

NIH Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub (REACH) Program

OFFICE OF EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH | OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR | NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Matt McMahon, PhD

Director, SEED (Small business Education & Entrepreneurial Development)

Eddie Billingslea, PhD

NIGMS Small Business Strategy Coordinator

Brian Iglesias

NIGMS Team Leader – Grants Administration Branch

Agenda

- Welcome/Opening Remarks
- Overview of REACH Program
- REACH Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) overview
- Q&A

OVERVIEW of REACH Program

Funded Hubs
are intended to
work as a
consortium to
enable:

the infrastructure for identifying the most promising technologies.

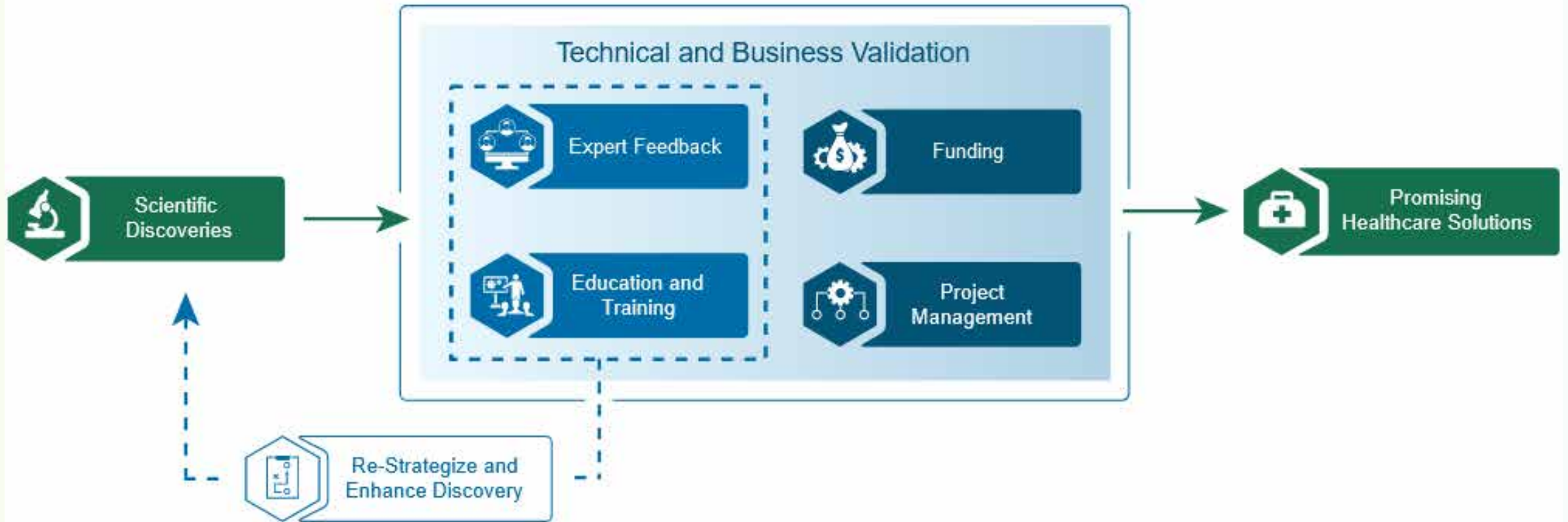
funding for product definition studies (e.g. feasibility studies, prototype development, proof-of-concept studies) provided to individual researchers and milestone-based project management.

access to resources and expertise in areas required for early-stage technology development (including scientific, regulatory, reimbursement, business, legal, and project management).

skills development and hands-on experience in entrepreneurship.

establishing public-private partnerships and providing additional non-federal funds will be critical for success.

