National Center for
Complementary and
Integrative Health

Overview of the NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory and a Cooperative Agreement

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Virtual Onboarding Meeting November 1, 2023

The NIH Collaboratory Story

History: Initiated through the NIH Common Fund in 2012

Selected as the Pragmatic and Implementation Studies for the Management of Pain to Reduce Opioid Prescribing (PRISM) Resource Coordinating Center in 2019
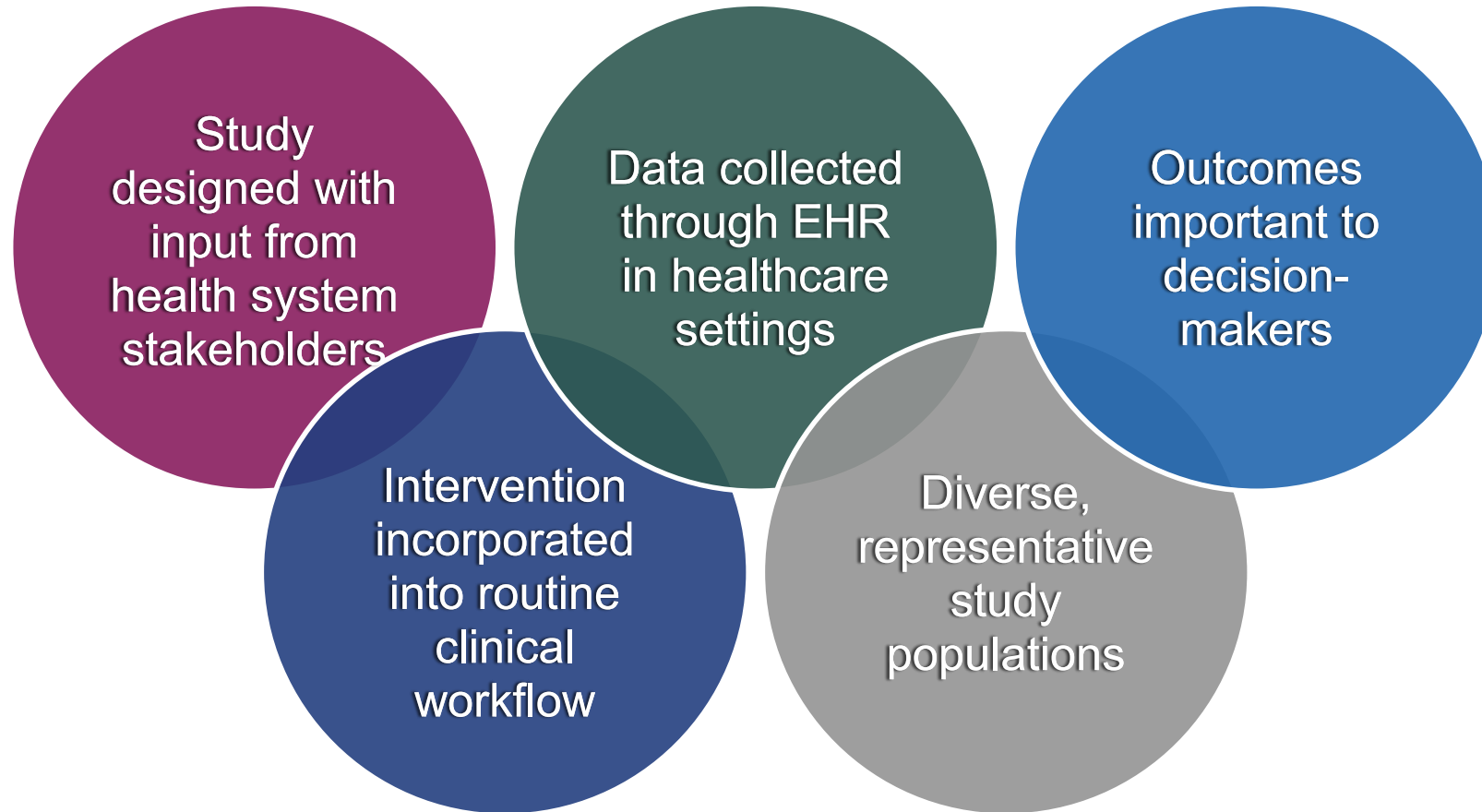
Goal: Strengthen the national capacity to implement cost-effective large-scale research studies that engage health care delivery organizations as research partners
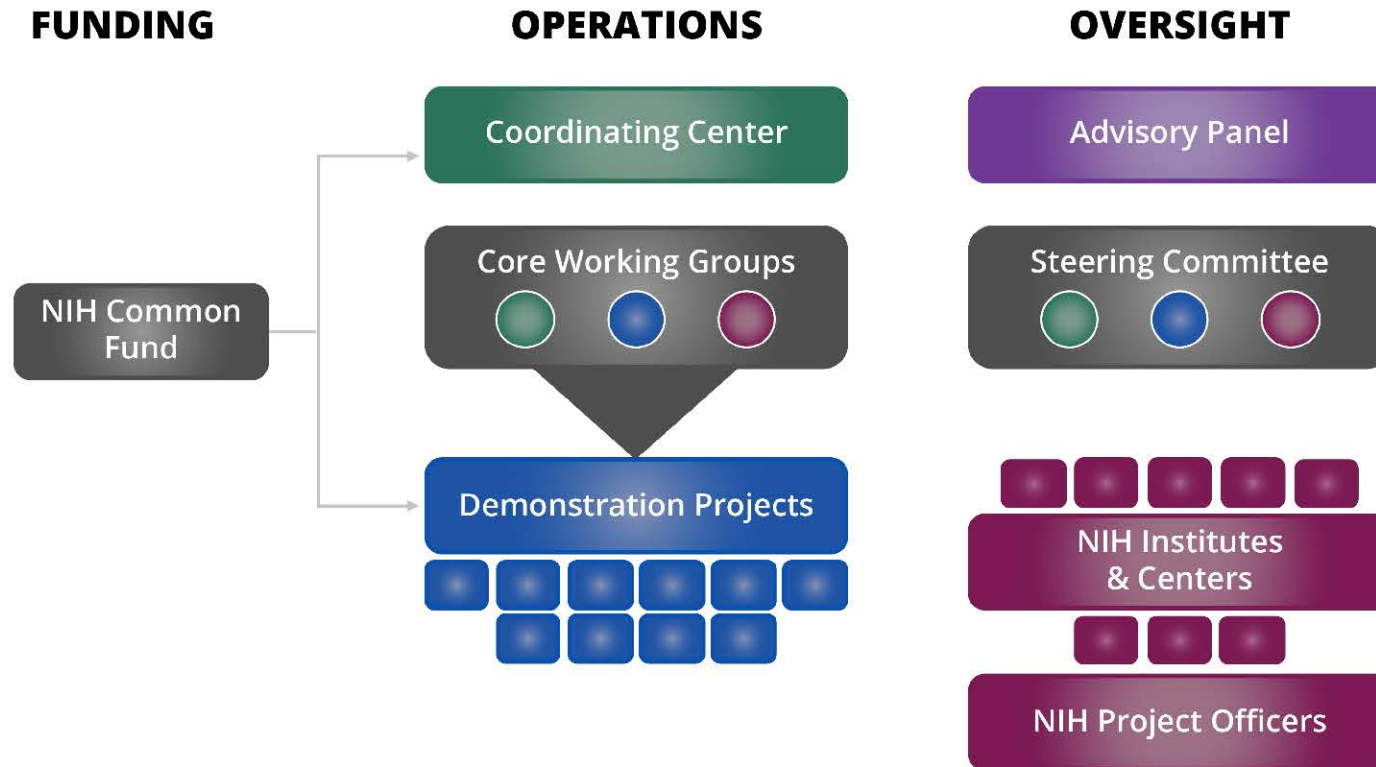
Vision: Support the design and execution of innovative pragmatic clinical trial Demonstration Projects to establish best practices and proof of concept

