



Path to Excellence and Innovation Initiative

University Application



The Path to Excellence and Innovation (PEI) Initiative is designed to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in competing for, securing, and managing contracts with the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This will be accomplished by strengthening the academic institutions' contracting infrastructure and improving collaboration with business partners.

The Applicant		
Institution Name:		
Institution Address:		
Application submitted by:		
Title:		
Email:		
Telephone number:		
Are you authorized to commit the institution to a contract:		
Alternate Point of Contact:		
Title:		
Email:		
Telephone number:		
Eligibility		
Past Performance	<p>Within the past five years, has this institution performed as either a prime or a subcontractor on a federal contract?</p>	
	<p>Provide one contract or subcontract Agency:</p>	
	<p>Contract Number:</p>	
Organizational Capabilities	<p>Please select one or more capabilities that are related to the NIH mission from the list below.</p> <p>https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/what-we-do/mission-goals</p> <p>Biomedical Research and Development Information Technology Business and Professional Support Services Public Health Outreach/Communications and Research Laboratory Services/Products Construction Services</p>	
NIH Centers	<p>Identify 2 or 3 NIH Institutes and/or Centers with contracts this university will pursue . Enter in the boxes below.</p> <p>https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/list-nih-institutes-centers-offices</p>	
Institute or Center 1	Institute or Center 2	Institute or Center 3

Management Support	Applicant must submit an official letter from the institution's President or President's designee.
Willingness to subcontract	<p>Subcontract means any contract, as defined in FAR subpart 2.1, entered into by a subcontractor to furnish supplies or services for performance of the prime contract or a subcontract. It includes, but is not limited to, purchase orders, and changes and modifications to purchase orders.</p> <p>Is this college or university willing to subcontract for the first 3 to 5 opportunities pursued with a designated PEI business partner?</p>

Readiness Assessment	
Capability Statement	Does this university have a capability statement?
Infrastructure	<p>Which positions are currently in place on your contracts team? Select all that apply.</p> <p>Business Development Contracts Manager Proposal/Technical Writer Cost Accounting Manager Administrative Support</p>

Commitment

Acceptance into the PEI Initiative will require a commitment to participate in infrastructure development and other activities to obtain the knowledge and resources necessary to successfully compete for, secure, and manage contracts from the National Institutes of Health.

By checking the box below you are acknowledging that this applicant institution is prepared to make a commitment to the following:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Devote a minimum of 10 hours per month to PEI activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Willingness to participate in all PEI infrastructure development activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Selection of a Business Partner from the PEI Database or bring a preferred Business Partner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create a joint capability statement with selected Business Partner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with Business Partner to create a PEI Business Development Strategy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meet at least monthly with Business Partner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Willingness to participate in NIH capability briefings as appropriate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pursue opportunities identified from the PEI database
<input type="checkbox"/>	Willingness to respond to Sources Sought or Solicitations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Willingness to request debriefings for any Solicitations not won
<input type="checkbox"/>	Willingness to work with the PEI Accelerator to upload reports into the PEI database

Supporting Documents Checklist

Please submit these documents along with the university's application to the PEI Initiative.

	Capability Statement
	Letter from the institution's President or President's designee.

Submission Deadline: October 20, 2025

Email completed application and supporting documents to: PEI@nih.gov

For questions about the program, contact: the NIH Small Business Programs Office: 301-451-3861

Burden Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per contract or grant entered, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0767*). Do not return the completed form to this address.