Proof of Concept Network



The NIH Proof of Concept Network supports academic innovators to convert promising scientific discoveries into medical products and trains a biomedical workforce that is globally competitive in technology development and entrepreneurship. The Network spans more than 100 universities in 34 states and Puerto Rico through three programs: Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hubs (REACH), NIH Centers for Accelerated Innovations (NCAI), and NIGMS' STTR Regional Technology Transfer Accelerator Hubs for IDeA States. (See back for map of centers and hubs.)

How the Programs Work

The NCAI and REACH are public-private partnerships that combine entrepreneurial training, product development expertise from the local biomedical ecosystem, and funding and project management for proof of concept studies. The NIGMS accelerator hubs develop novel entrepreneurial training

resources to expand the geographical diversity of biomedical product development. Early consideration of healthcare impact and commercial viability, combined with milestone-driven product development plans, results in validated projects primed for startup company formation or licensing.

Education and Training

Innovators have access to education and training on topics such as market research, business strategy, regulatory and intellectual property planning, and fundraising through boot camps and hands-on programs.



Expert Feedback

Innovators receive personalized feedback on their product development, intellectual property, regulatory, reimbursement, and fundraising strategies from local industry experts and federal partners (NIH, FDA, CMS, USPTO).

Funding and Project Management

Selected projects receive up to \$200K in funding tied to specific technical and business milestones. These product definition studies are supervised by industry-experienced project managers.

Leveraging the Local Ecosystem

Hubs leverage state government resources, local academic institutions, and industry partners to supplement funding from NIH, develop education and training materials, review and select projects for funding, and provide feedback and mentorship to innovators.

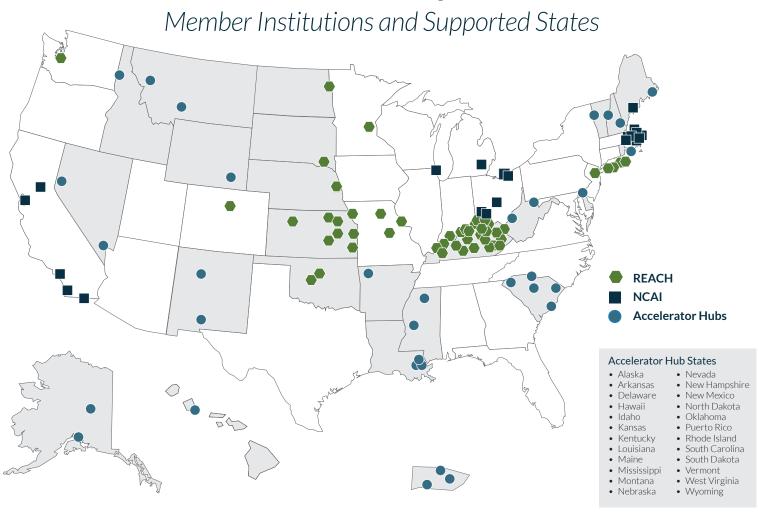


Indicators of Success*

386 Projects	101 Startups	\$1.58B in Follow-On Funding	138 SBIR/STTR Applications
46 SBIR/STTR Awards	11 License Options	16 Tech Licenses	3,000+ Academic Innovators w/ Entrepreneurial Training

^{*} Outcomes from NCAI + REACH programs as of November 23, 2021. Outcomes not yet available for NIGMS' accelerator hubs—tracking in progress.

NIH Proof of Concept Network



NCAI

States

Institutions

Centers

REACH

States

Institutions

Research Evaluation and

Hubs

Accelerator Hubs

States & Puerto Rico | Institutions

4 Hubs

NIH Centers for Accelerated Innovations (NCAI): Formed through a joint commitment of Congress and NIH in 2013 to develop scalable strategies to translate heart, lung, blood, and sleep discoveries into promising healthcare solutions.

Commercialization Hubs (REACH): Based on the early success of the NCAI, the proof of concept center model was expanded to cover the NIH mission space through the formation of three REACH hubs in 2015 and five more in 2019.

NIGMS' STTR Regional Technology Transfer Accelerator Hubs for IDeA States: These four hubs were formed in 2018 to develop innovative strategies that expand NIH's innovation and entrepreneurship support across the nation.