NIH PRAGMATIC TRIALS
COLLABORATORY
Rethinking Clinical Trials®

Embedded PCTs Bridge Research Into Clinical Care

Study designed with input from health system stakeholders

Data collected through EHR in healthcare settings

Outcomes important to decision-makers

Intervention incorporated into routine clinical workflow

Diverse, representative study populations

NIH PRAGMATIC TRIALS COLLABORATORY
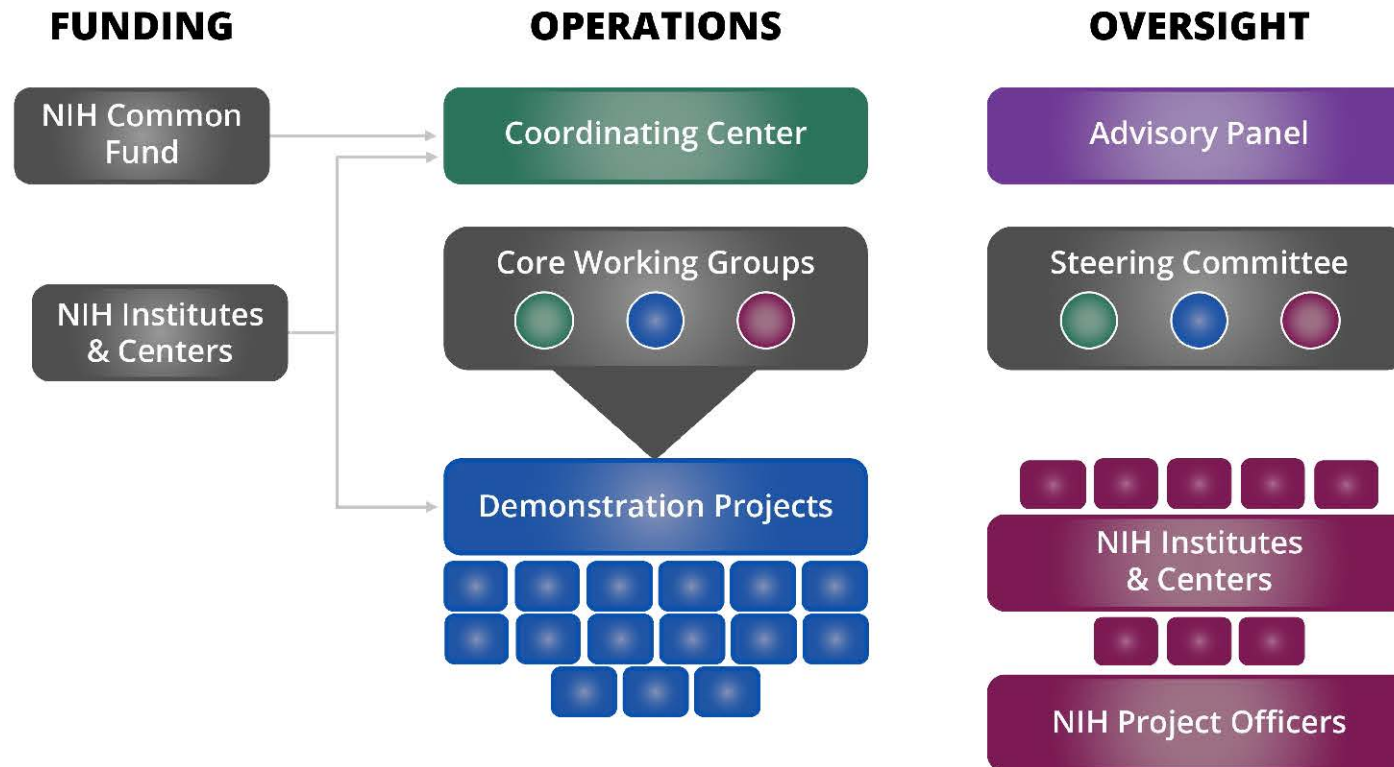Rethinking Clinical Trials®

