



## Rocky Mountain REACH Research Funding Announcement – 2026 Pilot Award

### Overview

The [Rocky Mountain Research Evaluation & Commercialization Hub](#) (RMT-REACH) is a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded academic hub dedicated to accelerating the commercialization of health innovations in **academic institutions across Montana, Alaska, Idaho, and Wyoming** and develop products that improve the health of people across the United States.

This 2026 Pilot Award Research Funding Announcement (RFA) seeks proposals that will support the translational advancement of promising health innovations. The program supports proof-of-concept and go-to-market strategy activities through milestone-driven funding. Supported innovations may span the spectrum of health outcomes, including therapeutics, preventatives, diagnostics, devices, methods, or research tools that move the needle forward on unmet patient and public health needs. **RMT-REACH intends to fund up to 4 pilot projects with up to \$50,000 in direct costs** for each awarded project.

Successful applications will explain how the intended product addresses an unmet medical need, the product's market potential, and include a sound product validation workplan. Projects must be completed within 6-12 months with the goal of follow-on funding through SBIR/STTR or venture mechanisms in startup companies. Applications should focus on explaining how the RMT-REACH funds will improve your chances of success in translating your innovation into clinical practice. We encourage preapplications from any innovator with a promising health technology. By going through the preapplication screening process, additional resources for the project can be identified and directed to the applicant, regardless of whether the project advances to the full application stage.

Proposals will be evaluated for both scientific merit and product development potential, with emphasis on the following criteria:

- Unmet need and clinical impact on populations experiencing high disease burden in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
- Translational potential and product feasibility
- Technology development stage and project planning

Broadly, the stage of technology development appropriate for REACH funding has the following characteristics:

- **Small Molecule Therapeutics**
  - Compound is at the lead optimization of the preclinical stage, and
  - Target is known, and
  - There is some method or assay to determine its effect.
- **Biologics or Cell-based Therapies:**
  - Biologic or cell population has been identified, and
  - Some reasonable method of development, sourcing, manufacturing, or proliferation is proposed, and
  - The mechanism of action has been determined to a sufficient level that there is a reasonable understanding of the product that will be developed or tested.
- **Interventional Medical Devices:**
  - Technology is ready for prototype development and testing, either on the bench or in animals, and
  - Physiologic experiments have been conducted or reported in the literature, providing rationale for prototype development.
- **Diagnostic Medical Devices/IVD/MDx:**
  - Technology is ready for prototype development and some method of testing.
- **Health IT, Software, Apps, Algorithms:**
  - Technology is beyond the concept stage and has an existing code base, and
  - Technology is grounded in previous experiments or solid peer reviewed evidence, and
  - Project includes either:
    - Steps to validate the technology by demonstrating its efficacy versus the standard of care or utility in pilot studies/user testing, or,
    - If already validated, technology is ready to be refined and made appropriate for commercialization.

Successful RMT-REACH awardees will receive funding to support the completion of project milestones and tasks as defined in a Project Award Agreement. In addition to receiving proof-of-concept funding, an RMT-REACH Project Manager will be assigned to support the project's progress, recruitment of domain experts for development, and advise on strategies to make products widely accessible. Awardees will also have access to an array of experts ranging from regulatory strategy, intellectual property, market analysis, and follow-on, non-dilutive grant development.

Even if a project does not receive an award, principal investigators (PIs) of reviewed proposals will gain key insights from industry and technology experts through the RMT-REACH External Review Board (ERB). PIs may also receive independent verification of product concept, reimbursement strategy, and IP development from the REACH Technology Guidance Committee (TGC), which is composed of members from the Food and Drug Administration

(FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), third party payers, and the United States Patent and Trade Office (USPTO).

