



Navigating the NIH for Early Career Researchers

October 21, 2020

Research Development Services

Funding Related Services	Funding searches and strategy
	Pivot trainings
	Internal funding programs coordination
Proposal Services	Checklists and templates
	Critique and copy-edits
	Guidance on funding guidelines
Other Services	Oversee limited submissions – internal competitions
	Institutional support coordination and letters

Housekeeping Items



Mute button	• Please stay muted unless asking a question
Chat Box	• Address questions at stopping points in the presentation
Recording	• Recording the workshop • Post it online for your reference
Slides	• Email PDF of slides to everyone after the workshop

Agenda



- **Overview of NIH**
 - Mission and goals
 - Budget and organizational structure
- **Understanding Different Centers/Institutes**
- **Roles of Program Personnel**
- **Funding Opportunities**
 - How to find and comprehend
- **NIH for Early Career Researchers**
 - Early career mechanisms
 - Early Stage Investigator vs. New Investigator

NIH Mission

NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

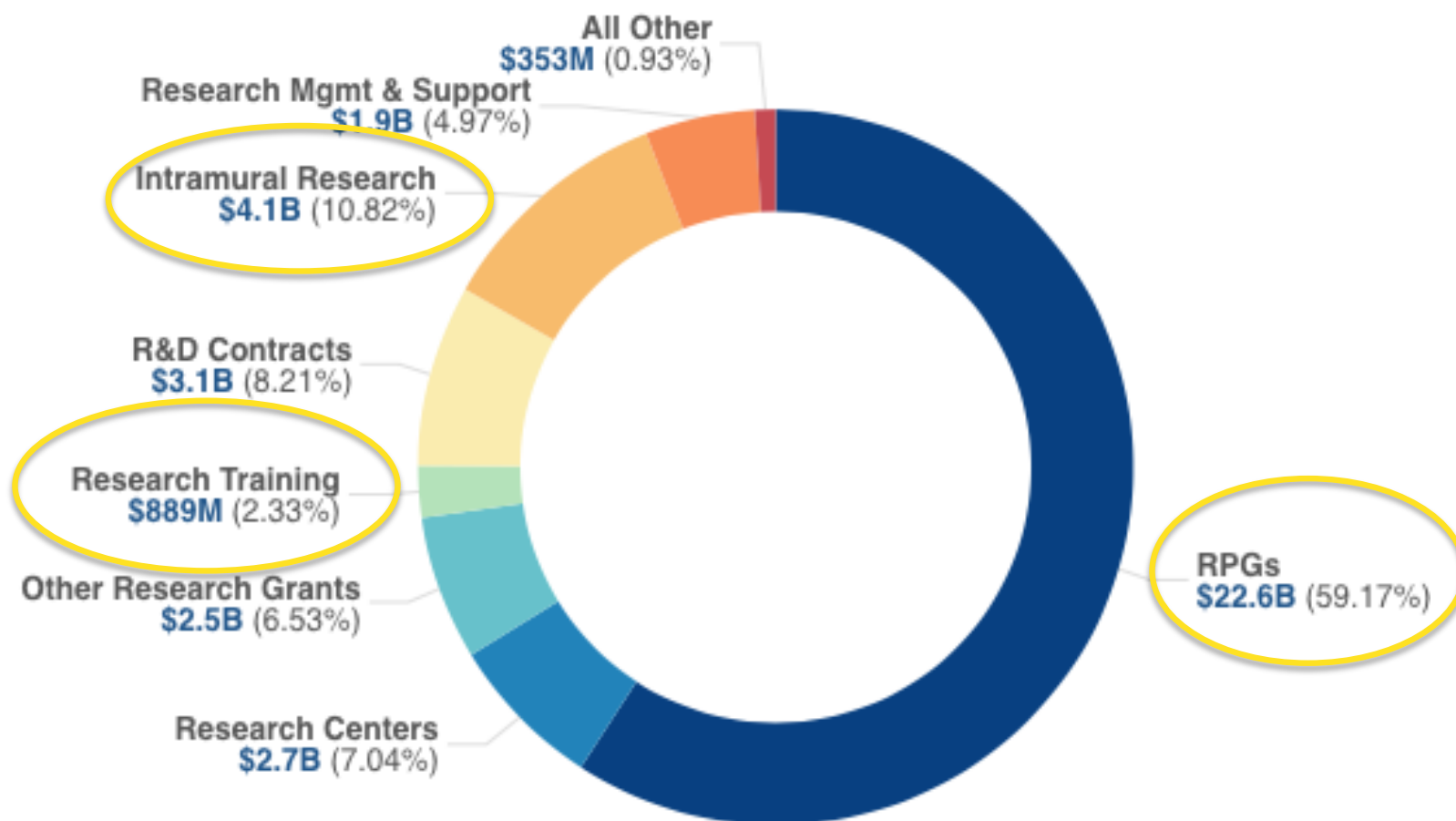
NIH Goals

- To foster fundamental creative discoveries, innovative research strategies, and their applications as a basis for ultimately protecting and improving health.
- To develop, maintain, and renew scientific human and physical resources that will ensure the Nation's capability to prevent disease.

NIH Goals

- To expand the knowledge base in medical and associated sciences in order to enhance the Nation's economic well-being and ensure a continued high return on the public investment in research.
- To exemplify and promote the highest level of scientific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility in the conduct of science.

2019 NIH Budget Allocation



NIH Structure

Comprised of 27 institutes and centers, each with different:

- Mission & priorities
- Budget
- Funding strategy



NIH Funding Strategies

NIH Institute and Center Funding Strategies

- ORIP - Office of Research Infrastructure Programs, Division of Program of the Director
- FIC - Fogarty International Center
- NCATS - National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
- NCCIH - National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health
- NCI - National Cancer Institute
- NEI - National Eye Institute
- NHGRI - National Human Genome Research Institute
- NHLBI - National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
- NIA - National Institute on Aging
- NIAAA - National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