Anatomy of a Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub



NIH Proof-of-Concept Network Outcomes



~4,300

Innovators
trained



156

Startups
Launched



73

SBIR/STTR
Awards



\$2,327 M

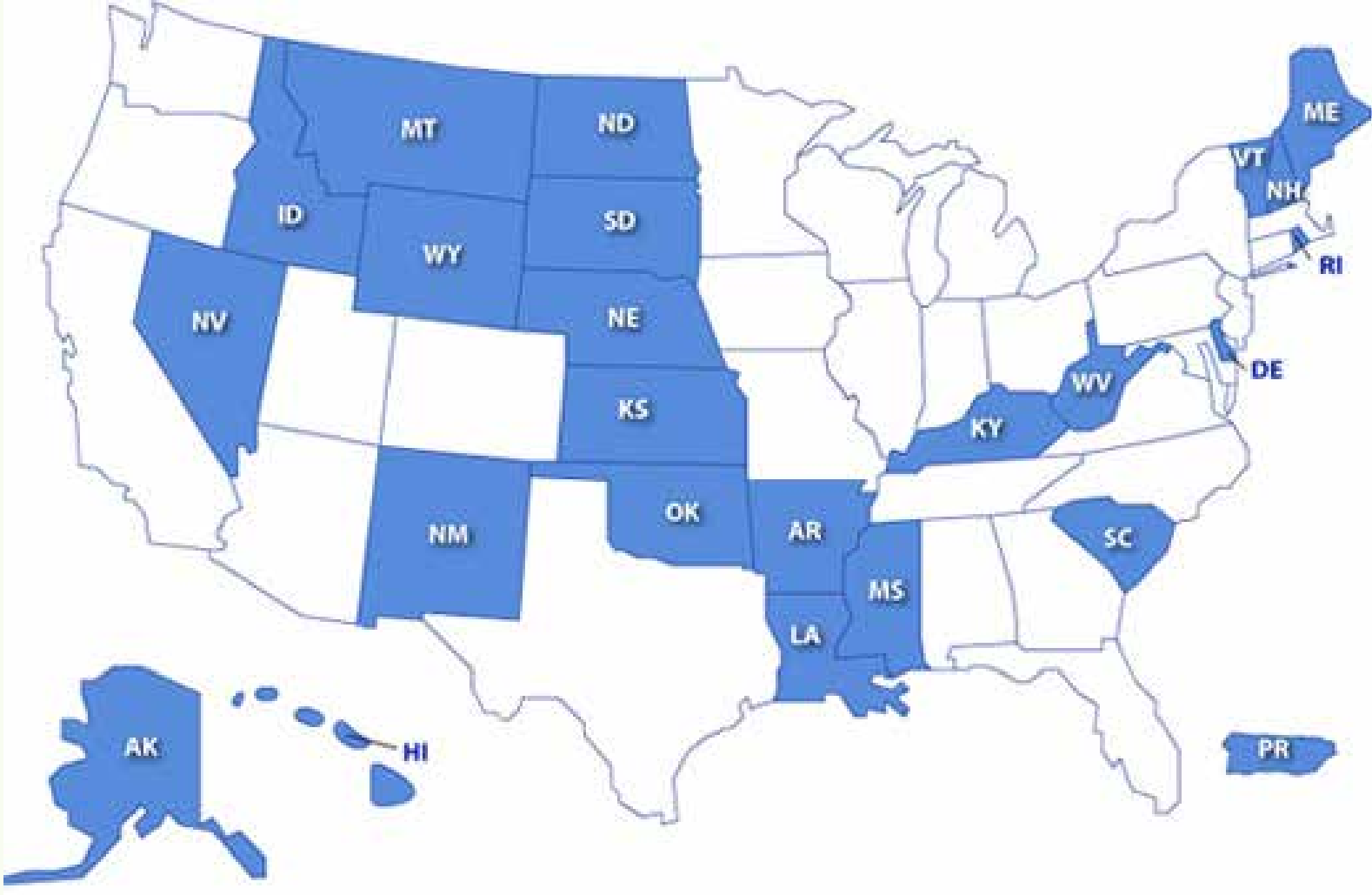
Total Follow-on
Funding Secured

LullaFeed™



VisionAir Solutions

IDeA States

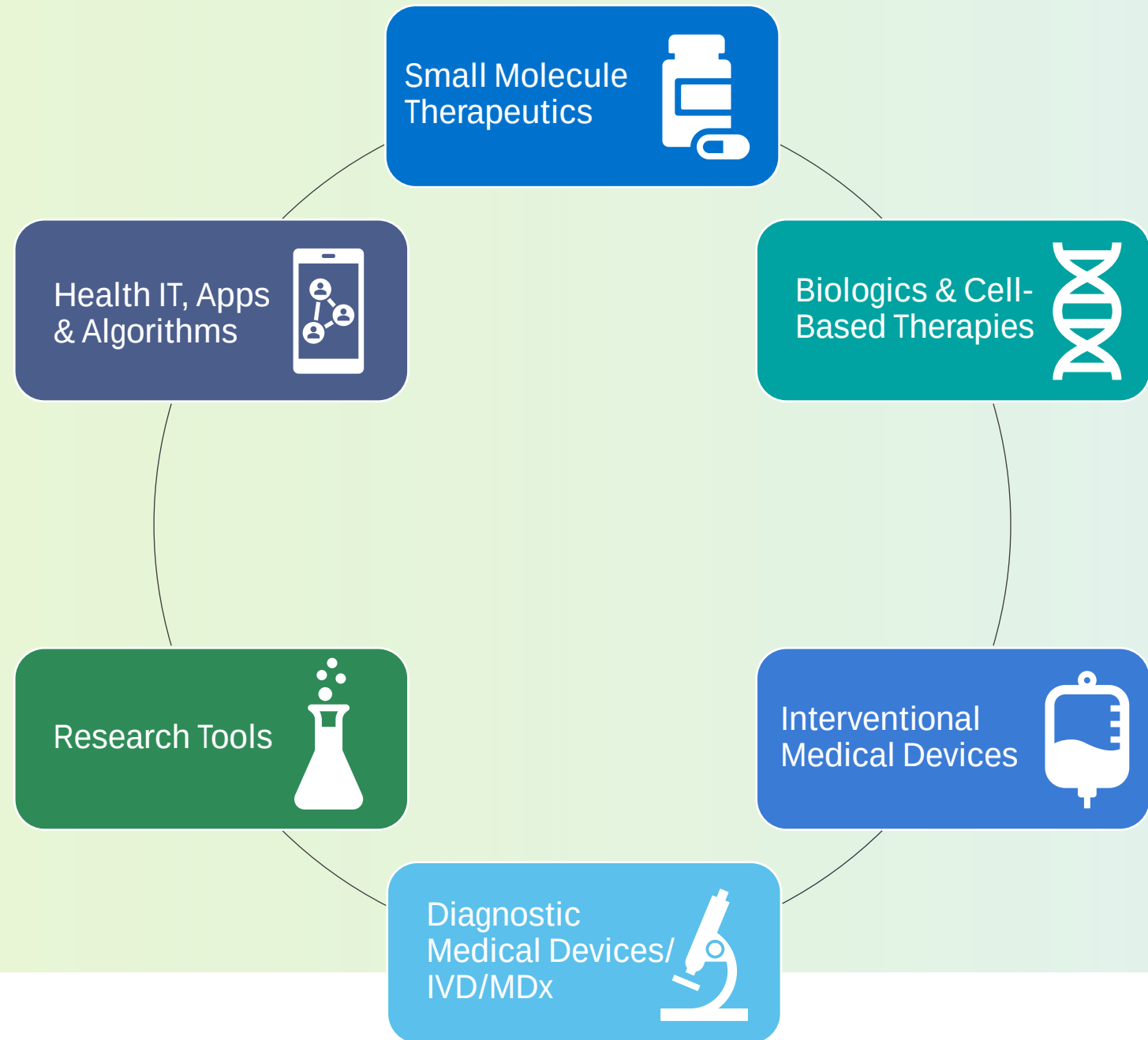


REACH Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) overview

Objectives and Requirements

Hub leadership	Leadership has documented track record of success in biomedical product development
Collaborations and partnerships	Develop necessary collaborations and partnerships with academia, non-profits, industry, and existing federal resources
Regional and local impact	Make an impact on small business development, entrepreneurial culture, workforce development, and health disparities
Technology development	Demonstrate the ability to support technology development from early-stage technology feasibility through pre-clinical technologies across the breadth of the NIH mission
Project management	Develop and implement milestone-driven, market focused project management oversight and decision-making processes.
Educational activities	Provide innovators from all levels, including undergraduates, graduates, and postdoctoral fellows, access to skills development, hands –on experience and educational and networking activities
Sustainability plan	Develop and implement a plan for ensuring that capacity develop under their REACH award will be sustained at their institution

