



Hello biomedical researchers from Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming!

The Regional Alliance of INBRE Networks (RAIN) in Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming seek applications for collaborative projects that take advantage of complimentary expertise across state lines. Projects must include investigators from at least 2 of the participating states (ID, MT, NM, and WY). The intention of this solicitation is to support short-term projects that develop/strengthen scientific connections across our states with a high likelihood of yielding data for near-term **publications, NIH grant proposals** (R01, R21, R15, etc), **student experience**, and other **research products**.

**This is a limited opportunity. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all funds are allocated. We will begin accepting applications and pre-proposals on October 15, 2019. Invitations to submit a full proposal will be issued by November 15, 2019. Invited full proposal and applications will be due March 1, 2020, for a project start date no earlier than May 1, 2020. Similar dates for rolling application submission can be expected for 2020-2023.**

We invite requests to support two-year, limited collaborative projects that will be conducted in at least 2 of the RAIN states. Expectations include 1. Co-authored publication and 2. NIH (or similar) funding application as PI or co-I. You must describe and justify your proposed collaboration in a research plan **not to exceed 5 pages** that includes the elements listed in the **Application Contents** section described below.

### **Eligibility**

Institutions identified in the INBRE-4 grant proposal are eligible and include:

IDAHO: Boise State University, Brigham Young University-Idaho, College of Southern Idaho, College of Western Idaho, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, North Idaho College, Northwest Nazarene University, The College of Idaho, and University of Idaho. Eligible non-profit research foundations include the Idaho Veterans Research & Education Foundation.

#### MONTANA:

Aaniiih Nakoda College, Blackfeet Community College, Carroll College, Chief Dull Knife College, Flathead Valley Community College, Fort Peck Community College, Little Big Horn College, Montana State University at Bozeman, Montana State University Billings, Montana State University Northern, MT Tech of the UM, Rocky Mountain College, Stone Child College, University of Montana Missoula, University of Montana Western, Salish Kootenai College

NEW MEXICO: Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico State University, Northern New Mexico College, San Juan College, University of New Mexico, Western New Mexico University

WYOMING: University of Wyoming- Laramie, University of Wyoming- Casper and Casper College, Central Wyoming College, Eastern Wyoming College, Laramie County Community College, Northwest College, Northern Wyoming Community College District- Sheridan and Gillette Colleges, Western Wyoming Community College

**Eligible Individuals (Project Investigators):**

Any individual with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Project Investigator (PI) is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from under-represented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply.

In keeping with the mission of the IDeA INBRE Program, funding priority is to new or early-career investigators to provide the means to secure, independent funding. Other eligibility, and criteria include:

- Investigators on a single project must be from eligible institutions in at least 2 different participating RAIN states.
- The PIs must have a primary faculty appointment at an eligible institution.
- The PIs may not be the PI of any active NIH research grant at the time of an award.
- The PIs may not be a COBRE-funded or CTR-funded Investigator.
- The PIs may not be awarded more than one RAIN Developmental or Pilot Project at a time.
- Although applicants may hold a separate INBRE award, the application must propose new, stand-alone, non-overlapping specific aims.

**Application Process:**

1. Access the online application at the following link: <https://idahoinbre.embarck.com/apply/RAINFOA>
  - a. Applicants are required to submit a “pre-proposal. The application system only allow one investigator to enter/save/submit an application.
2. If funding is available in the home states of the applicants, they will be invited to submit a full proposal.
3. If a full proposal is meritorious and selected for funding by outside reviewers, applicants will need to complete one final step of paperwork before the proposal is sent to NIGMS for programmatic review.
4. All of these steps are completed within Embark (online application software). Users must use their password and login credentials at each of the three application steps. Applicants can email: [help@embarck.com](mailto:help@embarck.com) for technical help.

=====

**Invited Proposal and Full Application CONTENTS**

You must describe and justify your proposed collaboration in a document **not to exceed the page limits described below** described below.

1. **PHS 398 Face Page ([PHS Form Page 1](#))**
2. **PHS 398 Project Summary ([PHS Form Page 2](#))** Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem Cells
3. **RESEARCH PLAN (maximum 2 pages, including the Specific Aims)**
  - a. **Specific Aims and Significance (maximum 1 page)**  
 What do you plan to accomplish? 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 fields involved. List succinctly the specific aims of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated 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. Include a statement of how the project fits into a scientific theme of at least one of the

sponsoring INBRE Programs. Preliminary data can help to establish the likelihood or success of the proposed project; however, preliminary data is NOT required for an application.

**b. Approach Summary**

How will you meet your aims, and where will you conduct the work? How will **INBRE Cores** serve the project? How will you ensure **Rigor and Transparency**? If human subjects or vertebrate animals will be involved, how will you address the protection of human subjects and/or ensure the appropriate treatment of vertebrate animals?

Projects involving Human Subjects must comply with NIH requirements for the Protection of Human Subjects and provide the following documentation with the application

- i. Certification of Human Subjects Education
- ii. A Targeted/Planned Enrollment form
- iii. Approval documentation from the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- iv. For Clinical Trials, Data and Safety Monitoring Plan (DSMP)

The IRB approval may be submitted after the application deadline, but no projects involving human subjects will be permitted to start until IRB approval documentation is received.

Projects involving Vertebrate Animals must comply with the NIH requirements for Vertebrate Animal use, and include in the application:

- i. Vertebrate Animal use covering the points required by NIH
- ii. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval documentation

**c. Products**

Describe what the collaboration will produce, especially focusing on those things that would not be possible without working together (publication? Preliminary data for another proposal? Etc.)

**d. References Cited (no page limit).** Provide full appropriate citations used in the project summary

**4. Collaboration Plan and Collaborator Roles** (maximum 1 page)

Describe the rationale for pursuing the proposed project as a collaboration. Why is this collaborative mechanism appropriate to facilitate your near-term goals?

**5. Budget and budget justification (not included in page limitations)**

What would you need to conduct the collaborative project for one or two years? Given the short-term and modest nature of the funding, we encourage requests that do not include recurring expenses, like salaried personnel, but focus on supporting a portion of expenses related to supplying or conducting the work you envision, or travel to work with your collaborator at their location. Requests to compensate those conducting the project (or a portion of their time) are appropriate but must be thoroughly justified; explain the person's role in accomplishing the aims.

**6. Biographical Sketch.** Use NIH Format available at this [link](#) to provide a biographical sketch for key personnel on the project. Please follow the NIH guidance and [instructions](#). An NIH biographical sketch [sample](#) is also available.

**Review Process**

The process of application review will include 1. NIH-style external reviewers who will determine the scientific merit of the project and 2. Programmatic reviewers who will determine how well the proposed project and investigators align with the mission of the supporting INBREs. Each participating INBRE will coordinate the external, scientific review of proposals submitted by investigators in their respective states.

- If your application is selected for funding, all required protocols (IACUC, IRB, IBC, etc.) must be approved and in place, with copies of the protocols uploaded in the application system, before your project will be submitted to NIGMS for approval.

#### **Review Criteria**

1. **Scientific Merit** will be assessed using the NIH's criteria for peer review of research project grant (RPG) proposals they receive. In brief, those criteria include **Significance, Investigator, Innovation, Approach,** and **Environment**. Detailed [definitions of the review criteria](#) used by NIH are provided.
2. **Programmatic Merit** will be determined by administrative panels that include representation from each of the supporting INBREs. Information about the respective mission and goals of the INBREs are located at ID-INBRE, MT-INBRE, NM-INBRE, and WY-INBRE.