



The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals

Request for Information

(NM Education & Workforce Development (EWD)
Innovation Tank RFI 2026.02)

RFI Release Date: February 10, 2026

Submission Due: March 16, 2026 (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. NIIMBL is home to the nation's collective passion and expertise in biopharmaceutical education, training, and workforce development. Building on this leadership, NIIMBL is developing the [Workforce Impact Assessment Framework](#), a comprehensive guide for evaluating the holistic impact and value of workforce initiatives across the biopharma ecosystem with plans to launch the framework in early 2026.

This Request for Information (RFI) invites interested and eligible parties to self-nominate for participation in a special "Shark Tank" like session at the National Meeting, with an outcome of identifying the **most promising new and emerging non-degree workforce program** that directly addresses the challenges of building the biopharma manufacturing pipeline.

This interactive session will kick off with a brief overview of the Impact Assessment Framework, equipping the audience with the lenses through which program impact is measured by NIIMBL. Then, up to three organizations will take the stage to pitch their most innovative and impactful workforce programs. Each organization will have 30 minutes to present their program and respond to questions from a panel of experts representing industry, academia, and government.

Following the pitches, both the audience and the expert panel will vote to determine which program demonstrates the greatest potential for advancing the biopharmaceutical workforce.

Questions can be sent to projectcalls@niimbl.org.

2. Background

NIIMBL is organizing a special workforce session at this year's National Meeting, scheduled for June 23-25, 2026. The session will feature a "Shark Tank"-style pitch event, where three organizations will be invited to pitch to a panel of experts.

This interactive session will kick off with a brief overview of the Impact Assessment Framework, equipping the audience with the lenses through which program impact is measured by NIIMBL. Then, three organizations will take the stage to pitch their most innovative and impactful workforce programs. Each organization will have 20 to 30 minutes to deliver a 5–7-minute pitch and respond to questions from a panel of experts representing industry, academia, and government.

Following the pitches, both the audience and the expert panel will vote to determine which program demonstrates the greatest potential for advancing the biopharmaceutical workforce.

The winner will be announced during the closing banquet and will receive two complimentary registrations and hotel accommodations for the 2026 NIIMBL Workforce Conference—plus well-deserved recognition as the 2025 Most Impactful Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Workforce Program.

Purpose of this RFI:

Gather submissions from universities, community college, and non-profit member institutions to be considered for this pitch session.

Note: This RFI does not constitute a solicitation for funding proposals.



3. Self-Nomination Eligibility

Organizations eligible for self-nomination must meet the following criteria:

A. Organization Type

Any university, community college, or non-profit NIIMBL member organization is eligible to self-nominate. Limit one nomination per organization.

B. Program Type – Non-Degree Training Programs

Programs must be non-degree in nature, meaning they do not confer an academic degree. These programs are designed to educate, train, recruit, and/or upskill biopharmaceutical manufacturing talent. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Short courses
- Bootcamps
- Apprenticeships
- Certificate programs
- Badging and microcredentials
- Other non-credit bearing initiatives

C. Program Status – New and Emerging

Programs must be new and emerging, defined as:

- Developed and piloted with at least one cohort of students or professionals
- No more than five years in operation

Established programs that have been operating beyond these limits are not eligible.

4. Submission Details

Please submit a Word file (A, B, and C) that has the following information:

- A. A brief description (500 words maximum)** of your non-degree education, training, or workforce development program or solution suitable for NIIMBL to understand your program and verify eligibility as defined in Section 3.
- B. An assessment of your program (1500 words maximum)** or solution's impact across four dimensions of impact described in the soon to be released Impact Assessment Framework, namely: (1) Industry & Partner ROI, (2) Learner Impact, (3) Programming & Instruction, and (4) Effective Business Processes. Some questions you may consider include:
- *Industry & Partner ROI.* What evidence can you provide for your initiative that addresses a clearly defined workforce need and has received meaningful industry support (e.g., funding, equipment, hiring commitments)?
 - *Learner Impact.* How has your initiative improved learners' career outcomes, such as job placement, promotions, or skill marketability?
 - *Programming & Instruction.* How are your learning objectives and instructional methods aligned with industry-defined skills and job roles?



- *Effective Business Processes.* What systems or strategies have you implemented to ensure the initiative’s long-term sustainability and scalability?

NOTE: While the NIIMBL Workforce Impact Assessment Framework has not yet been released at the time of this RFI, applicants are encouraged to consult the [Workforce Impact Assessment Preview Document](#) we have made available online for additional context about this project and assessment questions that may help inform or strengthen their responses.

c. Organization & Presenter Background (Word file, 500 word maximum)

Briefly describe the individual who will deliver the pitch, including relevant background and experience. Provide a short overview of your organization, including size, age, and mission.

4. Submission Process

Submissions must be sent via the [NIIMBL Submission Hub](#) by the due date. Late submissions will not be considered.

Only organizations that are Members in Good Standing are invited to submit information; they must remain Members in Good Standing through June 25, 2026. If an organization is invited to present at the Meeting but declines to renew their membership prior to the meeting, they will not be permitted to give a presentation. A replacement organization may be selected.

5. Use of Information

Information shared will be used to help identify and select presenters at the National Meeting. Other factors beyond the information submitted may also be considered when inviting presenters. If an organization is not selected to present at the National Meeting session, that decision is not meant to reflect any assessment of the organization or their particular program.

6. Abbreviated List of Acronyms

NIIMBL: National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals

RFI: Request for Information