### Key Dates

Activities	Date & Time*
	*All times are in Mountain Time
RFA Release	Wednesday, January 7
<b>Live Q&amp;A Session (<a href="#">Register Here</a>)</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 21 (12pm)</b>
<b>Preapplication Due (<a href="#">Submit Here</a>)</b>	<b>Thursday, February 12 (5:00pm)</b>
Invitation to submit full application	Friday, March 6
Application Kickoff Meeting	Week of March 9
**Workshop 1: Project Plan & Budget	Week of March 16
Workshop 2: Project Pitch	Week of March 23
<b>First Draft of Application for Internal Review Due (optional)</b>	<b>Thursday, March 26 (5:00pm)</b>
Feedback on Submitted First Draft Applications Returned to PI	Tuesday, April 7
Pitch Practice Sessions***	Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, April 8-10
<b>RMT-REACH Final Application Due</b>	<b>Thursday, April 16 (5:00pm)</b>
Project Pitch Sessions***	Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday May 6-8
RMT-REACH ERB-EC Finalize Scores	Thursday, May 21
Selected applications submitted to NIH TGC	Friday, May 22
Earliest Decision	Early July
Funding and Support Allocated	Fall 2026

\*\* Workshop topics and dates/times will be released in February 2026.

\*\*\* Pitch Practice & Project Pitch Sessions are a mandatory component of the application, the dates outlined here are the only dates the sessions will take place. Please notify program staff in your preapplication if you are unable to make these dates.

### Application Support

Applicants can schedule time to discuss their project with a member of the RMT-REACH Team on our [Booking Page](#). Application support is available prior to the preapplication deadline, and after the invitation to submit a full application. Those who do not advance to the next stage in the application cycle are also welcome to schedule a time to review their evaluation results and get support in improving their project or modifying their application for a future award.

## Letter of Support

Applicants to the 2026 Pilot Awards will be required to submit with their preapplication a letter of support from the Technology Transfer official at their institution. This letter will confirm that the IP status of the project meets the following eligibility requirements:

1. The project’s intellectual property must be owned by or otherwise assigned to an academic institution in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming.
2. The project technology must be at pre-company stage and cannot be encumbered by a licensing agreement.

## Contents

<b>Rocky Mountain REACH Research Funding Announcement – 2026 Pilot Award</b>	<b>1</b>
Overview	1
Key Dates	3
Application Support	3
Letter of Support	4
RMT-REACH Award Process Overview	5
Award Information	5
Eligibility	6
Application and Submission Information	6
Application Review Information	7
Award Administration Information	7
RMT-REACH Program Contacts	7
Appendices	8
Appendix A: RMT-REACH Preapplication Questions	8
Appendix B: RMT-REACH Project Application	12
Appendix C: Project Pitch Guidelines	17

## RMT-REACH Award Process Overview

### Award Information

<hr/> <b>Funds Available &amp; Structure of Support</b>	<p>The number of awards is contingent upon the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. RMT-REACH supported projects receive value-added and managed services including administrative and regulatory support, recruitment, and participation of domain experts. The national review from the NIH Technology Guidance Committee (TGC) provides independent due diligence, typically required for seeking private funding.</p>
<hr/> <b>Award Budget</b>	<p>Projects are scoped in an on-boarding process where key milestones and associated budget items are defined by the project team and RMT-REACH personnel. All funded milestones and activities will be vetted as necessary and essential by the RMT-REACH project team to ensure that projects are in the best position to prepare for follow-on funding. RMT-REACH supports up to \$50,000 in direct costs based on clearly written milestones associated with the objective to reach a meaningful exit. Budgets are linked to actionable activities anchored on achieving milestones. Milestones and activities proposed in the application are finalized during the Project Agreement process before funds are issued. Total award amount is contingent upon approval of the final Project Plan as agreed upon by the awardee and RMT-REACH project management team.</p> <p>RMT-REACH awards are for product commercialization. All salaries and outsourced work must be directly aligned with key milestone deliverables.</p> <p>RMT-REACH funds can be used for internal commercialization work, outsourced expertise, and contract work.</p> <p>F&amp;A/indirect costs are allowable and assessed at the Principal Investigator's institutional rate. F&amp;A can only be paid to academic institutions.</p> <hr/>

## Eligibility

1. Principal Investigators (PIs) must meet the eligibility requirements outlined by their academic institution. For example, PIs from the University of Montana must meet the eligibility requirements [outlined by the Office of Sponsored Programs](#) at UM.
2. This funding opportunity is open to faculty, staff, postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate students.
  - a. Students and postdoctoral researchers must identify a faculty sponsor.
3. Eligible Principal Investigators must be affiliated with an academic institution in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming.
4. Collaborators from non-academic institutions are eligible to apply with an eligible PI.
5. The project's intellectual property must be owned by or otherwise assigned to an academic institution in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming.
6. The project technology must be at pre-company stage and cannot be encumbered by a licensing agreement.

If you have eligibility questions or concerns, please contact us at [rmtreach@umontana.edu](mailto:rmtreach@umontana.edu).

## Application and Submission Information

The submission deadlines for the 2026 Pilot Award cycle are as follows:

	Preapplication	Selected Preapplications Invited to Submit Full Application	First Application Draft (Optional)	Full Application	Earliest project start date
<b>Due Date:</b>	February 12, 2026 (5:00 PM MT)	March 6, 2026	March 26, 2026 (5:00 PM MT)	April 16, 2026	Fall 2026

## Content and Form of Application Submission

1. Preapplication (details in Appendix A) **DUE February 12, 2026 (5:00pm MT)**
  - Preapplications are submitted for review by completing the form on the **RMT-REACH Preapplication portal** ([found at this link](#)). *We will not accept preapplications via email.* If, at any time, you experience difficulty with the form, please contact the RMT-REACH team as soon as possible ([rmtreach@umontana.edu](mailto:rmtreach@umontana.edu)).
2. Application (details in Appendix B) **DUE April 16, 2026 (5:00pm MT)**
  - Select preapplications will be invited to submit a full application by end of day Thursday, April 16, 2026. Selected teams will be provided with a link to complete the application form at that time. *Applications will not be accepted via email.* For questions about the application process, contact the RMT-REACH team.

### 3. Project Pitch (details in Appendix C)

**Wednesday-Friday, May 6-8, 2026**

- Use the provided Pitch Template as a guide for preparing your presentation. Teams will have 10 minutes to pitch their projects, followed by 20 minutes of discussion and Q&A. Scheduling of the Project Pitch sessions will happen in April, please let the RMT-REACH team know as soon as possible if you are unavailable on these dates.

### Application Review Information

All submitted Pilot Award preapplications and applications will be reviewed by the RMT-REACH Executive Committee. In addition to evaluation of the submitted applications, Pilot Award applicants will pitch their proposals to an integrated review committee, including the RMT-REACH Executive Committee and External Review Board (ERB), comprised of industry and technology experts. Selected RMT-REACH proposals will be sent to the NIH Technology Guidance Committee (TGC) for review and input. Both the RMT-REACH ERB comments and the comments from the TGC will be considered by the RMT-REACH Executive Committee, who will make the final determination for RMT-REACH funding. The input from the TGC is not scored, but comments provide the applicant with preliminary due diligence done by the highest authorities for the proposed development plans. All application feedback will be shared with the applicant regardless of award status.

### Award Administration Information

Awarded applicants will work with an RMT-REACH Project Manager to finalize the budget, milestones, and activities that make up the Project Plan. This process must be completed to receive funding and timing of the project start date is contingent on the successful completion of the Project Plan. The Project Plan will be included as the scope of work in the award agreement and progress on the Plan will be monitored during monthly meetings with the Project Manager.

Funds will be administered through the [L.S. Skaggs Institute for Health Innovation](#) at the University of Montana and project management will be administered through RMT-REACH.

