



The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals

Request for Information

NIIMBL bioLOGIC

(WF RFI 2025.001)

RFI Release Date: August 12, 2025

Submission Due: September 11, 2025 (5 pm ET)



1. Overview

The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) is dedicated to advancing biopharmaceutical manufacturing innovation, developing standards to enhance manufacturing efficiencies and speed, and cultivating a leading biopharmaceutical manufacturing workforce. This Request for Information (RFI) seeks to gather insights and ideas (i.e. it is not a funding opportunity solicitation for proposals), regarding the national scaling of the NIIMBL bioLOGIC program. NIIMBL bioLOGIC is a project-based learning program designed to inform, inspire, attract, and recruit the next-generation workforce.

2. Background

NIIMBL bioLOGIC is a project-based learning program for high school students developed by NIIMBL that focuses on three pillars: 1) Engagement with advanced technologies, 2) Familiarization with the principles of entrepreneurship, and 3) Exposure to education and career pathways that lead into the advanced manufacturing sector. These focus areas are wrapped around a student-led, design-thinking approach that allows participants to concentrate on a problem area that holds a real meaning for them and apply what they learned about technology and entrepreneurship to a real-world challenge.

Developed in partnership with our sister institute NextFlex, NIIMBL bioLOGIC aims to generate interest and excitement around careers in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Teams of 4-6 students work together to identify a problem, conceptualize a product solution, create a business model, and present their ideas to a panel of representatives who offer feedback in a supportive and constructive manner.

As NIIMBL begins to explore how to scale the program, NIIMBL invites submissions from interested parties to share information on how their organization might approach implementing such a program in their region.

3. Purpose of this RFI

The purpose of this RFI is to gauge interest and gather insights that will shape the scope of a future Request for Applications (RFA) for NIIMBL bioLOGIC.

NIIMBL bioLOGIC RFI Website: <https://www.niimbl.org/workforce/niimbl-biologic-rfi/>

4. Detailed Request

Goals: NIIMBL seeks to gather information from the community to better understand how a NIIMBL member organization would approach the implementation of a NIIMBL bioLOGIC program in their region by partnering with high schools, local industry, and institutions of



higher education. NIIMBL bioLOGIC was designed for high school students. In addition to implementation focused on high school students, NIIMBL welcomes other innovative adaptations that extend its reach to other audiences. These adaptations should align with the program's core mission of inspiring and preparing the next generation of the biopharmaceutical workforce through a problem-based learning entrepreneurship program. NIIMBL does not intend to be prescriptive regarding the exact program structure or timing to allow for creativity and flexibility in design.

Program Elements: While every implementation is unique and tailored to the needs of the region, the NIIMBL bioLOGIC program consists of the following core components:

- A Career Readiness Workshop in which students are exposed to different career paths in biopharmaceutical manufacturing.
- A Kickoff and Problem Identification Meeting in which students are oriented to the program and identify a healthcare problem or challenge they want to focus on.
- An Industry Day (e.g., tour, classroom visit, virtual visit) in which students meet real professionals working in biopharmaceutical manufacturing.
- A College Day (e.g., tour, classroom visit, virtual visit) in which students learn about post-secondary education options relevant to biopharmaceutical manufacturing.
- Business Model Creation, in which students develop a business model around their healthcare problem.
- Pitch Development, in which students develop a pitch around their proposed business.
- A Final Pitch Day in which students present their business and solutions to a panel of industry and academic stakeholders.

The Instructor Guide, Program Manager's Playbook, and Program Manager Status Tracker are made available for reference and review online. Please note that these materials are NOT to be used in the delivery of a NIIMBL bioLOGIC program and are provided solely for the purpose of responding to this RFI.

5. Submission Details

A. NIIMBL bioLOGIC Approach: Please provide a brief description of the following:

- Who would you partner with in implementing NIIMBL bioLOGIC in your region (e.g., high schools, colleges, non-profits, industry partners)?
- What would your NIIMBL bioLOGIC implementation look like (high-level program elements, features, industry involvement)? What would be the setting (e.g.,

classroom, summer camp)?

- When would you ideally run a NIIMBL bioLOGIC (e.g., spring semester, fall semester, summer)?
- Who is your specific target audience? For example, what are the anticipated academic backgrounds and levels? How would participants be identified and/or recruited? In what types of classrooms (e.g., AP, biology, business, etc.)?
- How many individuals do you anticipate reaching?
- How will you manage logistics (e.g., food, transportation for participants, industry recruitment for final pitches)?

B. Organizational Capabilities: An overview of your organization's capabilities, instrumentation, staffing, and facilities that could support the development and implementation of a NIIMBL bioLOGIC program.

C. Cost Estimation: Rough order magnitude (ROM) budget estimate for the development and implementation of a NIIMBL bioLOGIC program. This estimate will help us understand the potential financial implications and is not binding. This RFI is not a solicitation for proposals for funding. There is no required ROM format.

Responses should be limited to two pages. The cost estimation is not included in the two-page limit.

6. Submission Process

Submissions must be sent via the NIIMBL submission hub by the due date. Late submissions will not be considered.

7. Use of Information

The insights and information gathered from this RFI will be used to inform strategic planning for future solicitations. It may also contribute to broader discussions about the needs and opportunities in biomanufacturing.

8. Encouragement for Broad Participation

We encourage submissions from a wide range of stakeholders, including academic institutions, industry, and consortia. Whether you can offer comprehensive solutions or insights into specific aspects, your input is valuable. Feedback on this RFI's scope, requirements, and objectives is also welcome, as it will help refine our approach to addressing the needs of the biomanufacturing sector. **NIIMBL Membership is not**



required to respond to this RFI.

9. Conclusion

We look forward to engaging with the community to gather valuable information that will shape future initiatives. For more information, please contact projectcalls@NIIMBL.org.

10. Abbreviated List of Acronyms

RFI	Request for Information
RFA	Request for Application
RFP	Request for Proposal
NIIMBL	National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals