NCRR FACT SHEET

Institutional Development Awards

www.ncrr.nih.gov/idea
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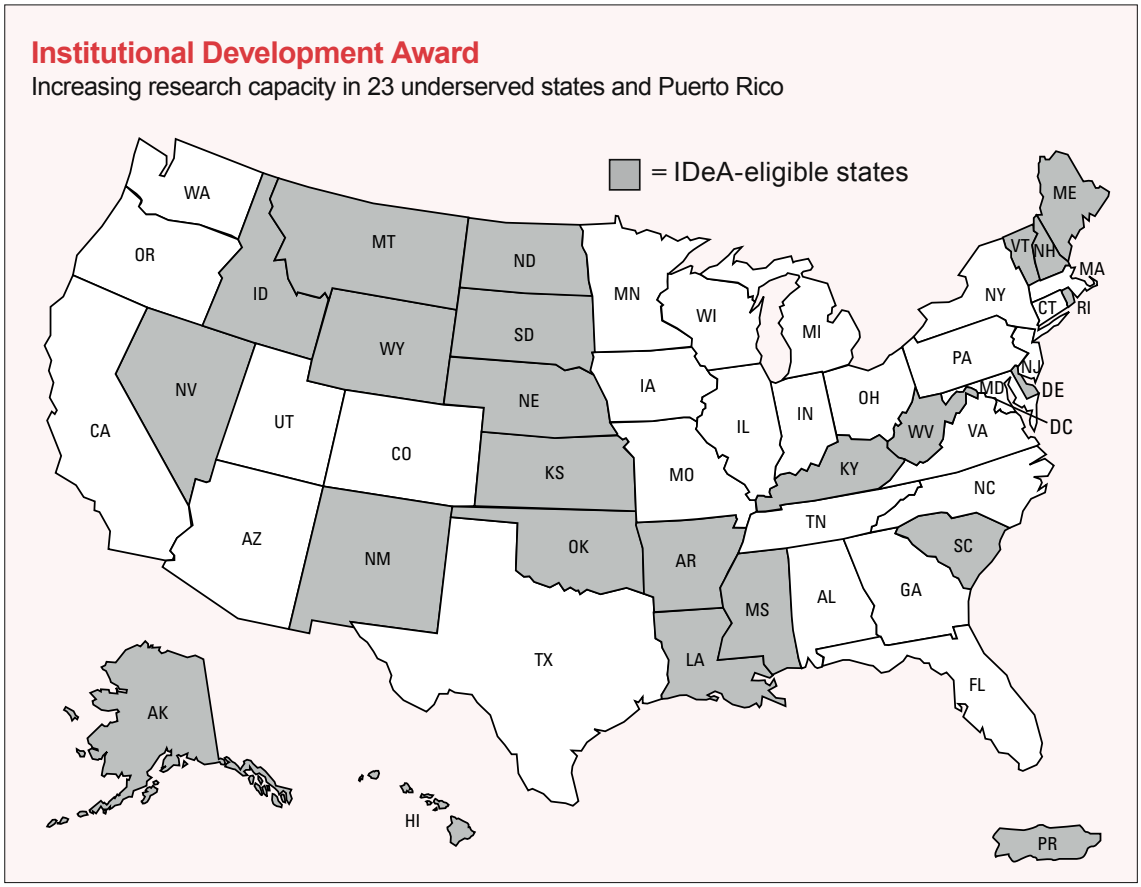
The Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) program supports and fosters health-related research at institutions in states where NIH funding has historically been low. The program also serves unique populations, such as rural and medically underserved communities in these states. IDeA provides cutting-edge science on health topics central to these communities, offers junior investigators research opportunities, supports faculty development, enhances research infrastructure, and increases the number of competitive investigators in 23 states and Puerto Rico. IDeA supports research by:

- Connecting universities to rural clinics, enabling critical research in heart disease, diabetes, and infectious diseases
- Using high-speed Internet connections to link researchers through virtual networks in remote regions
- Engaging tribal colleges to conduct research and analyze water quality in their communities
- Training young investigators to become leaders in critical areas of research
- Studying the environmental health effects of pesticide exposure through interactive research projects

In these ways and many more, the IDeA program broadens the geographic distribution of NIH funding for biomedical and behavioral research.



