COBRE Center for Implementation Science
Request for Proposals

Research Project Leader

The COBRE Center for Implementation Science requests proposals for a Research Project Leader. The Center's primary aim is to develop implementation research, expertise, and capacity at Dartmouth.

Selected COBRE Research Project Leaders (RPLs) will lead a mentored implementation science research project designed to serve as the foundation for a future R01 application. To ensure the success of this high impact research, the program provides 50% protected effort for up to three years, effective at the start of the award. RPLs are supported by a dedicated mentoring team, including at least one national expert in implementation science related to the proposed area of study. RPLs participate in a structured training and career development program, with direct support from the Center's Administrative and Implementation Research Cores. RPLs are expected to leverage this data to apply for an R01 or equivalent independent research funding within the three-year award period.

Eligibility: Early- and mid-career Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Health faculty, researchers, and clinician-scientists who have not received the equivalent of R01 support and have "ESI" or "New Investigator" status with the NIH are eligible to apply. Applicants are required to submit a letter of support from their Department Chair expressing commitment to the 50% effort required of all RPLs.

Award:

Total direct costs of up to $160,000 per year for up to 3 years to cover 50% FTE and project costs. In addition to direct costs, applicants should include appropriate institutional indirect (F&A) costs, if applicable.

Submission Instructions:

Proposals are due **February 15, 2026,** via online application.

All applications must be saved as a single PDF and include:

- Research project proposal (details below)
- Timeline
- Budget and budget justification

- IRB approval or timeline for IRB submission
- Letter of Support from Department Chair for 0.5 FTE effort
- NIH Biosketches for PI and 2 mentors using NCBI/SciENcv current NIH Biosketch required format as of January 2026
- Other Support page

Overview

Proposed projects should develop or test implementation strategies to support the routine adoption of evidence-based interventions or practices and to support their sustainability, scalability, and dissemination.

Successful proposals will apply at least one established implementation science framework to:

- **Assess Barriers & Facilitators:** Identify actual and perceived multi-level factors influence implementation and/or sustainability.
- **Guide and Evaluate Adaptation:** Systematically plan and track modifications to evidence-based interventions or implementation strategies.
- **Measure Impact:** Evaluate both implementation outcomes (e.g., feasibility, adoption, sustainability) and clinical outcomes.

Preferred Frameworks: Projects should leverage established models aligned with COBRE training and support such as the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR), the Framework for Reporting Adaptations and Modifications-Expanded (FRAME); and Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance (RE-AIM).

Pre-submission Consultation: We strongly recommend – and will provide – up to 2 hours of consultation with the **COBRE Implementation Research Core** to ensure the robust application of these frameworks. Please contact Gloria Guevara to schedule a methodology review prior to submission.

Successful proposals will demonstrate strong, scientifically rigorous, mixed-methods approaches to develop preliminary and feasibility data to compete for a Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health R01 application.

Applications must include two mentors, one of whom must be a national expert in implementation science with experience in the proposed area of study.

Proposal Format

1. Project Summary – not to exceed 0.5 page
2. Research Plan – not to exceed 1 page (Specific Aims) plus 6 pages (Significance & Innovation, Approach, Future Directions)
   a. Specific Aims (1 page)
   b. Research Strategy (6 pages)
      i. Significance & Innovation
      ii. Approach
      iii. Future Directions

a) Specific Aims

Not to exceed 1 page

State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the field of dissemination and implementation. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology).

b) Research Strategy

Not to exceed 6 pages

i. Significance & Innovation

Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses. Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the rigor of the prior research that supports the proposed project. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more fields, including the field of dissemination and implementation.

Include:

- The importance of the proposed research in the context of current scientific challenges and opportunities for advancing dissemination and implementation knowledge. Explain how the proposed project addresses an important gap in knowledge in the field, would solve a critical problem, or create a valuable conceptual or technical advance.