### RMT-REACH Program Contacts

Leidy Wagener, Operations Manager, RMT-REACH, [leidy.wagener@mso.umt.edu](mailto:leidy.wagener@mso.umt.edu)

Karl Unterschuetz, Project Manager, RMT-REACH, [karl.unterschuetz@mso.umt.edu](mailto:karl.unterschuetz@mso.umt.edu)

## Appendices

### Appendix A: RMT-REACH Preapplication Questions

**Full instructions and the Preapplication form are available at:**

<https://healthumt.submittable.com/submit/ae49950b-d842-4ddc-bb3c-0b2568b4b553/rocky-mountain-reach-2026-pilot-award-preapplications>

### Preapplication Form Questions

\*Required

Overview & Principal Investigator Information		
Project Title*		
Principal Investigator Information*	First Name	
	Last Name	
	Position/Title	
	Email Address	
	Institution	
Co-Principal Investigator(s) (up to 5)	First Name	
	Last Name	
	Position/Title	
	Email Address	
	Institution	
Faculty Sponsor (required for student and postdoctoral researchers)	First Name	
	Last Name	
	Position/Title	
	Email Address	
	Institution	
<b>Principal Investigator Intellectual Property Experience:</b> Answer the following questions for the Principal Investigator only (do not include experience of co-PIs) and answer the questions considering the entirety of the PI's career.		
Has the PI ever licensed a technology?*		Y/N
Has the PI ever started a company?*		Y/N
Has the PI ever applied for a patent?*		Y/N
Has the PI ever applied for a trademark?*		Y/N
Has the PI ever applied for a copyright?*		Y/N
Technology Characteristics		
<b>Technology type (Select one from list):*</b>		
Biologic Drug	Diagnostic Device	Small Molecule Drug
Combination Product (device regulation)	Digital Health	Surgical Device
Combination Product (drug regulation)	Education/Training tool	Therapeutic Device
Diagnostic Assay	Research Tool	
How many years have you been developing this technology?*		_____ year(s)



<b>Please select ALL NIH research areas that have relevance to your technology (Select all that apply from list):*</b>			
Cancer (NCI)	Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, and Skin (NIAMS)		
Eye (NEI)	Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)		
Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep (NHLBI)	Child Health (NICHD)		
Genome (NHGRI)	Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIDCD)		
Aging (NIA)	Dental and Craniofacial (NIDCR)		
Alcohol (NIAAA)	Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney (NIDDK)		
Allergy and Infection Diseases (NIAID)	Drug Abuse (NIDA)		
Environmental Health (NIEHS)	Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)		
General Medicine (NIGMS)	Nursing (NINR)		
Mental Health (NIMH)	Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)		
Minority Health (NIMHD)	Translational Sciences (NCATS)		
For more information on the purview of each institute and center, please reference this following list: <a href="https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/list-institutes-centers">https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/list-institutes-centers</a> .			
<b>Disease area (Select all that apply from list):*</b>			
Aging	Heart	No disease or organ	Sepsis
Analgesia	Hepatology	indication (platform	Sleep
Anesthesiology	HIV/AIDS	technology)	Speech Pathology
Antimicrobial Products	Immunology	Obesity	Spine
Autism	Infection control	Ophthalmology	Sports Medicine
Blood	Maternal Health	Orthopedics	Substance Use
Bone disease	Medical	Pain	Disorders/Drug
Cancer	Countermeasures	Palliative Care	Abuse
Cardiovascular Health	Medical Imaging	Pediatrics	Surgery
Dentistry	Mental Health	Pharmacology	Toxicology
Dermatology	Metabolic Disorder	Physical Medicine	Urology
Diabetes	Nephrology	Pulmonary	Wound healing
ENT Health	Neurology	Regenerative Medicine	
Gastroenterology			
<b>Project Intellectual Property Status</b>			
Has this technology been discussed with the tech transfer office of the PIs affiliated institution?*			Y/N
Has a disclosure been filed with the relevant tech transfer office?*			Y/N
Has a provisional patent been filed?*			Y/N
Has a full patent been filed?*			Y/N
Has a copyright been filed?*			Y/N
Has a trademark been filed?*			Y/N
Has the technology been licensed?*			Y/N
<b>Letter of Support from Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent office at the PI's institution)*</b> Required Upload (accepted file types: .doc, .docx, .odt, .pdf, .rtf, .txt, .wpd, .wps)			
The letter of support must confirm that the IP status of the project meets the following eligibility requirements:			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project's intellectual property must be owned by or otherwise assigned to an academic institution in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming.</li> <li>The project technology must be at pre-company stage and cannot be encumbered by a licensing agreement.</li> </ul>	
<b>Project Information</b>	
<b>Non-Confidential Abstract/Project Description (please do not disclose any confidential or proprietary information in this project abstract/description)* 1,200 character maximum</b>	
<b>Confidential Project Information</b>	
<b>Describe your technology and how it addresses an unmet human health need, particularly related to high disease burden.* 900 character maximum</b>	
<b>Describe the market for the technology, including an analysis of competitors (both current and in development).* 900 character maximum</b>	
<b>How is your product unique? Is it patentable or is there potential for other intellectual property protection? * 900 character maximum</b>	
<b>Describe available preliminary evidence supporting a proof-of-product concept.* 900 character maximum</b>	
<b>Describe how you intend to use the awarded funds, including critical milestones to be completed during the award period that will advance the technology toward commercial development.* 900 character maximum</b>	
<b>Describe how the experience and expertise of the Principal Investigator and members of the project team (if applicable) will benefit the project.* 900 character maximum</b>	
<b>Additional Information</b>	
<b>Is this application a resubmission from the 2024 or 2025 Rocky Mountain REACH Pilot Awards?*</b>	Y/N
<b>If yes, please describe how any concerns raised and feedback from previous Rocky Mountain REACH evaluations have been addresses since your last application submission. 1800 character maximum</b>	