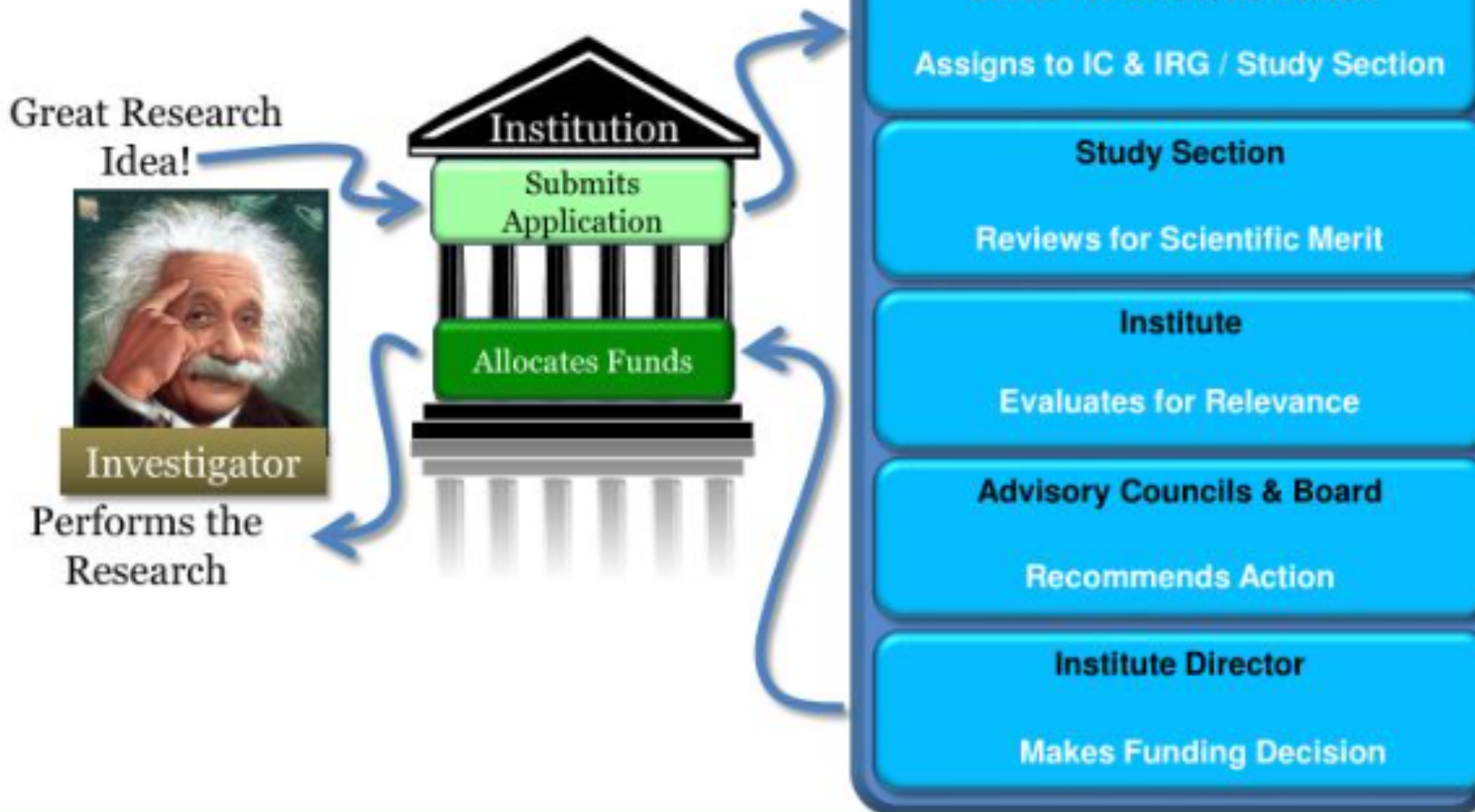
NIH Paylines

Each Center or Institute has its own payline strategy, using Overall Impact Score (OIS), or percentile, or both.

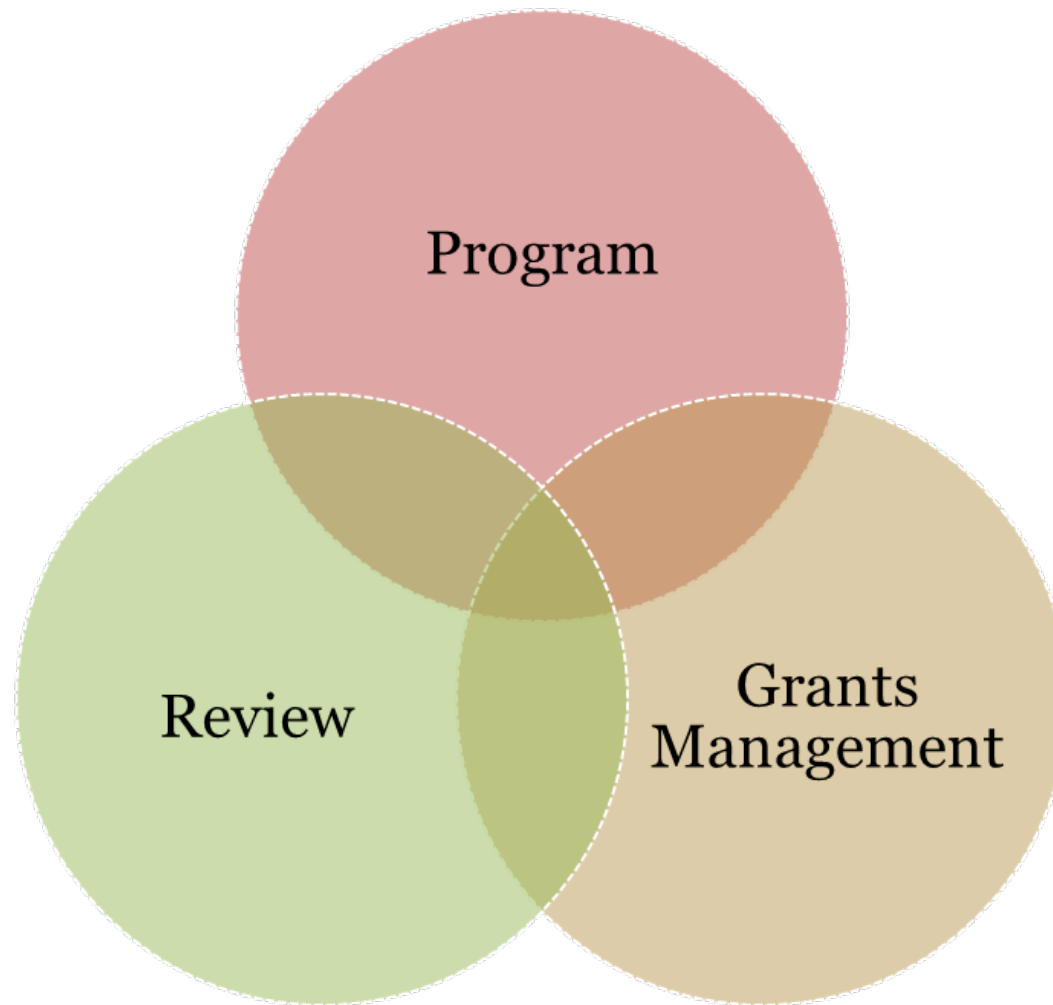
Institute	Funding Mechanism	Payline/OIS
NIAID	R01 (new PI)	16%
	R01 (non-new PI)	12%
	R03	28 OIS
	R21	28 OIS
NIGMS	No payline published per funding policies	
NIDDK ⁺	R01 (new PI)	18%
	R01 (non-new PI)	13%