NIH Collaboratory Structure: 2012-2017

- The NIH Collaboratory began as an NIH Common Fund–initiated program. It includes centralized operational support for its pragmatic trial Demonstration Projects from a Coordinating Center and its Core Working Groups
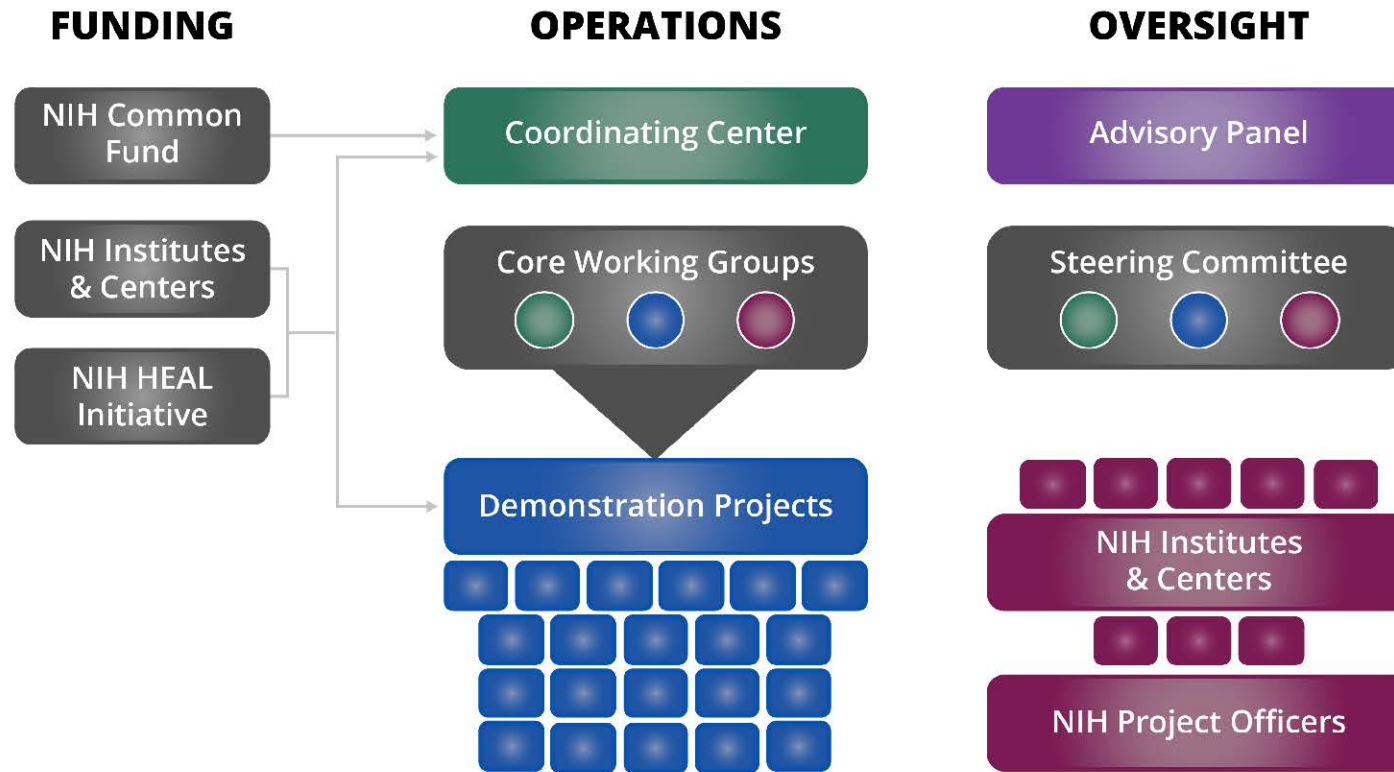
NIH Collaboratory Structure: 2017-2019

- Starting in 2017, individual NIH Institutes and Centers began providing funding for Demonstration Projects and the Coordinating Center, along with the Common Fund
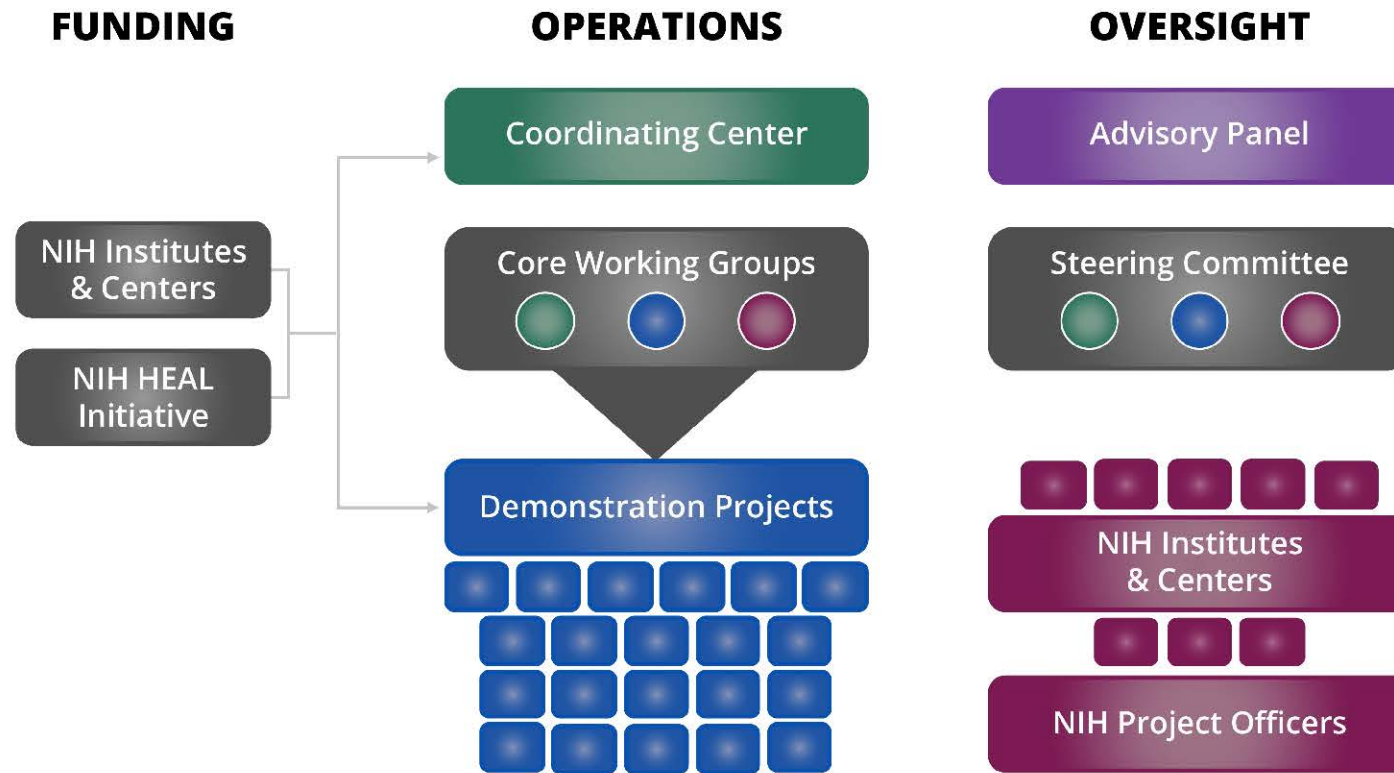
NIH Collaboratory Structure: 2019-2021