<b>Is there any other current, past, or pending funding/support that is specifically relevant to the proposed product/technology?*</b> (select all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – There is currently other funding/support for this project. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – There has been past funding/support for this project. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – There is other pending funding/support for this project. <input type="checkbox"/> No – There is no other funding/support for this project.
<b>If yes, list all current/active, past, and/or pending support relevant to this product/technology. Include the following information:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source or name of sponsor</li> <li>• Grant/award number</li> <li>• Grant/award PI name</li> <li>• Grant/award title</li> <li>• Start date – End date</li> <li>• Funding/award amount</li> <li>• Your role and % effort (if applicable)</li> <li>• Brief description of the major goals or specific aims funded</li> <li>• Brief description of any overlap with the work proposed in this application</li> </ul>
<b>OPTIONAL References:</b> Literature and/or website references may be listed in any standard citation format. No more than 10 references may be included.
<b>OPTIONAL Upload figures and/or tables</b> referenced in the narrative questions can be uploaded here. <b>NO MORE THAN 1</b> page of figures/tables will be accepted. Documents exceeding 1 page will not be included in the evaluation of the project.

## Appendix B: RMT-REACH Project Application

**\*Final application questions may deviate from those listed below, the final question list will be provided to innovators invited to submit a full application.**

**Application portal link will be provided to innovators invited to submit a full application.**

### Proposal Format and Instructions:

Please complete the required sections to submit a proposal. Supporting documents required for full proposals include:

- Project Plan GANTT Chart
- Budget Template
- Budget Justification
- Biosketches for key personnel
- Institutional contact information & authorization
- Compliance form

Templates will be provided to innovators invited to submit a full application.

