Pilot FAQs

Q: I have an active NJ ACTS Pilot Grant award. Can apply for a second award to continue this project?
A: Recipients of NJ ACTS Pilot Grants are not eligible to apply for additional pilots in any category while their awards are active. Pilots are not renewable and an application to continue a project would be considered ineligible.

Q: Can [name of organization] be a valued partner?
A: The category of 'valued partner' is broad, recognizing that there are many entities that can bring 'value' to a research project. The only limitation is that the entity bring something of real value to the project. It can be access to their patient population (and the computing necessary to develop the data dump) or access to a piece of equipment or funding, etc.

Q: Can a No Cost Extension be requested for the pilot funding?
A: No. This is per NIH/NCATS policy.

Q: Can a PI request a budget change?
A: Yes, a budget change can be requested as long as it does not change the approved scope of work based on any compliance already approved by NCATS. Please email request to njacts@rbhs.rutgers.edu with subject line PILOT BUDGET MODIFICATION.

Q: Will a progress report be expected?
A. Yes. A progress report will be requested yearly for inclusion in the NJ ACTS progress report to NCATS. It will be requested each November-December and include progress, publications and funding updates. A final report is also required. We will also request information annually from prior awardees on publications and funding.

Q. Can a foreign national be included in pilot project?
A. Yes. Foreign nationals – students, postdocs, etc. – can be included in pilot project budgets.

Q. What if my project is not considered human subjects research?
A. Projects that are not considered human subjects research should have an IRB determination letter so that it can be presenting in the event of audits.

Q. I already have an IRB approval for another project, can I use it for my pilot proposal?
A. IRB approvals should cover the entire scope of the pilot project. Additional documents, such as protocols, may be requested for NIH submission depending on the risk classification of your research. The title of the pilot project must also be listed on the IRB approval document – either as the official or short title.