

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA): Project Development Grant (PDG)

1. Funding Opportunity Description

The Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (MS-INBRE) invites faculty with research interests in the biomedical sciences at Predominately Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) to apply to the Project Development Grant (PDG) of the MS-INBRE Developmental Research Project Program.

This FOA is intended to strengthen the science departments at the PUIs by providing funding for biomedical research performed by faculty and students. This 2-year funding is designed to help faculty at the PUIs in Mississippi conduct biomedical research in their own PUI laboratory. The recipient of a PDG must commit 50% effort (**6 calendar months**) to research over each calendar-year as guaranteed by a letter from his/her institution. Undergraduate student participation in the research is a mandatory component of the PDG grants. Each applicant is required to identify a Research Mentor, from one of the Mississippi research intensive universities (USM, MSU, JSU, UM and UMMC), with expertise in the scientific area of the proposed research. The award recipient is expected to publish the research generated during the funding period in peer-reviewed journals and actively seek independent funding at the NIH or NSF.

2. Eligibility

Eligible Applicants include full-time permanent research-active faculty members (peer-reviewed publication(s) in the last 4 years) with rank of Assistant Professor or higher at the PUIs in Mississippi. Applicant will commit **6 calendar months** to research (i.e. 3 summer months and 3 months split over fall and spring semesters) over each year as guaranteed by a letter from his/her institution. Investigators from the Mississippi research intensive universities (USM, MSU, JSU, UM and UMMC) are not eligible to apply.

3. Amounts

Total allowable direct costs: **\$70,000/year for 2 years**

Indirect costs (F&A) are in addition to the allowable direct costs.

4. Key Dates

Proposals are received at any time.

Funding Period: **September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2027**

5. Content and Form of Pre-Proposal Submission

To best serve partner institutes and other researchers in Mississippi, Mississippi INBRE is requiring applicants provide a pre-proposal to initiate submission of Project Development

Grants. The information will be used to assess eligibility and arrange consultation with Mississippi INBRE personnel to help prospective awardees best leverage resources and expertise available through the network. Two documents are required to complete a pre-proposal.

Upload 1: NIH Biosketches of the Investigator, Mentor and other Significant Contributors

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/non-fellowship-biographical-sketch-format>

Upload 2: Specific Aims of the Project (one-page limit)

<https://www.biosciencewriters.com/NIH-Grant-Applications-The-Anatomy-of-a-Specific-Aims-Page.aspx>

6. Content and Form of Full Proposal Submission

A. **AOR Letter** - Attach a letter signed by your Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) stating they have reviewed and approved the proposal as submitted and approve any institutional commitment. **AOR approval is required.**

B. NIH Research & Related Budget Form

Please be sure to attach budget justification to Section L. Budget justification instructions: Justify in detail all proposed expenses. All items requested in the budget are to be used during the award period. Use continuation pages as needed.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/general/g.300-r&r-budget-form.htm>

C. **NIH Biographical Sketches** - For the Investigator, Mentor, and other Significant Contributors. Make sure that each personal statement, including the Mentor's, addresses the research in the proposal. NIH Grant Forms: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms.htm>

D. **Research Plan** (12-page limit, not including the Project Narrative, Project Summary, Specific Aims page and the Literature cited/References section. Please be sure to limit the Project Summary/Abstract to 30 lines of text.)

- i. Project Narrative – Describe how, in the short or long term, the research would contribute to: the fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems, and/or the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability (limit to 2-3 sentences).
- ii. Project Summary/Abstract (limited to 30 lines of text)
- iii. Specific Aims (limit 1 page).

<https://www.biosciencewriters.com/NIH-Grant-Applications-The-Anatomy-of-a-Specific-Aims-Page.aspx>

iv. Research Strategy (limited to 12 pages)

- a. Significance
- b. Innovation (limit the Significance and Innovation to 1 single page for both sections)
- c. Approach
- d. Subsections are highly recommended for each Specific Aim.

- Rationale, Hypothesis and Overall Strategy
- Preliminary Studies (should focus on establishing feasibility of the proposed work)
- Experimental Design, Methods, Rigor, and Reproducibility
- Expected Results and Outcomes
- Potential Problems, Pitfalls and Alternative Strategies

e. Involvement of Undergraduate Student(s)

f. Timeline of the project

g. Future Plans/Goals (include a description of how you plan to use the results from this research: e.g., as preliminary data for a grant proposal to NIH or other agencies).

v. Bibliography/Literature cited/References section (no page limit)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm>

E. Facilities and Other Resources

- i. Identify the facilities to be used (laboratory, clinical, animal, computer, office, other as needed for the project).
- ii. Describe the scientific environment of your institution and how it will contribute to the probability of success of your project (instrumentation, institutional support, physical resources).
- iii. Describe any special facilities used for working with biohazards or other potentially dangerous substances.

F. Major Equipment

i. List major items of equipment already available for your project. Check if your institution has a catalog of core facilities to help you find equipment. Where appropriate, identify the equipment's location and pertinent capabilities.

G. Additional Sections

- i. Animal and Human Research Protection (if applicable)
- ii. Select Agent and Biohazard (if applicable)
- iii. Copy of IRB or IACUC Letter of Approval (if applicable)

H. Resource Sharing Plan

- i. <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/resource-sharing-plan>

I. Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources

- i. <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2016/01/29/authentication-of-key-biological-andor-chemical-resources-in-nih-grant-applications/> (if applicable)

J. Letters of Collaboration/Support

- i. Letter of Collaboration/Support from the Mentor
- ii. Additional Letter(s) of Collaboration/Support (if applicable)

K. NIH Other Support Page (list all your current and pending research support using the NIH format)

L. Data Management and Sharing Plan

- i. <https://sharing.nih.gov/data-management-and-sharing-policy/planning-and-budgeting-for-data-management-and-sharing>