Project Types



AWARD INFORMATION

Funding instrument

SB0 - Phase 0 Proof of Concept Partnership

Anticipated number of awards

Up to five awards

Award budget

Maximum budget for a Hub is \$1M in total costs per year

Award project period

Maximum project period is 4 years

Due date

November 10, 2026

Matching funds

Applicants are encouraged to obtain \$250k in non federal funding each year

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Institutions

- Public or Private Institutions of higher learning
- Nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) status
- Applicant organization **MUST be a university or research organization that *participates in the NIH STTR program**

Non-eligible Institutions

- Non-US entities, Non-US components of US organizations
- Previous recipients of NIH Centers for Accelerated Innovations (NCI) and REACH awards are not eligible to serve as primary applicant

*Participation means that a university or other research institution has been a formal partner to a small business on an STTR award

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION

Application Due Date: November 10, 2026



READ RFA-OD-27-009 CAREFULLY!

There are additional instructions for this NOFO in addition to the SF 424 (R&R) Application Guide.

Research strategy

- provides the overall objectives of the Hub including short and long-term goals
- Identifies challenges facing the Hub's entrepreneurial ecosystem and how the award will mitigate obstacles
- Describes the Hub's expertise, capabilities, partnerships and resources and how they will have significant influence on accelerating the pace and success for discoveries and innovations
- How products resulting from discoveries and innovations will have health, economic, and societal impact

Research strategy should address the following seven components (details in [RFA-OD-27-009](#)):

- Hub leadership
- Collaborations and partnerships
- Regional and local impact
- Technology development
- Project management
- Educational activities
- Sustainability plan

Other documentation

Letters of support: Applicants must include documentation of support indicating

- Institutional commitment to the program including participation of the technology transfer or commercialization offices
- Support of sustainability plan

Optional, but highly encouraged

- **Non-Federal Matching Funds:** Hubs are encouraged to obtain \$250,000 of non-federal funding each year of the award to support technology development projects. Sources could include, but are not limited to:

- Foundations
- Participating institutions
- A state or local governmental body
- Angel investors and/or venture capital firms
- Individual benefactors

Include details on non-federal funding and resources that have already been secured or are anticipated during the project period. Documentation may include a term sheet and/or letter of commitment from the funding source.

- **In-kind support from non-federal sources:** Applicants are encouraged to obtain in-kind contributions, such as personnel time, facilities, equipment, services, or other non-cash resources, to support Hub operations.

Other documentation

Resource Sharing Plan:

All applications, regardless of the amount of direct costs requested for any one year, should address how relevant resources (e.g., training presentation slides or videos, template documents, best practice handouts, how and why go/no-go decisions are made, etc.) resulting from the award will be freely shared with the public.

Appendix

Template or Sample Agreements

Template or sample institutional agreements to streamline interactions and decrease barriers to technology transfer and commercialization may be included in the Appendix.

Electronic Submissions



SUBMIT ELECTRONICALLY AND EARLY

- Grant applications must be submitted electronically



REQUIRED REGISTRATIONS

- Grants.gov*
- eRA commons*+
- System for Award Management (SAM)*
- SBA company registry at SBIR.gov

*Same login.gov account. +Two-factor authentication



WHERE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS

- **Grants:** Submit via ASSIST or Grants.gov workspace



Helpful

NIH Grants Registration Infographic:
<https://seed.nih.gov/eligibility>

Questions?

Connect with SEED

Sign up for NIH and SEED updates:

<https://seed.nih.gov/subscribe>



Online

<http://seed.nih.gov/>



Email us

SEEDinfo@nih.gov