

**Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)
Center for Addiction and Disease Risk Exacerbation (CADRE)
Brown University School of Public Health**

**Research Project Lead Award Program
*Request for Applications***

Dates and Deadlines

Friday, October 9, 2026 (5pm)	Intent Submission (Specific Aims page with NIH Biosketch)
Friday, October 16, 2026 (5pm)	CADRE Notification of invitation to submit full project application
Monday, November 30, 2026 (5pm)	Full application submission
Friday, December 4, 2026 (5pm)	CADRE Notification of project selection

Program Description

The COBRE Center for Addiction and Disease Risk Exacerbation (CADRE) investigates biopsychosocial mechanisms that contribute to the development, progression, prevention and treatment of chronic disease, with a particular focus on the role of substance use and other behavioral, social and biological factors. CADRE's goals are to provide scientific, administrative, and financial support needed to conduct high-impact research addressing chronic disease risk and outcomes while fostering the development of the next generation of independent investigators.

CADRE is reissuing its **Research Project Lead Award Program** to support one new research project, contingent upon NIH approval. Research Project Leads (RPLs) will receive annual support of up to **\$150,000 per year (direct costs) which includes 6 months of support (salary and fringe)**. The project period is anticipated to be 3 years. Additionally, RPLs will have access to CADRE's research infrastructure, Core resources, individualized mentorship, and professional development opportunities designed to strengthen their scientific programs and position them to transition to an R01 level funded investigator at the end of their project.

CADRE consists of an Administrative Core, a Clinical Laboratory Core (CLC), and a Recruitment, Engagement and Community Health (REACH) Core in addition to research projects led by early career faculty at Brown University and other Rhode Island institutions. CADRE Core resources provide specialized expertise and infrastructure to support project development, including assistance with research feasibility, study design, recruitment strategies, community engagement approaches, and clinical laboratory assessments.

CADRE welcomes proposals from early career faculty at Brown University who have not yet received an external Research Project (R01) or Program Project (P01) award from a Federal or non-Federal source that names the investigator as PI/PD. **Investigators from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds are encouraged to apply, including medicine, public health, nursing, psychology, sociology, economics, anthropology, and related fields.**

Proposed research should address important questions related to chronic disease, with consideration of the role that substance use may play in disease risk, progression, prevention, treatment or survivorship. Because of sponsor changes to COBRE funding priorities, studies designed as NIH-defined clinical trials will not be considered for this award. Proposed projects should focus on observational, mechanistic, or preliminary exploratory research. Relevant projects may address a range of chronic health conditions, including **cancer, cardiovascular disease, metabolic disease, infectious disease, or other conditions for which substance use or related behavioral and social factors may influence health outcomes.**

Interested early career faculty should submit a one-page Letter of Intent (LOI) that includes a brief description of how Cores will be utilized, NIH-formatted Specific Aims page, and NIH Biosketch to CADRE@brown.edu by **October 9, 2026**. Clearance through this mechanism is required prior to being invited to submit a full proposal. The email subject heading should read: **LOI for CADRE Research Project Lead.**

RPL Access and Support

RPLs will have access to:

- Mentorship and collaboration with senior (Associate Professor or higher) investigators (identified at time of application)
- Professional Development Workshops, an annual CADRE Symposium, and professional conferences.
- Project management support and guidance from CADRE's Administrative Core
- [Clinical Laboratory Core \(CLC\) resources](#)
 - State-of-the-art clinical labs
 - Core faculty and staff with laboratory and medical training
 - Data management and data analysis expertise, along with consultation with biostatistics faculty
- [REACH Core resources](#)
 - End-to-end recruitment support using digital marketing methods, including: custom enrollment marketing, audience discovery, study branding, digital ad campaign management, and weekly enrollment analytics reporting

Applicants are required to incorporate appropriate CADRE Core services into their proposed research. Early consultation with the CADRE Cores can help refine project feasibility, strengthen the experimental design, and identify opportunities to leverage specialized resources and expertise. Applicants may contact the CADRE Program Director (cadre@brown.edu), for help identifying appropriate Core contacts and resources. For projects involving Clinical Laboratory Core services, applicants may contact Christine Goodwin (christine_goodwin@brown.edu) to discuss CLC capabilities and support.