- Starting in 2019, the NIH HEAL Initiative began providing some Coordinating Center and Demonstration Project funding, in addition to existing funding mechanisms

NIH Collaboratory Structure: 2022-Present

- Starting in 2022, the program is entirely funded by the NIH HEAL Initiative, along with individual NIH Institutes and Centers
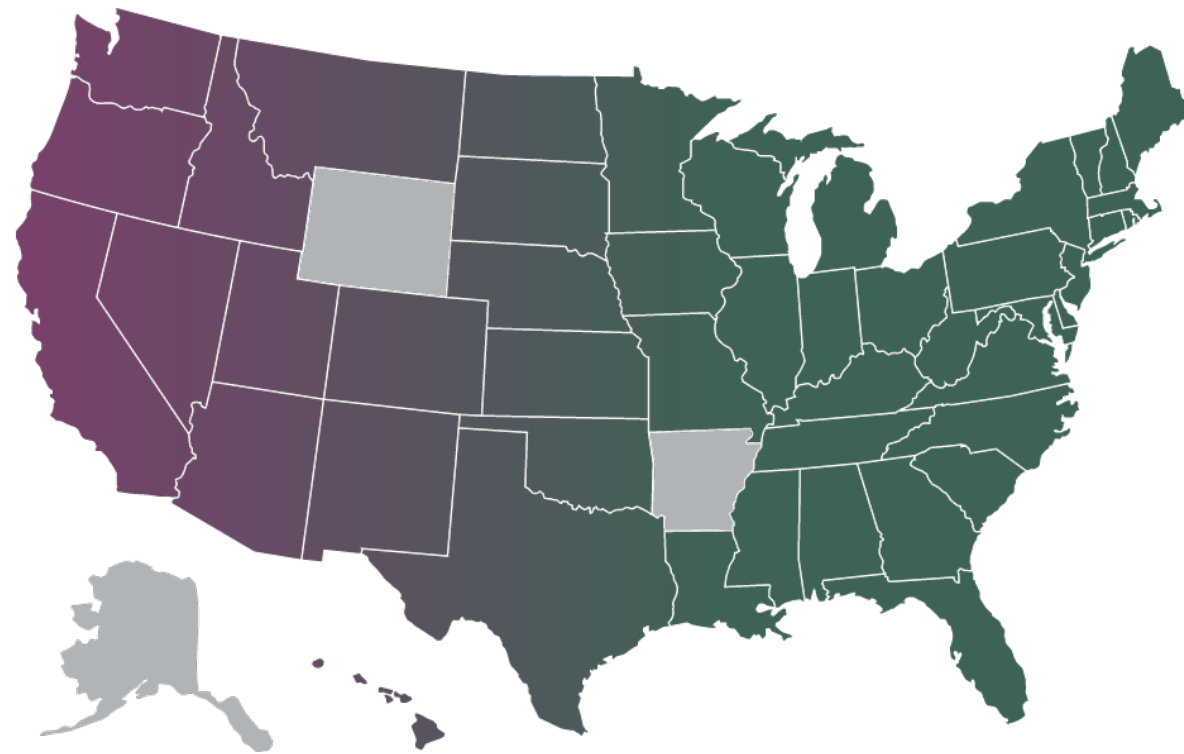
Demonstration Projects

