 sentences	Required for all
Bibliography & References Cited	-	Required for all
Facilities & Other Resources	-	Required for all
Equipment	-	Required for all
Other Attachments: Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives	1 pp maximum	Required for all
R&R Senior/Key Person Profile Form		
Biographical Sketch for each Senior/Key Person	5 pp max each	Required for all
R&R Budget Form		
Budget Justification	-	Required for all
PHS 398 Research Plan Form		
Specific Aims Page	1 pp maximum	Required for all
Research Strategy: One file with the sections below. Up to 30 pages maximum. Required for all.		
1 -Organizational Assessment	2-3 pp suggested	Required for all
2 -Need for Proposed Programming	1 pp suggested	Required for all

Application Withdrawal & Submission Errors

- Your application must meet all requirements of the SF424, NOFO and any related Notices. If not, it could be withdrawn by NIH, without review.
- Applications are checked in Grants.gov & our eRA systems.
 - **These system validations enforce many, but not all, application requirements.**
- Submit early enough to allow time to address any system identified errors and submit a corrected application prior to the deadline.
- NIH staff perform certain checks before application referral for review, for specifics that Grants.gov & eRA cannot detect.
 - **Applications that are successfully submitted, without submission errors, can still be withdrawn.**

Examples of Potential Causes of Application Withdrawal

- Failure to follow any rules for the format of attachments.
 - A few examples: unallowed filenames, incorrect citation use, unallowed fonts, past page/line limits, and improper file size. See <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/format-attachments.htm>
- Applicant does not meet eligibility criteria.
 - BRE-SPAD has very specific criteria detailed in the NOFO. See the BRE-SPAD website for assistance determining eligibility.
- Submitting a Resubmission or Renewal application when the NOFO does not allow those application types (See Section II of a NOFO).
 - PAR-24-268 only allows new applications.
- Missing a required application item (could be described in the NOFO only).
 - One example: all BRE-SPAD applications must have an Organizational Eligibility & Commitment Letter.

What Is Covered in this Video, Segment 6

1. Introduction to the BRE-SPAD Program
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Things to Do Before Applying (See the BRE-SPAD Webpage)

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/mechanisms/Pages/bre-spada.aspx>

Applicants are strongly encouraged to:

- ✓ Determine organizational eligibility. See the BRE-SPAD webpage for guidance.
- ✓ Read the NOFO [PAR-24-268](#) including any Related Notices in the Overview Section.
- ✓ Review participating NIH Institute or Center Funding Priorities on the BRE-SPAD webpage, although BRE-SPAD programs may focus on developing biomedical research across the broad range of areas at NIH.
- ✓ **Email a one-page summary including the specific information listed on the BRE-SPAD website** for preliminary, non-binding feedback on the proposed program's fit.
- ✓ Review [NIH's Application Form Instructions \(the SF424\)](#), Research Instructions.
- ✓ Review required and suggested application page lengths for key application components, found on the BRE-SPAD webpage, under the Things to Do Before Applying section.

Email: NIGMSBRE-SPAD@nigms.nih.gov

One-Page Summary for Preliminary Feedback

- We encourage all applicants to send a **one-page summary including the information below** for preliminary, non-binding feedback on the proposed program's fit:
 - ✓ List the application organization, any other participating organization(s), and any partner organization(s).
 - ✓ State the two or three developmental funding areas that will be proposed in the application.
 - ✓ Briefly describe the need for proposed programming.
 - ✓ Describe the primary goals and activities for the proposed plans. Include how the proposed plans will advance overall biomedical research capacity goals at realistic rates, tailored to the participating organization(s).

Please send the one-page summary to NIGMSBRE-SPAD@nigms.nih.gov

BRE-SPAD Applicant Video Series

- Program Overview
- Overview of Application Information
- How Pilot Research Project Funding Works

For questions, email NIGMSBRE-SPAD@nigms.nih.gov

BRE-SPAD Program Webpage:

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/mechanisms/Pages/bre-spad.aspx>