Program Requirement & Eligibility

- Research must address an important question related to chronic disease and examine the role of substance use in chronic disease risk, prevention, progression, treatment, or outcomes among populations disproportionately affected by substance use and chronic disease.
- In alignment with current NIH/NIGMS priorities, proposed research projects should focus on observational studies, mechanistic human subjects research, secondary data analyses, or non-interventional exploratory research.
- Research must demonstrate a meaningful plan for utilization of CADRE Core resources.
- Applications are open to Brown University faculty members employed by Brown University and whose research is administered through Brown University. Brown faculty employed by affiliated institutions, Brown faculty whose research is administered through affiliated institutions, emeritus faculty, adjunct faculty, visiting faculty, and postdocs, are not eligible to lead projects, but may be included on the research team as a Co-PI or key personnel.
- Applicants must be [early-stage investigators](#) as defined by NIH: an individual who does not have and has not previously had an external peer-reviewed research project (R01), R01 equivalent, or Program Project Grant (PPG/P01) from either a federal or non-federal source that names the investigator as PD/PI.
- Established investigators seeking to transition into a new research area may be considered under exceptional circumstances consistent with NIH COBRE guidance (e.g. investigators making a significant change to their career).
- Investigators in the last two years of a K award can serve as COBRE investigators.
- Awardee must devote 6.0 person months (50% effort) to the project.
- Applicants must identify a primary mentor and may also identify a secondary mentor (optional).
- Research projects involving human subjects must undergo IRB review and approval.
- Foreign components are not allowed. This includes foreign subawards, foreign consortiums, foreign authors on resulting publications or performance of any significant scientific activity outside of the United States.
[Please see more information on foreign components.](#)

Special Considerations

Applications from investigators who meet program and eligibility requirements will be reviewed. Special considerations will be given to investigators who:

- Take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the relationships between substance use and chronic disease.

- Conduct research involving populations disproportionately affected by substance use and chronic disease.

Award Budget

Annual support of up to **\$150,000** in direct costs per year may be requested. Indirect costs are not allowed. **Project funding is contingent on NIH Prior Approval.** The project period is anticipated to be three years.

Use of Funds

The budget request, which will ultimately be part of your full RPL application, should include:

- Salary and associated fringe benefits for six months of RPL effort annually.
- Salary and associated fringe benefits for research staff support (e.g., a research assistant or postdoctoral fellow).
- Research expenses and related supplies, as allowable under applicable [federal policy](#).
- Funds to attend scientific conferences and present CADRE related research findings.
- Publication costs for CADRE-related manuscripts and other project-related publications.
- No equipment greater than \$5,000.
- **Indirect costs are not allowed.**

Review Process and Selection Criteria

Funding is dependent upon the positive review of the CADRE Executive Committee, CADRE Advisory Committee, and final approval of the National Institute of Health.

The final selection will be made based on the following criteria:

- Potential for the RPL to be competitive for further research support from external sponsors
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Significance and potential impact of the research on chronic disease and its relationship to substance use
- Scientific merit and appropriateness of research design
- Feasibility of proposed project:
 - Available funding
 - Timeline for research project

Expectations

Upon acceptance into the program, RPLs are expected to:

