



2026 RAIN PRE-PROPOSAL & APPLICATION OVERVIEW

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

1. Please review the following information:
 - Identify ONE collaborator (per group) who will be responsible for communicating and submitting required documentation.
 - 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:** Dr. Peter Hoffmann, INBRE Director and Principal Investigator (peterrh@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)
 - **New Mexico:** Dr. Shelley Lusetti, INBRE Director and Principal Investigator (slusetti@nmsu.edu)
 - **Wyoming:** Yana Nightingale, INBRE Administrative Assistant (ynightin@uwyo.edu)

Important Notes:

1. NO Clinical Trials.
2. *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:

1. **Pre-proposals due:** June 22, 2026
2. **Invitations to submit a full proposal:** July 6, 2026
3. **Full proposals due:** September 1, 2026 (5:00 pm PDT)
 - IACUC & Human Subjects protocols approved by this date if applicable.
4. **Earliest start date:** Fall of 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.

To submit a pre-proposal: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RAINPREPROP>

You will be notified by July 6th, if you are selected to move forward with a full proposal submission.

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. *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:
 - The PI must have a primary faculty appointment at an INBRE-participating institution in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming.
 - 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.
 - 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 5-10 awards per year in total, across 7 states.
- **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.

- **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- Please note, an IRB and/or IACUC approval letter will be required in your full application (if requested, due 9/1/2026).** The title of the collaborative project must match the approval letter.
- **No clinical trials.**