Contact Information		
Project Title		
Principal Investigator(s)	First Name	
	Last Name	
	Position/Title	
	Telephone	
	Email Address	
	Institution	
Co-Principal Investigator(s) (up to 5)	First Name	
	Last Name	
	Title	
	Telephone	
	Email Address	
Technology Characteristics		
Technology type (Select one from list)		
Biologic Drug	Combination product (device	Combination product (drug regulation
Diagnostic Assay	regulation)	Digital Health
Education/training tool	Diagnostic Device	Small molecule drug
Surgical Device	Research Tool	
	Therapeutic device	

**Please identify ALL NIH Institutions and Centers that have relevance to your technology (Select all that apply from list):**

National Cancer Institute (NCI)	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
National Eye Institute (NEI)	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
National Institute on Aging (NIA)	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	National Library of Medicine (NLM)
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)	NIH Clinical Center (CC)
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	Center for Information Technology (CIT)
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)	Center for Scientific Review (CSR)
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	Fogarty International Center (FIC)
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)	National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	

For more information on the purview of each institute and center, please reference this following list: <https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/list-institutes-centers>.

#### **Funding History for This Project**

Is this application a resubmission?	Y/N
Has this technology received federal funding support prior to this submission? If yes, which agency?	Y/N
If NIH, provide grant number (i.e. R01HL123456) then select the NIH Institute or Center from the list.	

#### **Instructions**

Please complete the require sections below to submit a proposal.

Supporting documents required for full proposals include the completed budget template and justification, biosketches for key personnel in NIH's required forma, institutional contact information and authorization, and the compliance form.

If you have difficulty answering any of the questions, please work with representatives within your REACH hub for assistance.

\*Required fields

<b>*Abstract:</b> Please provide a summary that describes the unmet need, market potential, technology, and team proposed for this project. (3500 character limit)	
<b>*Background:</b> Describe the unmet need your technology will address and the current standard of care. The description could also include disease burden, incidence, prevalence, cost to the health system and society, and other pertinent background information. (3600 character limit)	
<b>*Technology:</b> Explain your technology and how it will address the unmet need and impact the standard of care. This should include a description of the technology's current level of maturity and a description of any evidence that has been generated to support its efficacy. (3600 character limit)	
<b>*Market:</b> Describe the market size for your technology, including who the customer is (i.e., direct to consumer, patient, provider, payer) and how that market will be captured (e.g., provide a solution where none exists, augment current technology for better outcomes, displace existing standard of care). Discuss any notable barriers to entry into the market. (3600 character limit)	
<b>Competition:</b> Characterize competitors in this market. What is the value proposition for your technology? (3600 character limit)	
<b>Intellectual Property:</b> Who currently owns this IP? Briefly explain your plans to protect any intellectual property. (1800 character limit)	
Has this technology been discussed with the relevant technology transfer office?	Y/N
Has a provisional patent been filed?	Y/N
Has a full patent been filed?	Y/N
Has a copyright been filed?	Y/N
Has a trademark been filed?	Y/N
Has the technology been licensed?	Y/N
<b>Regulatory:</b> If applicable, describe the likely regulatory pathway and any predicate (if identified) for your technology. (1800 character limit)	
<b>Reimbursement:</b> If applicable, describe the likely reimbursement or payment approach for this technology. (1800 character limit)	
<b>*Risks:</b> Discuss notable risks for this project (e.g., technical, market, regulatory) and provide a brief mitigation plan that addresses them. (1800 character limit)	

