



APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Thank you for your interest in the **Regional Alliance of INBRE Networks (RAIN) Collaborative Research Grant FOA**.

1. Before you begin, please review the following information:
 - At this time only ONE Project Leader may have access to the application (we are limited in functionality with the platform). Once you have created a login and password, you may exit and return to this application at any time. You may also move freely between sections. You may not submit your final application until all required fields are completed.
 - This opportunity is contingent upon the availability of funding from participating INBRE programs.
2. If you have questions please direct your questions to the INBRE contact in your home state:
 - **Alaska:** Julie Benson, INBRE Associate Director (jcbenson@alaska.edu)
 - **Hawaii:** Leighanne Felix, INBRE Program Specialist (felixlf@hawaii.edu)
 - **Idaho:** Whitney Myers, INBRE Program Manager & Fiscal Director (whitneym@uidaho.edu)
 - **Montana:** Dr. Brian Bothner, INBRE Director and Principal Investigator (bbothner@montana.edu)
 - **Nevada:** Dr. Nicole Falk-Smith, Evaluation Coordinator & Program Administrator (nfalksmith@unr.edu) & Christy Song, Program Coordinator, (cmsong@unr.edu)
 - **New Mexico:** Dr. Shelley Lusetti, INBRE Director and Principal Investigator (slusetti@nmsu.edu)
 - **Wyoming:** Yana Nightingale, INBRE Administrative Assistant (ynightin@uwyo.edu)
3. If you have technical issues with this application, please email help@embark.com.
4. Please complete the pre-proposal and submit by the 10/17/2025 deadline.
5. Does your project have IACUC/IBC/Human Subjects work?
6. NO Clinical Trials.
7. *If your collaboration is selected to submit a full proposal*, please be prepared to submit a **three page research strategy** (written by all project leaders). Other documentation will be required as well.
8. *If your collaboration is selected for funding*, please note that Project Leaders **may not have concurrent/overlapping CTR-IN or COBRE funding (IDeA funding)** in addition to the INBRE RAIN funding. Please be cognizant of this requirement. If you are unsure of your eligibility to apply for this opportunity, please contact your INBRE Administrator before submitting an application

Deadline Overview:

1. **Pre-proposals due:** October 17, 2025
2. **Invitations to submit a full proposal:** November 7, 2025
3. **Full proposals due:** February 13, 2026 (5:00 pm PDT)
4. **Earliest start date:** 2026- *Start dates for each Project Leader (PL) may be different and are dependent upon each PL's home state. Check with the INBRE contact listed above.*

Program Overview

The purpose of the **Regional Alliance of INBRE Networks (RAIN) FOA** is to stimulate collaborative, competitive biomedical research between two researchers in two Western IDeA states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. The goal of RAIN is to increase interdisciplinary research collaborations among faculty and broaden research and education opportunities for students.

The research projects are intended to:

1. Stimulate interstate collaborative research project development for researchers from Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming.
2. Stimulate research collaborations with outcomes that include new lines of competitive funding that lead to publication and successful proposals for non-IDeA federal funding.
3. Project Leaders are encouraged to take advantage of INBRE Core resources and to include student researchers where possible.

Specific Requirements for RAIN Collaborative Projects

RAIN applications must include at least two Project Leaders representing at least two states (Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming). **No more than three collaborators per application.**

RAIN Project **Leaders** will need to justify the effort to be supported by the award relative to the targeted project outcomes.

Eligibility

Eligible Organizations: Eligible institutions include INBRE participating institutions in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. *Contact the Program Administrators in your home state for the full list.*

Eligible Individuals (Project Leader): Faculty members at participating INBRE institutions in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Individuals from under-represented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply. *Applicants may only be included on one application per award cycle.*

In keeping with the priority of the IDeA INBRE Program, funding priority is emerging Project Leaders, or teams with one emerging Project Leader, to provide the means to secure independent funding. Other eligibility and criteria include:

1. The PI must have a primary faculty appointment at an INBRE-participating institution in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming.
2. The PI may not have overlapping/concurrent funding from a non-INBRE IDeA mechanisms (CTR or COBRE) and cannot be concurrently funded for the same Specific Aims by any mechanism.
3. The project collaboration must have a unique scope of work.

Award Information

NIH grants policies described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement, will apply to the applications submitted and awards made in response to this FOA.

- **Funding instrument:** A subaward (or internal account) from the lead INBRE institutions in each of the home states of the applicant Project Leaders.
- **Funding available and anticipated number of awards:** We anticipate making 4-6 awards per year.
- **Award Budget:** Up to \$20,000 in direct costs, per Project Leader/project, per state. Applicable Facilities & Administrative (F&A)/indirect costs for each applicant institution should be requested

following the guidelines of the home state INBRE. If applicable, F&A costs will reflect each applicant's home institution rates. Please check with your INBRE representative for more details.