NIH Grant Cycle

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Extramural Organizational Structure



Program Officer

- Develops initiatives for the IC
- Responsible for the programmatic, scientific, and/or technical aspects of a grant
- Provides scientific guidance to investigators pre- and post-award including whether your research is a clinical trial
- Approves budgets with >\$500K in direct costs (required)
- Available to discuss summary statement and outcome of review
- Provides post-award oversight

Find PO using NIH Matchmaker

- Find NIH funded grants on topics related to yours
- Program Official tab identifies ones' associated with the matched projects

The screenshot shows the 'PROGRAM OFFICIAL' tab selected in the NIH Matchmaker interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'PROJECTS' and 'PROGRAM OFFICIAL'. Below the tabs is a search bar containing the text 'pediatric cancer'. To the right of the search bar is a 'SELECT' button. Below the search bar, there is a section for 'Fiscal Year (FY)' with a help icon (?). A dropdown menu is open, showing 'Active Projects'. Below the dropdown, there is a note: 'Select options begin with FY 2007.' At the bottom of this section are two buttons: 'RESET' and 'RESUBMIT'. At the very bottom of the interface, there is a summary line: '149 Program Officials from the matched projects. (500 project' and a note: 'Click on chart labels to filter search results by the Institute/Center or Activity Code'.

PROJECTS PROGRAM OFFICIAL

pediatric cancer

Fiscal Year (FY) ? Active Projects SELECT

Select options begin with FY 2007.

RESET RESUBMIT

149 Program Officials from the matched projects. (500 project

Click on chart labels to filter search results by the Institute/Center or Activity Code

PO Information on FOA

Scientific/Research Contact(s)

Primary Contact for FOA:

Wen G. Chen, M.MSc., Ph.D.

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)

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Peer Review Contact(s)

Martina Schmidt, Ph.D.

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Financial/Grants Management Contact(s)

Shelley Carow

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)

Telephone: 301-594-3788

Email: carows@mail.nih.gov

Scientific Review Officer

- Responsible for scientific and technical review
 - Ensures fair and unbiased evaluation of scientific and technical merit
 - Provides a summary of the evaluation
 - Reviews applications for completeness and conformance with application requirements
- Point of contact for applicants during the review process

Grants Management Officer

- Responsible for completion of business management requirements
 - Evaluates applications for administrative content and compliance with policy
 - Negotiates awards
 - Interprets grants administration policies

Types of Funding Opportunities

Type of FOA	Description
Parent Announcements	• Type of program announcement • Generally span the breadth of NIH mission • By activity code (R01, R03, etc.) • For “investigator initiated” or “unsolicited” research ideas • Standard receipt dates
Program Announcements (PA, PAR, PAS)	• Highlights areas of focus for research • Usually ongoing (3 years) • Often use standard receipt dates

Types of Funding Opportunities

Type of FOA	Description
Requests for Applications (RFA)	• Narrowly defined scope • Usually single receipt date • Set aside funds • Institutes & Centers (IC) usually convenes review panel
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI)	• High priority and high opportunity areas of research • No set aside funds or special review criteria • Direct faculty to use existing FOAS for application guidance

