



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: Letter of Intent

**COBRE in Acute Care Research and Rural Disparities
P20GM139745**

**Year 4 Pilot Project Program
For the grant year Feb. 1, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025**

**Pilot Project application contacts: Tom Gridley (thomas.gridley@mainehealth.org)
and Carrigan Denny-Brown (carrigan.dennybrown@mainehealth.org)**

DESCRIPTION

This pilot project program will provide funds to support two pilot research projects in Year 4 related broadly to the Acute Care COBRE themes. The Acute Care Research and Rural Disparities COBRE strives to foster a multidisciplinary breadth of research focusing on all areas of acute care concerns and disparities across our rural communities. Acute care and rural disparities research topics can encompass critical care, emergency medicine, cardiology, trauma, substance abuse, mental health, health equity, social determinants of health, and beyond. Integrating community-engaged research paradigms into research projects is encouraged. Rural disparities/health equity projects without a connection to acute care research are not encouraged.

For this round of pilots, we are requesting submission of one page Letters of Intent (LOIs), to ensure that submitted full applications are sufficiently responsive to the Acute Care COBRE themes. The timeline for the entire pilot project process is below:

Acute Care COBRE Year 4 pilot project timeline

- **August 15, 2023:** Email Request for Proposals/Letter of Intent
- **September 11, 2023:** Letters of Intent due (4 weeks after RFP/LOI email)
- **September 18, 2023:** Full application notification (1 week after LOI receipt)
- **December 11, 2023:** Deadline for full application submission (12 weeks after full proposal notification)
- Funding will be available on or after Feb. 1, 2024 (Year 4 funds). Projects must obtain required regulatory approvals (e.g., IRB approval), and must be approved by the AC-COBRE External Advisory Committee and NIGMS/NIH Program staff, before funds can be released.

Completed letters of intent must be emailed to Carrigan Denny-Brown by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 11, 2023. Pilot Project Leaders will be notified by September 18, 2023, whether they have been approved to submit a full project application. The submission deadline for the full pilot project applications will be December 11, 2023. Instructions on completing and submitting the full pilot project applications will accompany the notification of permission to submit.

Pilot Project Program Research Awards

Applicants may request up to \$50,000 direct costs for each project. The direct costs from all collaborating sites may not exceed \$50,000. Indirect costs may be requested at the federal negotiated rate of the institution, up to a cap of 72.0%. The proposed project period will be 2/1/24-1/31/25. Collaborating institutions receiving pilot funds must be located in an IDeA state (in New England, these are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island). **Please note that NIH considers the Roux Institute to be a branch campus of Northeastern University**, and is therefore not eligible to receive COBRE funds.

Pilot Project Leader Eligibility for Funding

- Pilot Project Leaders must hold a faculty level or equivalent position at an educational or health care institution in Maine, although collaborating sites/co-investigators can be in other New England states. *Postdoctoral fellows and medical residents are not eligible to lead a pilot project, although they may be a member of a research team.*
- Please feel free to share this announcement with Maine colleagues that you feel may be interested in applying.
- A major goal of the Acute Care COBRE pilot project program is development of a pipeline of new junior faculty researchers. Therefore, we will prioritize funding junior faculty investigators in the award process.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE LETTER OF INTENT

Letter of Intent (Attached as a one page Word or PDF document to the email)

- Name of Pilot Project Leader, email address, job title and affiliation (e.g., MMC, Southern Maine Healthcare, University of Southern Maine, etc.)
- Title of proposal
- Key personnel of research team
- Collaborating sites
- Brief statement of the rationale for the study, the hypothesis to be tested, and relevance to Acute Care COBRE themes.

Attach letters of intent as a one page Word or PDF file, and email to Carrigan Denny-Brown (carrigan.dennybrown@mainehealth.org) by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 11, 2023. Pilot Project Leaders will be notified by email by September 18, 2023, whether they have been approved to submit a full project application. Instructions on completing and submitting the full pilot project applications will accompany the notification of permission to submit. The submission deadline for the full pilot project applications will be December 11, 2023. Please address any questions about the pilot project process to Tom Gridley (thomas.gridley@mainehealth.org) and Carrigan Denny-Brown (carrigan.dennybrown@mainehealth.org).