

UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting statements of interest and pre-proposals for the **NIH Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase 1 (P20)** limited competition. A COBRE Phase 1 award supports the establishment of a multi-component center of excellence in an area of biomedical research that aligns with the applicant institution's strategic priorities for growing its research capacity. The COBRE Phase 1 program aims to develop a critical mass of investigators who can compete effectively for independent, external research funding. UNM and UNM HSC (considered a single institution for this opportunity) currently have 3 active Phase 1 and Phase 2 COBRE awards. The notice of revised eligibility criteria ([NOT-GM-23-040](#)) indicates, "Applicant institutions may now hold up to a combined total of three COBRE Phase 1 and 2 awards at the time of application submission." However, the notice also clearly states, "*Funding priority will be given to meritorious applications from institutions with two or fewer active COBRE Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 awards.*" **Therefore, while UNM is eligible to submit a Phase 1 application, institutions that have two or fewer active awards will have funding preference over us.**

Sponsor: NIH

Opportunity Title: Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase 1 (P20 - Clinical Trial Optional)

Opportunity Number: PAR-22-250

Sponsor Due Date(s): 1/30/2025

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

Additional Information:

- The PD(s)/PI(s) is expected to be an established biomedical research scientist with the mentoring and administrative experience necessary to lead the Center.
- 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 already has a critical mass of funded investigators are of low programmatic priority.

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: One (1) as lead institution

Solicitation: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-22-250.html>

Limited Comp. Instructions: We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the pre-proposal deadline. You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating. *The sponsor considers Main Campus and HSC a single institution for this opportunity. The same submission process will be used for applications from Main Campus and HSC.*

Limited Comp. STEP 1: Required SOI Due Date: **NOON on August 29, 2024** (for planning purposes)

Limited Comp. STEP 2: Pre-proposal Due Date: **NOON on September 11, 2024**

STEP ONE: Please submit your ~100-word **statement of interest** in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). The statement should include a tentative title for the Center, name and department of the PI, and the intended thematic focus of the Center. This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered. Note that SOIs will NOT be scored; we require them to assist us in forming a review committee.

STEP TWO: Please submit your 3-page pre-proposal and CVs for key personnel via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the

SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you may work on your documents outside the system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

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

1. Description of the overall scientific theme of the proposed Center.
2. 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.
3. Description of the PI/PD's qualifications and expertise to lead development of the Center, including expertise and funding in the thematic focus area, administrative and leadership experience, and experience with junior faculty recruitment and development.
4. Identification of at least 3-5 potential early-stage investigators or new investigators in complementary disciplines who might be included in the COBRE proposal as Research Project Leads (RPLs). Explain how each of the proposed RPLs are 1) eligible for COBRE support according to PAR-22-250 and 2) have the appropriate experience to achieve significant independent research funding within 2-3 years of COBRE support.
5. Description of the proposed Research Core(s) and how they are complementary to and not redundant with existing core facilities and research programs at UNM. Note that the solicitation guidance states, "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 already has a critical mass of funded investigators are of low programmatic priority."
6. Preliminary description of the mentoring plan and other support the Administrative Core will provide to ensure continued professional development of RPLs.

The pre-proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:

1. Justification for and potential impact of the new COBRE research center's proposed research areas.
2. Alignment with UNM's strategic research priorities.
3. Eligibility and qualifications of the PI to lead the proposed Center.
4. Eligibility, experience, and likelihood of success of the proposed Research Project Leads (RPLs).
5. Justification for proposed Research Cores in relation to existing facilities and programs at UNM.
6. Potential impact of preliminary plans for RPL mentorship and development.
7. Overall score.

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.