- The rationale for undertaking the study, the rigor of the scientific background for the work (e.g., prior literature and/or preliminary data), and whether the scientific background justifies dissemination and implementation.
- Briefly discuss rigor of the investigative team's current or prior funding related to this proposal and how the proposed project builds upon the team's research.

  Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

  Include:

  - How the proposed research contributes new and innovative concepts, outcomes, measures, and/or design approaches to the dissemination and implementation field.
  - How the proposed study promises to speed the translation of research into practice and/or produce novel and robust findings.

ii. Approach

Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project, including the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.

Include:

Rigor & Feasibility:

- Demonstrate an understanding of dissemination and implementation research principles, including how the approach is appropriate to the problem and population.
- Describe how your proposed research methods are relevant, rigorous, and practical, including integration of one or more guiding implementation framework(s) (e.g., CFIR, FRAME, PRISM/RE-AIM).

- Justify the study design based on the current state-of-the-science, contextual factors relevant to implementation, and appropriateness of the proposed methods for assessment and analysis of the proposed implementation strategies.
- Link the measurement and analysis plan to the study aims and describe how the analysis incorporates the best available data to track implementation process and impact.
- Where applicable, describe how the analysis plan considers hierarchical relationships among multiple levels of outcomes (e.g., patient/consumer, provider, system).

iii. Future Directions: Explain how your proposed project will demonstrate strong, scientifically rigorous mixed-methods approaches to develop preliminary and feasibility data to compete for a Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health R01 application or equivalent.

3. Timeline

Not to exceed 1 page

Provide a brief description of the timeline for your proposed project. RPL projects are expected to be completed in three years or less.

4. Detailed Budget and Budget Justification

No page limit

Budgets must follow NIH cost principles and institutional policies and include only allowable, allocable, and reasonable costs necessary to complete the proposed work.

- All personnel must list measurable effort (percent effort or calendar months), even if no salary is requested.
- Any effort provided without salary support must be clearly described in the budget justification as committed effort, consistent with NIH and institutional guidelines.
- Salary requests must comply with the NIH salary cap and institutional base salary practices.
- Budgets must include applicable institutional indirect (F&A) costs, using the current negotiated rate or program-specific limitation.
- Budget justifications must clearly explain all requested costs and effort and how they support the proposed aims.

5. **Biosketches**
   Include the following NIH Biosketches using the updated (January 2026) format using SciENcv:
   - Applicant/PI
   - 2 Mentors

6. **Letter of Support**

   Include a letter of support from the applicant's Department Chair expressing support for the dedicated 0.5 FTE effort required of all RPLs.

7. **Other Support**

   Include an updated Other Support page for the applicant, using the updated (January 2026) format using SciENcv.

8. **IRB Approval**

   Include either IRB approval or a timeline for IRB submission.

****Note: If your application is selected for funding, you must be prepared to work with the COBRE team to provide the following additional documents with rapid turnaround:**

- Face Page (signed by the applicant's institutional signing official)
- Letter of Support from a senior institutional official demonstrating institutional commitment for multi-year faculty appointment (Dean or Vice Provost for Research)
- Project Narrative
- Project Summary
- Checklist Format Page with F&A cost breakdown
- Resource Sharing Plan
- Data Management and Sharing Plan (if applicable)
- Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources
- Updated Other Support

***If applicable* — Human Subjects or Biospecimens/Data:**

- Current PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form
- IRB approval
- Human Subjects Education Certification (required even if exempt)

***If applicable* — Clinical Trials:**

- Current PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form
- IRB approval
- IND/IDE documentation (if regulated by FDA)
- Human Subjects Education + Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training
- Statement addressing:
  - participant risk
  - monitoring frequency
  - responsible party/parties for regulatory oversight, adverse events, compliance, and clinicaltrials.gov registration

***If applicable* — Vertebrate Animals:**

- IACUC approval
- Vertebrate Animal Section

COBRE Contact Information

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