- Meet with mentors on a weekly basis and develop a mentor-mentee compact.
- Obtain University regulatory approval (IRB, biosafety).
- Register projects with [clinicaltrials.gov](#) (as applicable).
- Provide progress reports using Federal policies for annual review.
- Attend scientific conferences and organizations to present data and work.
- Attend monthly ALL-CADRE, journal club, and professional development series meetings, the CADRE Annual Symposium, and Center-sponsored workshops, trainings, and speaker series.
- At the end of Year 1, RPLs are expected to have submitted at least one first authored and one co-authored manuscript for publication. If the project is extended by 2 years, in Years 2 and 3, PLs are expected to submit at least one first authored publication and at least two co-authored publications each year.
- Appropriately acknowledge CADRE (P20GM130414) in publications, presentations, and other research products that are supported in whole or in part by the CADRE award. Grant support should be cited only when CADRE-supported activities, personnel, resources, or other contributions directly contributed to the work being reported.
- COBRE awards do not permit foreign components. To involve foreign collaborators or foreign co-authors on CADRE-supported research, RPLs must first consult the CADRE Program Director and receive required NIH prior approval.
- It is expected that projects will lead to a future NIH R01 grant submission.

Mentors are expected to:

- Complete mentorship training. (see [Advance RI-CTR Mentorship Training Program](#))
- Meet with their mentee on a weekly basis.
- Ensure the mentee is meeting their project milestones and assist with professional

- development.
- Review and comment on their RPL quarterly reports and their annual progress reports.
- Attend monthly ALL-CADRE meetings and the CADRE Annual Symposium.

Full Application Guidelines

The items listed below are provided as reference for applicants invited to submit a full application.

Application Content

All materials should be uploaded into a **single PDF file** for consideration and review. The application will consist of the following components:

- **Applicant CV**
- **Applicant NIH Biosketch**
- **Applicant Other Support**
- **Application Content** ([Click here for PHS 398 forms and instructions](#)):
 - NIH Face Page (PHS 398 Face Page)
 - Research Strategy ([Click here for PHS 398 forms and instructions](#)) which includes:
 - NIH Project Summary Page (PHS 398 Form Page 2)
 - Introduction and Specific Aims (up to 1 page)
 - The following three sections should be no longer than 3 pages**
 - Background and Significance: Rationale and significance of the project, including relevance to the goals of the COBRE and plans for use of the Cores in subsequent independently funded projects.
 - Innovation & Approach: Include both conceptual and technical innovations. For approach, include preliminary data (if applicable) and research plan including expected results.
 - Plans for future funding
 - Citations (up to 3 pages, not included in page limit)
 - Project Timeline (not included in page limit): Includes milestones and plans for submitting 2 manuscript in Year 1 and 3 manuscripts and an R01 or equivalent grant application in Years 2 and 3.
 - Detailed budget and budget justification using PHS 398 forms for 3 years.
 - Checklist Format Page with F&A cost break down
 - Mentoring Plan: Briefly describe the mentoring plan for the applicant.
 - Letters of Support from your primary and if relevant, secondary mentors.
 - *Note: The Administrative Core covers up to 5% total salary support across a maximum of two mentors (5% for a single mentor, or 2.5% each for two mentors). Funding for additional mentors, if needed, must be included in the project budget. Note that different policies apply to mentors from non-IDeA states. [Please see federal guidelines](#).*
 - NIH Biosketch from primary and, if relevant, secondary mentors

If the applicant is approved, the following Just-in-Time (JIT) Documentation will be needed & developed with the CADRE Administrative Core:

- IRB or IACUC approval
- Human subjects training certificates for all personnel involved in the work with human participants.
- Updated inclusion enrollment report for this study in HSS
- Updated Other Support which includes CADRE award
- Face Page signed by Institute representative
- Revised 36-month project budget

*** Please notify your grant and financial specialists about new proposals via [BSS Grants Deadline Notification Form](#)**

Internal Review

	Department	OSP
Letter of Intent	Provide a copy to your grant specialist.	N/A
Full Application (if invited)	Work with your grant specialist to prepare and submit the application.	N/A
NIH Submission (finalist)	The CADRE's grant specialist will work with your grant specialist to do a final review, create the Coeus child record, and route to OSP.	OSP will review and submit to NIH.

Contact

Questions and concerns regarding the Center for Addiction and Disease Risk Exacerbation COBRE application process may be directed to: cadre@brown.edu