Program Information

Led by NCRR's Division of Research Infrastructure, the IDeA program has two main components:

- Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence
- IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence

Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)

COBREs support thematic multidisciplinary centers that augment and strengthen institutional biomedical research capacity. This is accomplished by expanding and developing biomedical faculty research capability and enhancing research infrastructure, including the establishment of core facilities needed to carry out the objectives of a multidisciplinary, collaborative program.

These centers are led by NIH-funded investigators with expertise central to the theme of the grant proposal. The centers promote collaborative interactive efforts among researchers with complementary backgrounds, skills, and expertise. In some instances, COBRE support will facilitate the development of new disease-specific research centers or augment the capability of existing centers. Researchers supported through the COBREs are expected to compete independently for external peer-reviewed grant support.

Each COBRE includes:

- A principal investigator who is an established biomedical or behavioral research scientist with expertise central to the research theme of the center, has an active research laboratory, has relevant peer-reviewed funding, and has demonstrated administrative leadership and mentoring experience;
- Three to five individual research projects — each supervised by a single junior investigator — that stand alone but share a common thematic scientific focus; and
- At least one mentor for each junior investigator and a development and mentoring plan addressing how the junior investigators will transition to competitive grant support from NIH Institutes and Centers or other Federal or non-Federal agencies or organizations.

For more information, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/cobre. For a directory of COBRE grantees and their research focuses, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/cobre_dir.

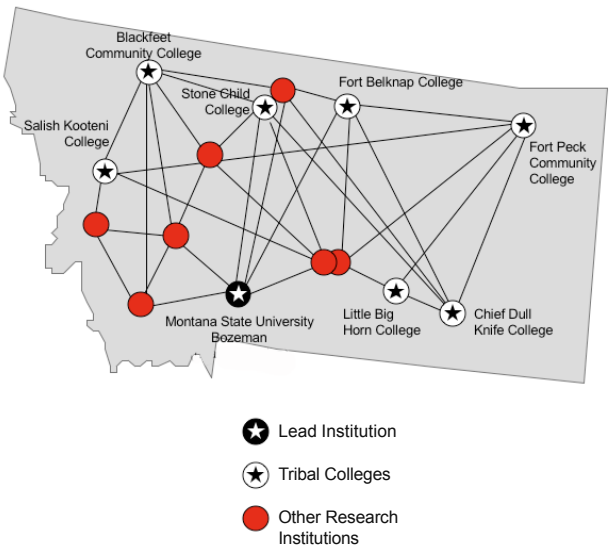
IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE)

INBREs enhance biomedical research capacity, expand and strengthen the research capabilities of biomedical faculty, and provide access to biomedical resources for promising undergraduate students throughout the eligible states. INBRE puts the IDeA approach into action by enhancing research infrastructure through support of a statewide system of institutions with a multidisciplinary, thematic scientific focus.

These networks promote the development, coordination, and sharing of research resources and expertise that will expand the research opportunities and increase the number of competitive investigators in the IDeA-eligible states.

Network Example: Montana

Seven tribal colleges conduct collaborative research projects with other research institutions in the state.



Supported by NCRR's Division of Research Infrastructure, INBRE grants are intended to enhance the caliber of scientific faculty at research institutions and undergraduate schools, thereby attracting more promising students to these organizations.

Each INBRE grantee establishes a multidisciplinary research network with a scientific focus that will:

- Build and strengthen the lead and partner institutions' biomedical research expertise and infrastructure;
- Build and increase the research base and capacity by providing research support to faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students at the participating institutions;
- Provide research opportunities for undergraduate students and serve as a "pipeline" for undergraduate students to continue in health research careers within IDeA states;
- Provide outreach activities to students at undergraduate institutions, community colleges, and tribal colleges participating in the state's network; and
- Enhance science and technology knowledge of the state's workforce.

