

CORES Multi-Institutional Pilot Program

Innovating Together. Transforming Rural Health.

Backed by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences' (NCATS) Clinical & Translational Science Award (CTSA) program, the Consortium of Rural States (CORES)—representing CTSA hubs at the University of Utah Health, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, University of Arizona, University of Kansas, University of Kentucky, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, University of Iowa, Dartmouth College/Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Medical University of South Carolina, and Penn State University—is thrilled to launch a new, dynamic pilot process designed to spark collaborative translational science across our multi institutional network. This initiative accelerates the development, testing, and implementation of innovative solutions to improve health outcomes, while building strong collaborative pathways across CORES to drive meaningful care model transformation in rural communities and position these efforts for national scaling through external funding.

A Fresh, Phased Pilot Model – Calling Investigators

This year, CORES is introducing an innovative, teambuilding–first approach to project development. In **Phase 1**, interested investigators apply to join cross-institutional teams organized around shared translational challenges specific to our focus areas (see below). In **Phase 2**, the assembled teams collaborate to develop their projects, refining questions and co-creating proposals designed for real-world impact in rural settings. Finally, in **Phase 3**, funded projects are executed; teams work together to put their plans into action with ongoing support from the CORES consortium.

Why Participate?

- Join a cross institutional research team spanning nine CTSA hubs
- Co-develop high-impact translational science projects
- Benefit from focused support for Research Program Development and Team Science training
- Advance solutions with measurable real-world outcomes
- Contribute to improving health for all in rural communities nationwide

We Want You!

Whether you're a clinical researcher, data scientist, implementation scientist, community-engaged scholar, or innovator with a passion for rural health—**CORES wants your expertise.**

Focus Areas

Data & Technology Infrastructure for Rural Health

Harnessing AI, remote monitoring, data integration, and real-world data pipelines to create scalable, tech enabled solutions that improve health outcomes across rural environments.

Chronic Disease Prevention, Diagnosis & Management

Emphasizing partnerships with **Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs)** and clear translational and implementation strategies to improve chronic disease care in rural communities.

Maternal & Infant Health

Innovative approaches to overcoming barriers in access to maternal and infant care, with an emphasis on improving outcomes for rural populations.

CORES Multi-Institutional Pilot Program

Timeline

Phase 1: Call for Investigators & Team Formation



Posted Date
June 15, 2026



Letters of Interest (LOI) Due
July 15, 2026



Selected Investigators
Announced
August 14, 2026

Phase 2: Proposal Development & Submission



Project Teams Develop
August-October, 2026



CORES Fall Conference Team
Science Project Refinement
October 6-7, 2026



Formal Proposal Development
October 2026 – January 2027



Proposal Submission Due
February 1, 2027



Funded Project Announced
May 1, 2027

Phase 3: Implementation



Funds Awarded
Implementation Phase
July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028



Mid-Year Project Update at Fall
Conference
September/October, 2027



Present Project Status & Plans at
CORES PI Monthly Meeting
May/June, 2028

Year One

Phase 1 -- Call for Investigators & Team Formation

- Interested investigators apply to participate in a focus area team (see focus areas above)
 - Investigators will be selected based on expertise and skill set as it applies to their desired focus area.
- Selected applicants for each focus area will collaborate in-person at the CORES Fall Conference, October 6-7, 2026, hosted by the University of Iowa, to develop **translational science** pilot projects that will exemplify the CTSA mission of *“supporting translational research and fostering collaborations among academic institutions that will improve the efficiency, quality and impact of the process for improving human health.”* Travel will be covered by the home hub.
 - Research development support will be provided for team formation, travel to the CORES Fall Conference, and early-stage project development activities.
 - Teams will have the opportunity to meet virtually prior to the CORES Fall Conference.

Phase 2 -- Proposal Development & Submission

- Building upon the work done at the CORES Fall Conference, teams will continue to work virtually to develop their project and application.
 - Each team will submit a full application, with up to one application per project area selected for funding.



CORES Multi-Institutional Pilot Program

Year Two

Phase 3 -- Implementation

- Funded projects are executed; teams work together to put their plans into action with ongoing support from the CORES consortium.
 - Funded teams will receive **up to** \$25,000 in direct costs per participating institution to support project implementation. Final funding levels may vary based on the number of participating sites and project scope.
 - For specific budget questions, please contact your institution's CORES Pilot Administrator listed at the end of this document.
- Mid-Project Progress will be presented during the Fall 2027 CORES meeting.
- Project status and future plans will be presented to CORES PIs during their monthly meeting in May or June 2028.

