



# Pilot Projects as Catalysts for Research Initiatives

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Pilot grants are small financial investments given out by Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) hubs to facilitate new clinical and translational research projects. NJ ACTS is one of 65 CTSA hubs. For this project, the goal was to evaluate CTSA pilot grants across hubs, to see how NJ ACTS operates in comparison, and potentially propose changes. Initial research on CTSA pilot award programs was conducted using the CTSA Search Solutions tool, and the data was compiled and analyzed using excel. Surveys created in REDCap were distributed to colleagues at all CTSA hubs to gather additional information and thoughts on pilots. The data was collated to see how NJ ACTS compares to other pilot programs. NJ ACTS utilizes REDCap to collect applications, as do 14 other CTSA hubs. Overall, surveys show NJ ACTS is following similar processes for letter of intent and application due dates, having a standing review committee, and choosing categories to fund awards. Award categories for Clinical/Translational Innovation, Methodology/Infrastructure, and Partnership/ Collaboration are shared with 47, 25, and 41 institutions, respectively. NJ ACTS requires collaboration from multiple institutions, as do 28 other hubs. As a relatively new CTSA hub, NJ ACTS is on the right track. It operates comparably regarding the number of awards and the review process. It does not, however, have a public notification of award date, and notifications tend to go out relatively late. NJ ACTS focused on COVID-19, which 11 other CTSA hubs did too. Using the survey data, NJ ACTS can implement modest changes, better serving its scientific community. The methods shown here can be utilized by any hub to understand how they compare and can implement changes to improve their pilot programs.

## Pilot Projects as Catalysts for Research Initiatives

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**Evaluation of NJ ACTS Pilot Program to better serve its community**

**CTSA Search Solutions Tool**

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**REDCap Survey to 64 CTSA Hubs**

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**Excel Database to Collate Data**

**Successes:**

- Submission dates
- Use of REDCap
- Facilitate collaboration
- Standing review committee
- Address current issues
- Award categories

**Areas to address:**

- Notification of award date
- RFA release date

**As a new CTSA Hub, NJ ACTS is on the right track**

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**Next Steps:**

- Address and release RFA earlier
- Continue to address current issues (COVID-19)
- Have official notification of award date

**Methods**

**Results**

**Conclusion**