Finding Funding Opportunities

- **Pivot**
 - Funding opportunities database
 - Search by funder
 - Weekly updates based on your profile keywords, tracked opportunities, and saved searches
- [NIH Guide Listserv](#)
 - Receive weekly updates on Friday
- **Grants.gov**

Understanding FOAs

1. [Advice on how to read an FOA](#)
2. [Annotated guide example](#)
3. [Clinical trial guidance](#)

Funding Opportunity Title

NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Required)

Activity Code

[R01](#) Research Project Grant

Announcement Type

New

Related Notices

- **January 28, 2019** - Notice of Special Interest on Methodological Advances to Improve Alcohol Measurement and its Consequences for People Living with HIV who have Comorbidities, Coinfections, and Complications. See Notice [NOT-AA-19-006](#).
- **December 21, 2018** - NIMH Acceptance of Clinical Trial Applications under the Parent R01 and R21 Clinical Trial Required, or Basic Experimental Studies Involving Humans (BESH) Announcements is Limited to Mechanistic Clinical Trials. See Notice [NOT-MH-19-006](#).

Participating ICs

National Institutes of Health ([NIH](#))

National Human Genome Research Institute ([NHGRI](#))

National Institute on Aging ([NIA](#))

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism ([NIAAA](#))

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases ([NIAID](#))

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders ([NIDCD](#))

National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#))

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences ([NIEHS](#))

National Institute of Nursing Research ([NINR](#))

The following Institutes/Centers only accept [mechanistic studies](#) that meet NIH's definition of a [clinical trial](#). See Related Notices section below.

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases ([NIAMS](#))

National Institute of Mental Health ([NIMH](#))

Note: Not all NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) participate in Parent Announcements. Applicants should carefully note which ICs participate in this announcement and view their respective areas of research interest at the [R21 Clinical Trial Required IC-Specific Scientific Interests and Contact website](#). Applicants should also carefully note which ICs accept only mechanistic trials by viewing the Related Notices. ICs that do not participate in this announcement will not consider applications for funding.

Additional Guidance

Announcement Type

Reissue of PA-18-484 (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-18-484.html>)

Related Notices

- October 22, 2019 - Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Geospatial Approaches in Cancer Control and Population Sciences. See Notice [NOT-CA-20-004](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-004.html) ([/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-004.html](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-004.html)).
- October 22, 2019 - Notice of Special Interest: Promoting research opportunities on HIV/AIDS in NIAIDS. See Notice [NOT-AR-20-005](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AR-20-005.html) ([/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AR-20-005.html](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AR-20-005.html)).
- October 09, 2019 - Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Epidemiologic Studies to Characterize Cardiovascular Health and its Predictors and Trajectories in Diverse Groups of Children. See Notice [NOT-HL-19-711](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-19-711.html) ([/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-19-711.html](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-19-711.html)).
- October 09, 2019 - Notice of Special Interest: Understanding the biology of iodine nutrition, assessment, and outcomes in women, infants, and children (R01, R21, R03). See Notice [NOT-HD-19-028](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-028.html) ([/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-028.html](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-028.html)).
- October 09, 2019 - Notice of Special Interest: Research on Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC). See Notice [NOT-HD-19-022](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-022.html) ([/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-022.html](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-022.html)).
- October 09, 2019 - Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Use of Biological Information to Understand How the Interplay of Environmental Exposures and Genes Influences Cancer Risk. See Notice [NOT-CA-20-002](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-002.html) ([/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-002.html](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-002.html)).
- October 8, 2019 - Consolidated Notice on NCCIH Clinical Trials Policies. See Notice [NOT-AT-20-001](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AT-20-001.html) ([/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AT-20-001.html](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AT-20-001.html)).
- September 25, 2019 - Notice of Special Interest: Nutrigenetics and Nutrigenomics Approaches for Nutrition Research. See Notice [NOT-DK-19-019](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DK-19-019.html) ([/grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DK-19-019.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DK-19-019.html)).
- September 20, 2019 - Notice of Special Interest: Research to Advance the Understanding and Management of the Multiple Organ Dysfunction Syndrome in Children (R01, R21). See Notice [NOT-HD-19-023](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-023.html) ([/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-023.html](https://grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-19-023.html)).

