



From: Faculty Research Development Office
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NIH Blueprint and BRAIN Program for Enhancing Neuroscience Diversity through Undergraduate Research Education Experiences (RFA-NS-24-014)

Date: October 3, 2023

Dear UNM Researchers,

The overarching objective of this funding opportunity is to prepare individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the **biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research workforce, to pursue further studies or careers in neuroscience research.** To achieve this goal, the program will support **2-year** neuroscience research education experiences comprised of year-round authentic neuroscience research projects, research and career development, and establishment of professional networks, implemented through collaborative partnerships integrated across different educational institution types. Proposed program interventions in response should focus on asset models and leadership opportunities, rather than solely deficit models and remediation.

Proposals should articulate educational activities with a primary focus on 3 areas: **1) courses for skills development, 2) research experiences, and 3) mentoring activities.** The fully integrated educational activities should prepare undergraduate students to enter neuroscience Ph.D. degree programs. To accomplish this, this initiative will provide institutional awards to develop neuroscience research education programs comprised of collaborative partnerships integrated across different educational institution types.

Participating components of the collaborative research education partnerships should include:

- One or more institutions that either: 1) have a historical and current mission to educate students from any of the populations that have been identified as underrepresented in biomedical research as defined by the National Science Foundation (NSF), see <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/> (i.e., African Americans or Blacks, Hispanic or Latino Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, U.S. Pacific Islanders, and persons with disabilities) or 2) have a documented track record of recruiting, training and/or educating, and graduating underrepresented students as defined by NSF (see above), which has resulted in a historically documented contribution by the institution to the national pool of graduates from underrepresented backgrounds who pursue biomedical research careers;
- A research-intensive institution, defined as having an existing neuroscience or neuroscience-related program and a significant number of potential mentors with NIH R01 or equivalent extramural research support;
- Formal alliances with one or more institutions with neuroscience-focused graduate research training programs that can provide summer research training experiences for

participating ENDURE students. Such institutions may hold NIH T32 research training grants, including T32 programs supported by the NIH Jointly Sponsored Institutional Pre-doctoral Training Programs in the Neurosciences (<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/JSPTPN>) or other competitively funded Ph.D. degree granting programs. Additional relevant neuroscience programs can be found by using the NIH RePORTER tool (<https://reporter.nih.gov/>). These alliances are expected to actively facilitate early communication and interaction among participating students and NIH neuroscience pre-doctoral program training directors.

The proposed program needs to align with the neuroscience mission of the **NIH Blueprint** and/or **BRAIN Initiative** research areas and cannot have a general STEM focus. The NIH Blueprint and BRAIN Initiative will not support projects, regardless of the results of merit review, if they do not fulfill current programmatic priorities.

The average cost per program is estimated between \$300K-\$400K. Complete program details can be found at: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-24-014.html>. The sponsor deadline for full proposals, **February 15, 2024**.

This is a limited competition. **UNM may submit only ONE (1) application.** To apply, please submit a **200-word statement of interest** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#) by **NOON on October 19, 2023** that includes a tentative project title, a brief description of your program plan, and the names and departments of all senior personnel. Should we receive more than one statement of interest, we will call for preproposals. Statements of interest are a mandatory first step, and no late submissions will be considered.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

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