- Pragmatic trials embedded in healthcare systems to address questions of major public health importance

- Projects span multiple NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices

- 1-year planning phase followed by implementation phase

Reach of Demonstration Projects

>1,100 clinical sites across 94% of the United States

>940,000 subjects

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Lessons Learned

- Expected
  - Missing data
  - Staff turnover
  - Decreased fidelity to intervention
  - Evolving HCS
  - ICD9 to ICD10

- Unexpected
  - Staff turnover <u>frequency</u>
  - Impact of intervention fidelity/adherence
  - New EHR launched
  - Time effects (guidelines)–stepped wedge design
  - Availability of data at end

Living Textbook of Pragmatic Clinical Trials

- Comprehensive resource for PCTs

- Content organized around Design, Conduct, Dissemination, and Ethics and Regulatory collections

- Authors from Demonstration Projects, Cores, and partners

- Continuously updated

www.rethinkingclinicaltrials.org

High-Profile Articles

Annals of Internal Medicine

Ideas and Opinions | 7 November 2017

Data Sharing and Embedded Research

MEDICAL CARE

Official Journal of the Medical Care Section, American Public Health Association

Celebrating 60 Years of Publishing Excellence

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Comparison of Approaches for Notification and Authorization in Pragmatic Clinical Research Evaluating Commonly Used Medical Practices

the bmj

A guide to research partnerships for pragmatic clinical trials

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Perspective

Is Learning Worth the Trouble? — Improving Health Care System Participation in Embedded Research

AJPH

Navigating the Murky Waters of Colorectal Cancer Screening and Health Reform

Cooperative Agreements

What is a U Mechanism?

- U mechanisms – U01, **UG3/UH3**, and U24 – are cooperative agreement awards
  - Used for Investigator-Initiated applications
  - Used by the federal government when the funding agency anticipates federal staff will have involvement in the activities of the award
  - At the time of funding, NIH will assign two staff members to work with investigators:
    1. Program Director/Official who is responsible for the administration of the award, review of progress reports, etc.
    2. Project Scientist who works directly with the investigators as part of the team and participates in trial planning and oversight

Benefits of a Cooperative Agreement with a Shared Coordinating Center

- Allows active partnership between NIH and Investigator Team
- More frequent communication
  - **Program Scientist is part of your team**
  - Tell us what is really going on so we can help
  - Connect you with resources across NIH to resolve challenges and overcome barriers
- Coordinating Center for the PRISM/Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory
  - Have assisted 23 ePCTs successfully transition and implement
  - Working Groups/Cores set up to address the challenging areas
  - Additional scientific expertise to help your project

What Is a Phased Award?

- Used when the supported research has two distinct phases (e.g., UG3/UH3) with separate aims

- Transition to the second phase is dependent on whether the first phase achieves the negotiated milestones

  - Examples include test and refine data extraction methods; Institute/Center and DSMB approval of study protocol; finalize all training manuals for sites; active participant in PRISM/HCS Collaboratory activities, etc.

- If milestones are met, transition to the second phase of funding occurs after administrative review by funding Institute/Center (may get input from trans-NIH PRISM/HCS Collaboratory Implementation Team)

Transition Process

- Pre-Award negotiation of milestones
  - Want them to be objective
  - Easy to evaluate if they have been met – Yes or No

- Letter from NIH will describe the process
  - Submit per instructions, **2-3 months prior to transition time** (build into timelines)
  - Planning "year" is really 9-10 months
  - Document how you have met milestones
  - Still need to submit progress report electronically on due date

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NIH Review Considerations

- UG3 milestones met

- Potential for meeting UH3 milestones

- Participation in PRISM/Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory Activities

- Input from NIH Implementation Team (possible)

- Fit of UH3 milestones and NIH priorities

- Availability of funds