Standard Due Dates

Application Due Date(s)

Standard dates ([///grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11111](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11111)) apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization. All types of non-AIDS applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on these dates.

Application Due Dates

Search for Activity Code:

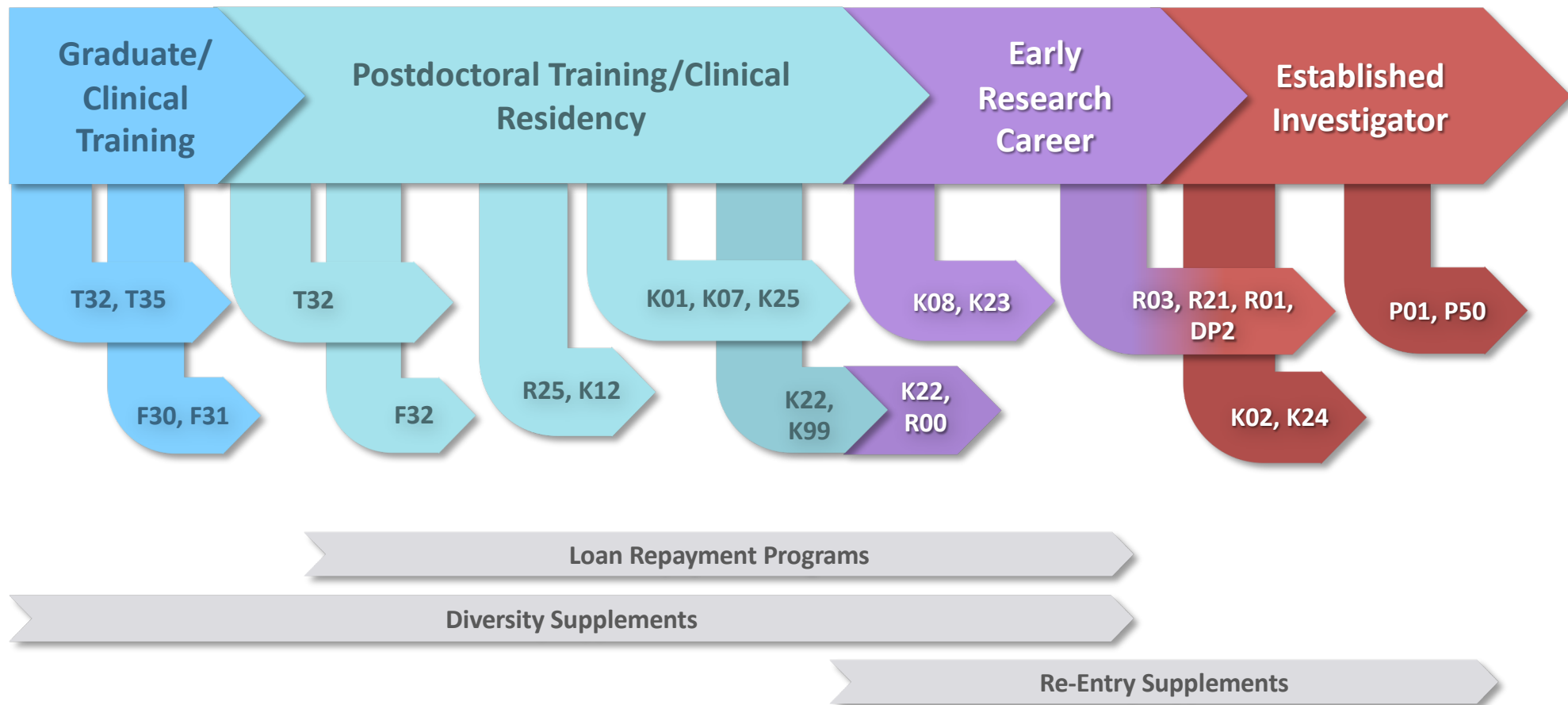
Activity Codes	Program Description	Cycle I Due Date	Cycle II Due Date	Cycle III Due Date
P Series <i>All - new, renewal, resubmission, revisions</i>	Program Project Grants and Center Grants NOTE: Applicants should check with the relevant Institute or Center (IC), since some do not accept P series applications for all three receipt/review/award cycles.	January 25	May 25	September 25
R18, U18 R25 <i>All - new, renewal, resubmission, revision</i>	Research Demonstration Education Projects	January 25	May 25	September 25

