



# RFA-NS-25-016: Promoting Health for All Through BRAIN Technology Dissemination Partnerships

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# Key Points

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- **READ THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY!**  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-25-016.html>
- The purpose of these slides is to clarify the application process and **is not intended to replace the detailed information in the program announcement.**
- Due dates: June 17, 2025, and June 17, 2026  
**CONTACT US EARLY AND APPLY EARLY!**

# Goals of the Funding Opportunity

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- **Long-term:** to increase the impact of the BRAIN Initiative through dissemination and integration of validated BRAIN Initiative tools to investigators at institutions that historically have not been major recipients of NIH support (Resource Limited Institutions, or RLIs)
- **Short-term:** support collaborations between investigators at RLIs and BRAIN technologists to facilitate training and use of BRAIN Initiative technologies in the recipient laboratories
- **Two-way** knowledge transfer between investigator at RLI and BRAIN technologist

## Key considerations:

Impact & novelty of collaboration

Sustainability

Likelihood of bidirectional knowledge transfer

# Goals of the Funding Opportunity

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- Primary focus of activities will be:
  - Investigator-initiated exploratory, pilot efforts which lay the groundwork and establish feasibility or validity for future larger-scale research projects utilizing the resource
  - AND/OR
  - Innovative dissemination of the resource at the RLI with a plan for long-term integration into training programs.
- Funded activities may include:
  - Travel and training
  - Reagent costs
  - Student participation in the execution, analysis, and reporting of the research
  - Minor** adaptations or enhancements of the resource to **meet the needs of the user**, but the focus for this opportunity is **not significant technology or software development** of the resource
- Award Budget- May not exceed 3 years. Direct costs limited to \$225,000 per year and \$450,000 over entire period.

# Requirements

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Participating components of this program **must include:**

## 1. The contact PI/ “user”:

An investigator from an RLI defined as one which:

- 1) awards undergraduate (B.S. or B.A.) and/or graduate degrees in biomedical sciences; and
- 2) at the time of the application, has received no more than \$7.5 million dollars per year (total costs) from NIH Research Project Grants (RPGs) in four of the last seven preceding fiscal years, calculated using [NIH RePORTER](#)

## 2. A BRAIN Initiative disseminator **as key personnel:**

An individual with expertise on the resource :

A **well validated, well-developed**, ready to disseminate resource which is described on this [list of NIH BRAIN Initiative U24 Programs](#) and/or this [list of BRAIN Initiative Alliance Developed Resources and Tools](#).

Has history of disseminating resource - may be inventor, resource contact, or project/program manager

# Non-responsive applications

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## Will be withdrawn prior to review!

- Applications that propose utilization of resources not described in this [list of NIH BRAIN Initiative U24 Programs](#) and/or this [list of BRAIN Initiative Alliance Developed Resources and Tools at time of application](#).
- Projects focused on developing novel and unproven technologies.
- Projects that support clinical trials or provide patient services. Applicants considering such efforts are encouraged to explore [alternative funding mechanisms](#).
- Projects that do not list an individual associated with disseminating the BRAIN Initiative relevant resource as key personnel.

**To confirm your project is responsive to this FOA, email [Natalie Trzcinski](#) with your draft Specific Aims at least one month prior to the due date**

# Research Strategy

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- Limited to 6 pages!
- Preliminary data not required- this **seeks to support new collaborations, innovative research ideas and novel, thoughtful plans for training**
- Describe:

Partnership- the general rationale and the **mutual benefits** that the investigator(s) and disseminator(s) expect to derive from the partnership.

Technology-the status of the technology and **readiness for broad dissemination**, if/how the technology has been validated, and describe how the selected BRAIN Initiative resource **provides value beyond currently available facilities and services at the RLI**.

Activities- describe how the aims and approach of the proposed R34 will:

Establish feasibility, validity or other technically qualifying results that, if successful, would support and/or enable, subsequent research project(s) using the selected BRAIN Initiative resource

AND/OR

Describes how trainees at the RLI will gain an understanding of the uses and limitations of the BRAIN Initiative resource and hands-on training on how to rigorously execute, analyze and report research using the resource.

Impact -how the proposed R34 application will enable **novel, sustained integration** of the proposed resource into research practice

In cases where the focus is on training, a specific plan must be provided on the sustainability of such training

# Review considerations

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## **Factor 1: Importance of the Research**

- Significance, Innovation
- Scored 1 - 9

Specific for this NOFO: :

- Evaluate the likelihood of sustained integration of the proposed resource into research practice.
- Evaluate if the technical resource is developed to an appropriate stage (e.g. validation has been performed) that the technology is ready for dissemination to this user.
- Evaluate if the collaboration enables novel and innovative research and/or training that otherwise would not be feasible in the absence of this mechanism.



# Review considerations

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## Factor 2: Rigor and Feasibility

- Approach
- Scored 1 - 9

Specific for this NOFO :

- Evaluate the strength/likelihood of bi-directional feedback between the RLI user and disseminator. Evaluate if the partnership centers on potential and capabilities of both parties.
- Evaluate if the timing of milestones and the quantity of dissemination of the resource to the RLI is reasonable.
- For applications where trainees/students are involved in the execution, analysis, and reporting of the research:

Evaluate how suitable the plans are for incorporating students into the research program. Evaluate if there is oversight of the effectiveness of such training, and how effective the plan is for sustainability and dissemination of educational resources..

# Review considerations

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## Factor 3: Expertise and Resources

- Investigators, Environment
- Evaluated as appropriate or gaps identified; gaps require explanation
- Considered in overall impact; no individual score

Specific for this NOFO: :

- Evaluate the strength of service-oriented efforts of the disseminator and how effective they will be in providing the proposed resource and iteratively working with the proposed user.

# Other important points

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- All applications, regardless of the amount of direct costs requested for any one year, must address a [Data Management and Sharing Plan](#).

See “Other Plan(s)” section

Applies to scientific data generated as a result of the research strategy

- Reach out early with questions!

Email Natalie Trzcinski [natalie.trzcinski@nih.gov](mailto:natalie.trzcinski@nih.gov)

- Apply early!

See <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/preparing-your-application/submission-troubleshooting-and-technology>

Submit at least one week before the corresponding due date, to provide more than enough time to make corrections in time

Remember **no urls, include foreign justification attachment if relevant**