The Grant Seeking Environment at NIH: Notes for Faculty at the 7C’s, May 2017

aka: nih.gov

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Claremont Graduate University
What is NIH? Alphabet Soup, $$\$$, and Scope

- **The nation’s premier medical research agency** Part of USDHHS, part of PHS along with CDC, FDA, HRSA, AHRQ, SAMHSA, IHS...

- **World’s largest grant-maker:** 2017 budget $32 Billion, of which external grants exceed **$25 Billion**, mainly research project grants (RPGs) to domestic universities and academic medical centers

- **Has 24 grant-giving Institutes and Centers (IC’s) + 3 internal service Centers.** Each grant-giving IC has its own research agenda. Most but not all focus on disease types or organ systems (Cancer, Heart/Lung/Blood, Drug Abuse)

- **Funds all disciplines bearing on human health:** life sciences, biophysics, bioengineering, biotechnology, bioinformatics, biostatistics, applied math, epidemiology, applied computer science, behavioral & social sciences
What is NIH? Bricks & Mortar + Politics

Headquarters and $6B of research: Main campus, Bethesda, Md., 300 acres, 75 buildings.

James Shannon Building  
(Bldg. #1, 1938)

Mark O. Hatfield & Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Centers

Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center (Building #40)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Claremont Graduate University
How does NIH Work?

Your best pages at nih.gov

Claremont Graduate University
About Grants

An orientation to NIH funding, grant programs, how the grants process works, and how to apply.
Grants Basics

Before getting started, learn why it is important to understand the structure of NIH and how we approach grant funding. what types of organizations and people are eligible to apply what we look for in a research project, and the types of grant programs we offer.

Understanding NIH: Finding the Right Fit for Your Research

As you begin your journey in search of NIH grant funding, learn why understanding the structure of NIH is important to successfully navigate the grants process. Learn more.

- What Does NIH Look For?
  The NIH provides financial support in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to support the advancement of the NIH mission to enhance health, extend healthy lives, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability. We encourage submission of unique projects of high scientific caliber. Learn more about our interest in both NIH-requested research and unsolicited research projects. Learn more.

- Who is Eligible?
  Each type of NIH grant program has its own set of eligibility requirements. Applicants can find eligibility information in Section III of each funding opportunity announcement (FOA). While the principal investigator conceives and writes the application, NIH recognizes the applicant institution as the grantee for most grant types. Learn more.

- Types of Grant Programs
  This page will help you explore the types of grant funding NIH offers, from research grants to center development awards, research training and fellowships, center grants, and more.
Your videos at the NIH YouTube Channel
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The NIH provides financial support in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts. This assistance supports the advancement of the NIH mission of enhancing health, extending healthy life, and reducing the burdens of illness and disability. While NIH awards many grants specifically for research, we also provide grant opportunities that support research-related activities, including: fellowship and training, career development, scientific conferences, resource and construction. Learn more about the types of programs NIH supports. We encourage:

- **Projects of High Scientific Caliber**

  NIH looks for grant proposals of high scientific caliber that are relevant to public health needs and are within NIH Institute and Center (IC) priorities. ICs highlight their research priorities on their individual websites. Applicants are urged to contact the appropriate scientific program staff at the Institute or Center to discuss the relevancy and/or focus of their proposed research before submitting an application.

- **NIH-Requested Research**

  NIH Institutes and Centers regularly identify specific research areas and program priorities to carry out their scientific missions. To encourage and stimulate research and the submission of research applications in these areas, many ICs will issue funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) in the form of program announcements (PAs) and requests for applications (RFAs). These FOAs may be issued to support research in an understudied area of science, to take advantage of current scientific opportunities, to address a high scientific program priority, or to meet additional needs in research training and infrastructure. To find an FOA in your scientific field, search the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts which includes all funding opportunities offered by NIH, or Grants.gov to search across all Federal agencies.

- **Unsolicited Research**

  NIH supports “unsolicited” research and training applications that do not fall within the scope of NIH-requested targeted announcements. These applications originate from your research idea or training need, yet also address the scientific mission of the NIH and one or more of its ICs. These “unsolicited” applications should be submitted through “parent announcements (PAs),” which are funding opportunity announcements that span the breadth of the NIH mission.

- **Unique Research Projects**

  Projects must be unique. By law, NIH cannot support a project already funded or pay for research that has already been done. Although you may not send the same application to more than one Public Health Service (PHS) agency at the same time, you can apply to an organization outside the PHS with the same application. If the project gets funded by another organization, however, it cannot be funded by NIH as well.
What does NIH Look For?

- Types of Grant Programs
- Who is Eligible
- Types of Applications
- Plan Your Application
- How to Apply
- Learn the Basics
- Understand NIH
- What Does NIH Look For

Home > About Grants > Grants Basics > What Does NIH Look For
What has NIH looked for (funded) in the past?

NIH RePORTER Search Tool
What does NIH want to fund next?

NIH Funding Opportunity Notices
What types of grants does NIH fund?

- The main types of NIH grant funding
  - **Research Grants** (R series, e.g. R01, the most common type)
  - Career Development Awards (K series, e.g. K08, individual support)
  - Research Training and Fellowships (T & F series, e.g. F31, predoc and postdoc)
  - Program Project/Center Grants (P series, e.g. P50, projects and “cores”)
NIH R series grants (1)

• **Research Project Grant (R01)**
  • Discrete, well specified, circumscribed projects for which preliminary study results are generally presented in the proposal
  • Generally awarded for 3 -5 years, may be competitively renewed
  • Usually no specific dollar limit, but advance permission required for $500,000 or more (direct costs) in any year

• **Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15)**
  • Supports small research projects in the biomedical and behavioral sciences conducted by faculty with undergraduate and/or graduate students in colleges or universities *that have not been major recipients of NIH research grant funds*
  • Up to 3 years, total direct cost limited to $300,000
NIH R series grants (2)

• **Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant (R21)**
  - New, exploratory, and developmental research projects. Sometimes used for pilot and feasibility studies. No preliminary data is required (usually)
  - Up to two years, combined total direct costs usually not to exceed $275,000.

• **Small Research Grant (R03)**
  - For pilot or feasibility studies, collection of preliminary data, secondary analysis of existing data, small self-contained projects, development of new research technology, etc.
  - For 1 or 2 years, not renewable, funding limited to $50,000/year
NIH R series grants (3)

- **NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings (R13)**
  - Support for high quality conferences/scientific meetings that are relevant to NIH's scientific mission and to the public health
  - Requires advance permission from the funding Institute or Center (IC)
  - Award amounts vary, set by individual IC
  - Up to 5 years may be possible
How Hard is it to get an NIH grant?

NIH Data Book
How hard is it to get your **first** NIH grant?

NIH Data Book
Good luck at NIH!

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