For more information, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/inbre. For a directory of INBRE grantees and information about their research, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/inbre_dir.

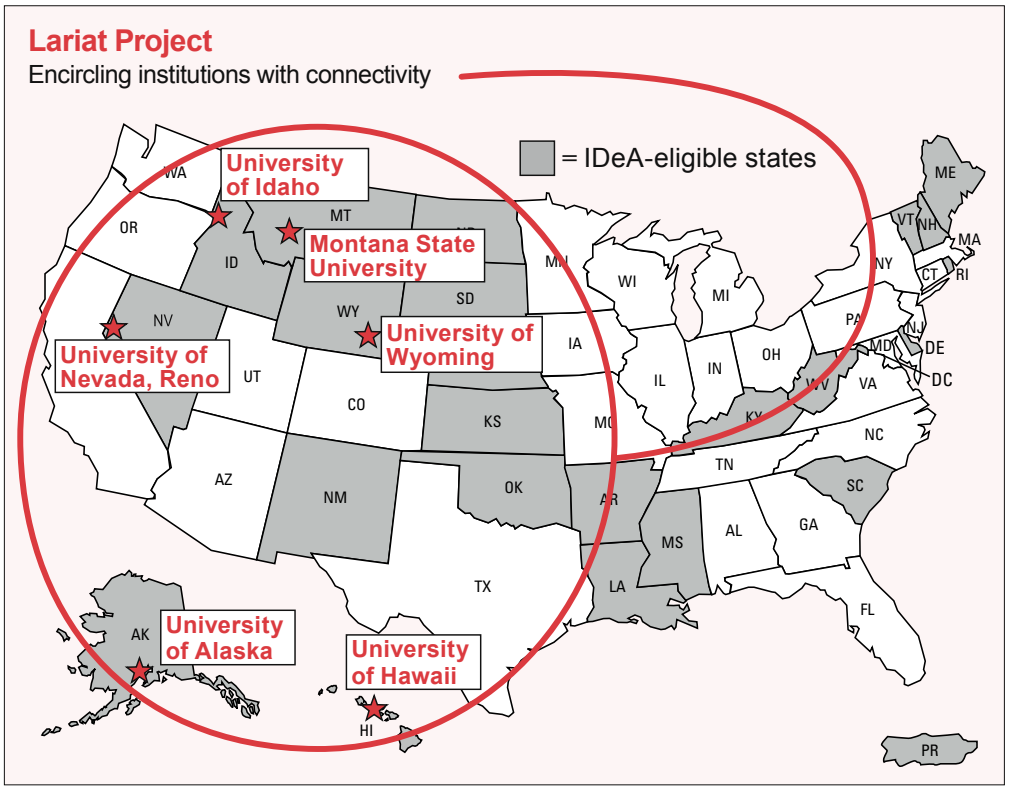
IDeANet

The IDeA program also supports IDeANet, an Internet-based network providing connectivity for high-bandwidth science applications. IDeANet enables collaboration among institutions, ultimately supporting all participants in the IDeA program, as well as participants in the Research Centers in Minority Institutions program and other NCRR-supported networks.

The IDeANet initiative is designed to broaden access to high-performance computational resources for data-intensive science applications and to provide bioinformatics software tools and training to investigators across the participating states.

IDeANet initially funded a "regional" expansion of the INBRE program's statewide network concept through a consortium, called the Lariat project, of six western IDeA states. (See map below.) The network established dedicated high-speed links to the Internet2, a nonprofit consortium that develops and deploys advanced network applications and technologies for education and high-speed data transfer. IDeANet ultimately will enable all institutions in the IDeA program to engage in national and international collaborations.

For more information, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/ideanet.



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