Review and Award Cycle

	Cycle I	Cycle II	Cycle III
Application Due Dates	January 25 - May 7	May 25 - September 7	September 25 - January 7
Scientific Merit Review	June - July	October - November	February - March
Advisory Council Round	August or October *	January	May
Earliest Project Start Date	September or December *	April	July

Funding Opportunities for Early Career Researchers

Funding Mechanism by Career Stage



NI: New Investigator

An investigator who has not previously received substantial, independent funding from NIH.

Following awards are NOT considered substantial:

- R00, R03, R21, R56, etc.
- Any training mechanism (F, T)
- Institutional or individual K series for career development/mentorship
- Loan repayment

ESI: Early Stage Investigator

Any NI investigator who is also within 10 years of completing his/her terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residency

ESI Applying for R01 or DP2 grants:

- Receive special attention at Review (career stage) and at National Advisory Council (high program priority)
- No imposed reductions in duration and amount of awards (beyond the recommendations of the initial review group)
- Increased payline for scored R01 applications from Early-Stage Investigators

Extending ESI status

Some researchers may have lapses in their research or research training or have experienced periods of less than full-time effort. NIH will consider requests to extend the ESI status period, including

- medical concerns
- disability
- family care responsibilities
- natural disasters
- active duty military service

All are determined on a case by case basis at the sole discretion of NIH.

Extending ESI status

Principal investigators can submit a request for an ESI extension via an ESI Extension Request link found in the Education section of the PI's Personal Profile in [eRA Commons](#).

For step-by-step instructions, see the [ESI Extension Request online help](#) and the [ESI Status Extension Request video tutorial](#).

Mechanism	Description
R01	• Used to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed research project • Need extensive preliminary data • Used by all ICs • Renewable
R03	• Provides limited funding for a short period of time to support a variety of types of projects, including: pilot or feasibility studies, collection of preliminary data, secondary analysis of existing data, small, self-contained research projects, etc. • \$50K direct costs per year over two years • Used by more than half of the NIH ICs • Consider UO INTERNAL funding
R21	• Encourages new, exploratory and developmental research projects by providing support for the early stages of project development. Sometimes used for pilot and feasibility studies. • No preliminary data is generally required*** • \$275,000 in direct costs over two years • Most ICs utilize

Mechanism	Description
K-Series	• For support of a scientist/clinician, committed to research, in need of both advanced research training and additional experience • Transition between career stages
DP2	• To support highly innovative research projects by new investigators in all areas of biomedical and behavioral research.
R35 - MIRA	• Funds multiple lines of research in one award • Only NIGMS supports this mechanism • Cannot have other major NIH award • 5 years of support

DP2: NIH Director's New Innovator Award

- Supports ESIs of exceptional creativity who propose bold and highly innovative new research approaches that have the potential to produce a major impact in biomedical and behavioral research
- Awardees are required to commit at least 25% of their research effort each year to activities supported by the New Innovator Award
- \$1.5M in direct costs over 5 years
- Typically due late August/early September

NIGMS MIRA for Early Stage Investigators (R35)

- Supports ESI faculty within 10 years of earning PhD or MD
- Awardees are required to commit at least 75% of their research effort each year to activities
- Single PI only
- \$1.5M in direct costs over 5 years
- Typically due early October
- Can have both an R01 and R35 being reviewed simultaneously, but can only accept one
- Letter from dean or chairperson

Become an Early Career Reviewer

- Have at least 2 years experience as a full-time faculty member or researcher in a similar role. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible.
- Show evidence of an active, independent research program. Examples include publications, presentations, institutional research support, patents, acting as supervisor of student projects.
- Have at least 2 recent senior-authored research publications in peer-reviewed journals in the last 2 years.
- In press publications are considered and author position can be as single author, corresponding author, or first or last author.

Work with RDS

Contact us for supporting the development of your proposals.

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