

COBRE Center on Opioids and Overdose Research Project Leader Award Program

Program Description

The COBRE on Opioids and Overdose offers a unique and innovative mentoring strategy that, in addition to primary project advising, will provide COBRE-funded Research Project Leaders specialized mentorship and services, empowering investigators to influence policy and practice through their research. This COBRE will prepare Research Project Leaders to achieve independently funded research projects in this field and position them as future leaders in opioid-related or overdose research.

The long-term goals of the Center are to develop and sustain a critical mass of investigators specializing in research related to opioids and overdose that benefits affected populations, and to support the research activities of junior investigators interested in conducting opioid-related research to ensure their transition to independent R01 level-funded investigators.

Awardees will gain access to the COBRE's four interdisciplinary cores. These cores will provide infrastructure, consultation, and additional support services to ensure the successful career development of the funded junior investigator. The four Cores include Administrative (Admin), Data and Research Methods (DRM), Translational and Transformative (T2), and Community Engagement Research (CERC).

Program Requirements

- Research must be opioid and/or overdose related.
- The proposed research project should be of 2 to 3year duration.
- The Project Leader must commit 6 person months annually for the duration of the project.
- The Project Leader must identify a senior faculty member who can serve as a mentor for the duration of the project. Mentors should show a record of external funding.
- The Project Leader must submit an application for an R01 or equivalent grant by the end of their second year.

Award Budget

Rhode Island Hospital Applicants:

Annual support between \$100,000 and \$164,000 in direct costs per year may be requested. Funding includes applicable indirect costs. Total costs (direct and indirect) should not exceed \$264,000 annually.

Applicants from other Rhode Island Institutes:

Annual between \$100,000 and \$155,000 in direct costs per year may be requested. Funding includes applicable indirect costs. Total costs (direct and indirect) should not exceed \$249,000 annually.

Use of Funds

- The budget request may include salary/fringe benefits support for the Project Leader and a research assistant or postdoctoral fellow, and other federally allowable research expenses and supplies.
- Mentors from non-IDeA states will be compensated as consultants or via a fee-for-service arrangement.
- Capital equipment expenses are permissible following Brown Health's guidelines for these expenses.
- Renovation expenses are not permitted.
- No foreign components allowed.

Award Project Period

The project period is 2 to 3 years.

Eligibility

An RPL must hold an independent faculty appointment (or equivalent at a research institution) at the time the application is submitted and must qualify either as an NIH Early Stage Investigator or as a New Investigator

[https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#EarlyStageInvestigator\(ESI\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#EarlyStageInvestigator(ESI))

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#NewInvestigator>

Special Considerations

While the best science will be prioritized and the ability of the investigator to meet the goals of the center, special consideration will be given to those investigators who:

- Take a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing the opioid epidemic
- Are RI Hospital based faculty
- Consider NIGMS priority areas such as incorporating basic science and community engagement into their research.
- Employ use of COBRE Core services
- Are women and/or underrepresented minorities

Research Project Checklist

Applications should follow a standard NIH format using PHS 398 forms and instructions, including a section on human subject protections when applicable

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

- Face Page
- NIH Project Summary Page (PHS 398 Form Page 2)
- Research Strategy Section (6 page limit including the Specific Aims page, no form). For more guidance on writing a strong Research Strategy [click here](#).
 - Specific Aims (1-page limit)
 - Significances: Overall significant of the project, including relevance to the goals of the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose and plans for use of the Cores in subsequent independently funded projects.
 - Innovation: Include both conceptual and technical innovations
 - Approach: Preliminary data (If applicable) and research plan including expected results.
 - Mentoring Plan: Briefly describe the mentoring plan for the applicant.
 - Project Timeline: Includes milestones and plans for submitting 1 manuscript in Year 1 and 2 manuscripts and an R01 or equivalent grant application in Year 2.
- References: Not included in the page limit.
- NIH Biographical Sketch
- Other Support Documentation following NIH guidelines
[Other support instructions](#)
- Detailed budget and budget justification using PHS 398 forms for 2 years.
- Checklist Format Page with F&A cost break down
- Support letters from mentors
- PHS 398 detailed budget forms for up to 0.5 calendar month effort for Mentor salary and fringe benefits. Mentors are paid through the Administrative core budget.
- Mentor Biosketch
- PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials information
Note: All NIH funded studies that meet the NIH definition for clinical research must address plans for the inclusion of women and minorities within the application or proposal.
- Vertebrate Animals per PHS 398 Instructions (if applicable)
- IRB, IACUC and/or biosafety/select agent approval letters (as applicable)
- Human subject protection education for all key personnel included in human subjects research
- Letter of Support from a senior institutional official demonstrating a clear commitment to support a multi-year faculty appointment for the proposed investigator
- Other letters of support (as applicable)
- Resource Sharing Plan
- Data Management and Sharing Plan
- Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources (if applicable)

Expectations

Upon acceptance into the program, Awardees will be expected to:

Project Leader Progress Timeline (please note, most RPLs end in 3 years or less)		
Year	Activity	Expected Action
Year 1	Individual Development Plan	Created with primary mentor during Q1
	Internal presentations	3 presentations (Research in Practice Meeting; Progress Retreat; Annual COBRE symposium)
	Abstracts	1 submitted by Q4
	Manuscripts	1 submitted by Q4
	Grant Applications	Begin drafting, complete Specific Aims by Q4
Year 2	Individual Development Plan	Revised with mentor during Q4
	Internal Presentations	3 presentations (Research in Practice Meeting; Progress Retreat; Annual COBRE symposium)
	Abstracts	1-3 submitted
	Conference presentations	1-2 presentations
	Manuscripts	2 additional submitted by Q4
	Grant Applications	Submission of R01 (or equivalent) application by Q4
Year 3	Individual Development Plan	Revised with mentor during Q1
	Internal Presentations	3 presentations (Research in Practice Meeting; Progress Retreat; Annual COBRE symposium)
	Abstracts	2-4 submitted
	Conference presentations	2 presentations
	Manuscripts	2 additional submitted by Q4
	Grant applications	Resubmission, if necessary

- Work with mentor(s) to develop an Individual Development Plan (forms provided).
- Work with COBRE Core Managers to identify areas for support.
- Attend monthly COBRE meetings, COBRE Symposium, Annual Retreat, and RI IDeA conference
- Work with the Community Engagement Research Core to engage the Community Advisory Board (CAB)
- Complete quarterly progress reports and annual research progress report.
- Provide annual progress reports to the Program Administrator for at least 24 months following end of award
- Complete COBRE evaluation at the end of funding.

- Acknowledge sponsorship from the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose supported by the grant in all research publications submitted during the performance period and those resulting from work conducted during the performance period (See [Acknowledge - Opioid COBRE Center](#) for citing COBRE funding)
- Link all publications related to COBRE support to the COBRE project in [my NCBI](#).