

UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting pre-proposals for the NIH Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) program.

The COBRE program is part of the NIH Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program, which was established in 1993 to build research capacity in states that have historically received low levels of NIH funding and is administered by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). NIGMS recently changed the COBRE program structure. Rather than having three consecutive phases, the program is now structured into two separate tracks. The first track, starting with a Development (D) Phase, is for institutions without any active COBRE awards; UNM is not currently eligible for this track. The second track, COBRE Expansion/Sustainability (E/S), is “intended for institutions with an existing degree of research capacity amenable to expansion and growth in the proposed area of research.” Specifically, COBRE-E supports the expansion of existing biomedical research centers or programs to build capacity in broad scientific areas of strategic importance for the institution.

While the NOFO technically allows multiple scientifically distinct applications, the Program Officer has indicated that multiple new COBRE-E submissions from a single institution could hurt competitiveness. Therefore, VPR Fisher and VPR Raissy have approved an internal competition to select a single application from UNM.

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Opportunity Title: Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence: Expansion/Sustainability Phases (COBRE-E/S) (P30 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Opportunity Number: PAR-27-055

Sponsor Due Date(s): 1/25/2027, 5/25/2027

Award Range: \$1.5M in annual direct costs for up to five years

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: One (1)

Solicitation: <https://files.simpler.grants.gov/opportunities/77942f5d-0b5f-4656-bfd7-a6148b1624a4/attachments/55f55944-4b0c-4a90-9e33-75b064598558/PAR-27-055-Full-Announcement.html>

Additional Information:

- The applicant organization should have already established a level of research capacity infrastructure to drive and expand research toward the proposed scientific focus of the Center. The research area should be sufficiently broad to enable growth and enhancements to the applicant organization's existing biomedical research capacity
- Applications proposing to establish a Center in a scientific area closely related to one previously supported by a COBRE award to the institution or in an area for which the institution has a strong and sustained record of institutional research capacity are of low programmatic priority

Limited Comp. Preproposal Due Date: **NOON on October 1, 2026**

Limited Comp. Instructions:

Please submit your **2-page** preproposal, and biosketches for key personnel via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). No late submissions will be considered.

The preproposal should address the major topics that will be included in the proposal narrative, including:

- Description of the already established research infrastructure in the proposed area and how the COBRE-E will expand existing capacity
- Explanation of how the Center will support UNM's strategic priorities in developing research capacity and meet a need at UNM in the proposed scientific area and how the center will result in substantial expansion of institutional research capacity in the area of research and ensure long-term sustainability
- Description of the PI/PD's(s') qualifications and expertise to lead development of the Center, including expertise and funding (current and past) in the thematic focus area, administrative and leadership experience, and experience with mentoring early- and mid-career investigators
- Description of the Administrative Core and overall coordination and management approach
- Description of the Career Development Plan and Scientific Research Program – how the SRP will enhance the scientific potential and increase the competitiveness of the center's investigators for peer-reviewed research independence. Include a description of the existing pool of investigators and plans for potential faculty hires to build out complementary areas of expertise within the program
- Description of proposed Research Core(s) (if applicable), justification of need, and preliminary plans for building the user base

Applicant selections will be published on the [UNM Limited Competitions website](#). Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.