- **Award Project Period:** All projects can be approved for up to 2 years (\$20,000 total over 2 years). Applicants wishing to allocate the \$20,000 budget over two years must submit a budget page for **each** grant year that allocates the funding accordingly. If applicants choose to spend all of their funding in year 1, only one budget page is needed.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** There is no carryover or extension of these funds from year to year. All year 1 funds must be expended by the end of year 1, and all year 2 funds must be expended by the end of year 2. Please budget accordingly!
- **IACUC/IRB-** If your project is selected for funding, please know that you will be required to submit IACUC and/or IRB approved protocols before your project will be sent to NIH for administrative review and approval. Failure to submit documentation in a timely manner will delay your funding. **Please note, an IRB and/or IACUC approval letter will be required in your full application.** The title of the collaborative project must match the approval letter.
- **No clinical trials.**



Pre-proposal Submission:

- Project Leader Name (1) (first/last)
- Full name of Project Leader home institution
- Email address
- Academic title
- Project Leader Name (2) (first/last)
- Full name of Project Leader home institution
- Email address
- Academic title
- Project Title:
- Proposal info: Project summary/abstract (300 words or less)

If there are more than two collaborators, enter their information as well.



Full Application (**ONLY COMPLETE if selected after pre-proposal stage**)

Research Strategy

The Research Plan for the RAIN Collaborative FOA is **limited to three pages**. Only ONE research plan is required per collaborative project, regardless of the number of involved Project Leaders/states.

Research plans must include a summary of the following information (up to 3 pages):

1. Explain why this inter-state collaboration enhances the project. State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.

2. List succinctly the **specific aims** of the research proposed, e.g., to test a hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.
3. Include a **Collaboration plan** that identifies a lead/contact researcher in each state, the role of each of the researchers, decision-making and dispute resolution plans, and authorship, etc. Only one collaboration plan per project is required.
4. Preliminary data can help to establish the likelihood of success of the proposed project; however, preliminary data is NOT required for an application.
5. References Cited (no page limit). Provide full appropriate citations used in the project summary

Appendix (one page limit) must include:

1. Letter of intent and collaboration plan, signed by all participating Project Leaders. This write-up should include how the Project Leaders plan to interact and at what intervals. Demonstrate how the research will be completed, in a general overview given the distance between collaborators. (one-page limit)

Budget

Detailed Budget and Justification

MUST USE NIH FORMS

If you are requesting the funding to be over the course of 2 years, you must submit a detailed budget page for **each** budget year. Detailed budget for up to \$20,000 total direct project costs, **per Project Leader**, per state may include:

- Personnel costs (salaries and fringe benefits)
- Operating expenses
- Other costs (technology access)
- Travel
- Equipment
- Please check with your INBRE representative for F&A calculations on the \$20,000 direct cost budget.
- Include indirect costs.

If participating students have not yet been identified, the number of those to be involved should be provided, with a description of their role on the project appropriate to their academic level.

To access the forms to complete and upload, click the description below. The form will pop up in a new window.

1. [Detailed Year 1 Budget](#)
2. [Justification Page](#)

Other Requirements:

- **Face Page is required at this stage (meets AOR notification requirement).**
- **Include a current NIH Biosketch for each Project Leader.**
 - Directions and a sample form can be found here: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
- ****Please use the "Non-fellowship" version***
- **Project Summary & Relevance Instructions** (one summary/relevance form PER collaborative submission):
 - The first and major section of the Description is a Project Summary. It is meant to serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work when separated from the application. State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, referring to the health relatedness of the project (i.e., relevance to the mission of the agency). Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. This section should be informative

to other persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader. Avoid describing past accomplishments and the use of the first person.

- The second section of the Description is Relevance. Using no more than two or three sentences, describe the relevance of this research to public health. In this section, be succinct and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience.

No clinical trials research.

- If your project includes work with vertebrate animals, you will need to complete the Vertebrate Animal Section. **Click the following link for all five points that MUST be addressed:** https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/VASfactsheet_v12.pdf
- Please complete and upload one Human Subjects Information form per application. [Human Subjects Information Form](#)
- Upload the completed form above in the "IRB Protocol" field, it will allow multiple uploaded documents.



Application Review & Scoring

Review and Selection Process

No formal, written reviews will be provided to applicants who apply.

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit including the availability of funds (see below). Applications will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications. Following initial peer review, recommended applications will receive a second level of review by the appropriate INBRE External Advisory Committee. The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

1. Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review.
2. Relevance of the proposed project to INBRE goals, including expanding collaborations with the potential to impact career, scientific, and programmatic priorities.
3. Availability of funds.

If your project is selected for funding, the project will be sent to NIH for administrative review and approval. No projects may begin until the INBRE Program Administrator has contacted you with permission to begin.

Reporting Requirements

If your project is selected for funding progress reports will be due annually. Each Project Leader will be responsible to their home state INBRE reporting requirements and deadlines.