<b>*Team: Briefly describe the project team. Highlight relevant technical expertise, any relevant translational or entrepreneurial expertise or interest, and the roles anticipated for each team member. (4000 character limit)</b>	
<b>*Project Plan: Provide an overview of the workplan for this project, including (1) technical development activities, (2) expected commercialization activities (e.g., securing follow-on funding, developing a start-up company plan), and (3) any expected regulatory activities. Identify key milestones, go/no-go criteria for each milestone, and pivot points for technical and commercialization activities. (8000 characters remaining)</b>	
<b>*Gantt chart: Upload a Gantt chart with milestones, timelines, and dependencies. (PDF Upload)</b>	
<b>References: List any publications or upload a PDF of references.</b>	
<b>Appendix A: Compliance Form</b> <b>The compliance form can either be completed within the REDCap form or can be downloaded, completed, and uploaded as a PDF.</b>	
<b>Financial Overlap:</b> Financial overlap is active or pending funding for the same scope of work and/or budgetary item, and must be resolved prior to award.	Y/N
<b>Human Subject Use:</b> (includes the prospective or retrospective use of private identifiable data or materials derived from humans) A human Institution Review Board (IRB) approval letter must be received before funds will be released to awardees. The IRB approval letter should include the protocol title, approval date, the protocol number, and the multiple project or federal wide assurance number.	Y/N
<b>Animal Use:</b> (includes the use of live animals in research, teaching or testing) An Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval letter must be received before funds will be released to awardees. The IACUC letter should include the protocol title, approval date, the protocol number, and the animal welfare assurance number.	Y/N
<b>Appendix (continued).</b>	
<b>Appendix B:</b>	<b>Budget justification</b>
<b>Appendix C:</b>	<b>Biosketch(es)</b>
<b>Appendix D:</b>	<b>Budget pages (by milestone)</b>
<b>Optional: Formatted Narrative</b> In addition to filling out the application questions in the form above, applicants may submit a formatted version of their proposal below in PDF format by using the Upload File link below. Or, if you have any figures or charts to accompany the answers above, they can be uploaded here. Note	

that it is required to complete the online application form to be reviewed and considered for funding. **THIS IS NOT A REQUIRED FIELD** but is available for those applicants wishing to include a formatted project narrative with their full application.

**Save & Return Later Option:** Once an application is started in the portal, you can choose to save your progress by selecting the “Save & Return Later” button at the bottom of the webpage. If you choose to do so, a hyperlink unique to your application will be emailed to you. You can share this link with other members of your team to work on the application together within the portal. Anyone with access to this link will be able to make changes. The RMT-REACH team has very limited administrative control in the application portal and cannot provide timely support. Any reports of errors will be escalated to the administrative team at the NIH. Please allow adequate time before the deadline to submit the application.



## Appendix C: Project Pitch Guidelines

The Project Pitch is your opportunity to bring your innovation to life—get creative. Imagine you are presenting to a group of potential investors or partners—people who want to understand why your innovation matters and how it will transform care. This is not a scientific presentation; it’s your chance to tell a compelling story about your technology, your vision, and the impact this funding could make.

Each pitch will be 10 minutes followed by 20 minutes of discussion and Q&A. Reviewers will have already read your written application, so focus on the “why” and “so what” rather than technical details.

We suggest using 5-10 slides, but the format and order of the slides are up to you. The following are suggested elements to guide you, not a recommended template. We recommend that you experiment with the structure, tone, and visuals to make your presentation memorable and authentic.

### Suggested Elements of the Project Pitch:

- **The Story**  
Introduce the problem or opportunity in a way that connects with your audience. Why does this matter? Who is affected? A story, patient example, or real-world scenario can be powerful.
- **The Innovation**  
Describe your solution—what it is, why it’s novel, and what makes it stand out. Help your audience understand what makes your approach different.
- **The Impact**  
What changes if you’re successful? How does this innovation improve lives, systems, or outcomes? Highlight both the human and economic value.
- **The Momentum**  
Share any signs of traction—partnerships, prototypes, pilot data, or early validation. Reviewers want to see progress and momentum.
- **The Opportunity**  
Provide a sense of the potential market or pathway to adoption. Who needs this, and how big could the opportunity become?
- **The Path Forward**  
What’s next? Explain what the REACH funding will enable—key milestones, critical experiments, or proof points that will help move your innovation toward real-world impact.
- **The Team**  
Highlight the people behind the work and what unique strengths they bring. This can be brief but personal.

- **The Ask / The Vision**

End with a clear, inspiring statement of what you hope to achieve with this support and how others can be part of the journey.

**Presentation Tips**

- Focus on clarity, story, and energy rather than detail.
- Visuals > text — use images, diagrams, or short phrases to illustrate key points.
- Be ready to adapt based on feedback from your pre-application and practice sessions.