Eligibility Criteria

- Faculty or faculty equivalent at participating CTSA institutions (including partner institutions) who are eligible to receive federal funding.
- Non-faculty research staff or administrators may participate but will not be able to serve as PI of the funded project. They should confirm eligibility with their site administrator (see contacts at end of this document).

Submission Instructions

The CORES Multi-Institutional Pilot Program requires all applicants to adhere to the following instructions when preparing their LOI. Applications that are late and or do not adhere to the instructions may be administratively withdrawn. The online platform [Apply](#) will be utilized to submit applications. Please click [here](#) to view the instructions on how to create an Apply account.

- If you need assistance working within the Apply online platform, contact Hailey Rogers at hrogers@uams.edu or Paul Duguid at pduguid@uams.edu

To address potential questions about submissions, an **FAQ page is available on [our website](#)**. This FAQ page provides answers to commonly asked questions about the submission process, making it easier for users to find the information they need.

Phase 1 Evaluation Criteria

Letters of intent should be well-written and succinct and will be reviewed by focus area experts and CTSA Principal Investigators at each participating institution. Each application will be given an overall impact score using the following criteria:

- Productivity and history of working on multi-disciplinary teams
- Alignment with focus areas
- Expertise in working with focus area



CORES Multi-Institutional Pilot Program

Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission Components

Applicants will submit a required LOI by July 15th, 2026, 11:59 pm Local Time

Submission Requirements:

- NIH Biosketch (Common Forms H)
 - Updated personnel statement to include expertise and alignment with selected focus area from this RFA
- 1 Page Cover Letter including:
 - Confirmation of availability to attend CORES Fall Conference, October 6-7, 2026, in Iowa City, IA, if selected. A virtual option may be available, but in person attendance is preferred.
 - Productivity and history of working on multi-disciplinary teams
 - If potential collaborators have been identified, please list them. Include whether intent to collaborate has been discussed with these individuals.
- 2 Page Focus Area Concept Proposal:
 - List three questions/barriers you would like to explore in your focus area of interest. Include appropriate background for the reader to understand the questions/barriers.
 - Briefly describe possible solutions to address the stated questions/overcome the stated barriers.



CORES Multi-Institutional Pilot Program

CTSA Pilot Program Institutional Contacts

University of Utah Utah Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI)	Breanne Johnson , Breanne.Johnson@hsc.utah.edu CTSA Grant Number: UM1TR004409 https://ctsi.utah.edu/
University of Kentucky, Center for Clinical & Translational Science	Joel Thompson , joel.thompson@uky.edu CTSA Grant Number: UL1TR001998 http://ccts.uky.edu
Frontiers: Clinical & Translational Science Institute	Robin Liston , rliston2@kumc.edu CTSA Grant Number: UL1TR002366 https://frontiersctsi.org/
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Translational Research Institute	Hailey Rogers , Hrogers@uams.edu CTSA Grant Number: UM1TR004909 http://tri.uams.edu
University of Iowa, Institute for Clinical & Translational Science	Jamie Thrans , jamie-thrans@uiowa.edu CTSA Grant Number: UM1TR004403 https://icts.uiowa.edu/
University of New Mexico & University of Arizona Southwest Center for Advancing Clinical & Translational Innovation	Daron Vigil-Scott , DVigilScott@salud.unm.edu CTSA Grant Number: UM1TR005466 https://hsc.unm.edu/research/ctsc/
Penn State University Clinical and Translational Science Institute	Tyler Deal , TDeal@pennstatehealth.psu.edu CTSA Grant Number: UM1TR004772 https://ctsi.psu.edu/
SYNERGY, Dartmouth Clinical and Translational Science Institute	Ruchir Goswami , Ruchir.M.Goswami@hitchcock.org CTSA Grant Number: UM1TR004772 https://synergy.dartmouth.edu
Medical University of South Carolina South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute	Sydney Bollinger , bollinger@musc.edu CTSA Grant Number: UM1TR005294 https://research.musc.edu/resources/sctr

