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How is CBC-HITES different from other grant programs?

While funding is certainly one of the goals of your application, our tailored and strategic approach to assisting you in navigating the commercialization process is as powerful as CBC-HITES funding. Funded in part by an NIH REACH award, the goal of CBC-HITES is to help academic investigators move their inventions from the lab to the marketplace and educate researchers and trainees about the process.

Starting even before the applying team submits a simple two-page Letter of Intent (LOI), CBC-HITES welcomes conversations with researchers about their ideas and whether they are at the appropriate stage. Once an LOI is submitted, a dedicated CBC-HITES team dynamically and interactively builds a proposal with the applying team's input and takes much of the burden off the applying team.

The proposal process produces deliverables that incorporate many of the technical, commercial, and clinical components that a prospective investor or industry stakeholder would consider. These deliverables and the work behind them are provided to the applying team along with key suggestions and advice even if the applying team is not funded.

If the applying team is funded, CBC-HITES provides not just funding, but wrap-around support in the form of project management, connections to industry and venture, connections to CROs, and connections to technical, regulatory, and other experts that are needed throughout the lifetime of the translation process. In addition, CBC-HITES integrates each institution's technology transfer function into the process. All these deliverables, services, and funding will help Chicagoland academic scientists navigate and accelerate the translation of their innovative discoveries to impactful healthcare solutions.

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Who is eligible to apply for the CBC-HITES program?

This RFA is open to all faculty and trainees associated with any of our [nine partnering institutions](#). While CBC-HITES requires applications be submitted by a faculty member, we welcome projects driven by trainees. Non-faculty applicants must identify a faculty member who is willing to sponsor their application. Applications must focus on developing products that have the potential to improve patient care or enhance human health.

CBC-HITES can accept projects focused on developing therapeutics, medical devices (including some types of healthcare IT), diagnostics and biomarkers. Successful CBC-HITES projects are those that have exhausted fundamental science funding mechanisms but are not yet ready for venture. Each project is evaluated for these metrics.

*Applicants must include at least one **tenured, tenure-track or research faculty with research programs at one of the nine partnering institutions. Faculty with full-time appointments on the clinical track at one of the nine partnering institutions are also eligible to apply.** Applicants must have their **own designated laboratory space.** Individuals who carry **faculty appointments with parenthetical rank, are not eligible for tenure, and do not have their own laboratory space are not eligible to apply.***

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Does my institution participate in the CBC-HITES program?

The following partnering institutions participate in the CBC-HITES network:

- *Northwestern University*
- *University of Chicago*
- *University of Illinois Chicago*
- *Rosalind Franklin University*
- *Loyola University*
- *Rush University*
- *Northern Illinois University*
- *Illinois Institute of Technology*
- *Discovery Partners Institute*

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Can a PI submit more than one application?

A PI is limited to one active CBC-HITES application at a time.

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Can solo PIs apply?

Yes, an individual PI may submit an LOI application. Although collaborative proposals are encouraged there is no specific requirement for cross-institutional collaboration.

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What projects are eligible? Does my product have to treat one specific disease?

There is no disease-specific requirement, but the project should be focused on the development of a therapeutic, therapeutic platform, diagnostic or biomarker, or a medical device. The goal of CBC-HITES is to help applying teams develop a compelling clinical hypothesis and focus on gathering data that advances the hypothesis and discharges key translational risks.

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What's the policy on intellectual property?

Applications should involve ideas that originate from within a participating institution (making them potentially eligible for patent protection or some other mechanism that will return income to the program) or university-

derived technologies with pending/issued patents or copyright. Technologies that are already licensed to a company are not eligible for funding unless it is the PI's company and the technology originated from their lab.

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What is the size of the CBC-HITES award?

Faculty from any one of the nine partnering institutions can apply for an “early” award of up to \$75,000 in direct funding for one year of research.

Principal Investigators (PIs) or teams that include a PI from UChicago, UIC, or Northwestern may apply for a “late” award of up to \$250,000 in direct funding for two years of research.

- **“Early” awards will be up to \$75,000 for one year of funding**
- **“Late” awards will be for \$100,000 for the first year of funding**
- **“Late” awarded projects that have met proposed milestones during the first year *may be invited to apply for up to \$150,000 for one more year of research***

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Are there restrictions on the use of funds?

The proposed research activities and budget requests must thus be within institutional guidelines for an application to be successful. Note: PIs may claim up to 2% effort/salary relief. Graduate student tuition and tuition remission is not allowed on CBC-HITES awards. Award funds cannot be used for correlative studies associated with ongoing clinical trials. Each PI can include travel expenses of \$1000/application.

CBC-HITES does not allow facilities and administrative (F&A)/ Indirect Costs on any funded project.

If a company has been formed, CBC-HITES funding must go to the PI's partnering institution and cannot be used by the company.

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Are clinical trials allowed?

No

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What are the expectations/deliverables for CBC-HITES Awardees? What benchmarks will I have to meet in the program?

Receipt of funding for selected projects will be milestone-driven and CBC-HITES staff will monitor development and help with project management. There will be a continual evaluation (go/no-go decision) with pre-specified milestones and non-progressing projects may be modified or replaced with new projects.

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How do I apply?

[*Click here for instructions on applying.*](#)

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What happens after I submit an application?

[*Click here to see an overview of the process an application goes through.*](#)

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What additional resources are available from CBC-HITES program to applicants?

[*Click here for a list of additional resources.*](#)

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