

# Navigating NIH/NCI Research Funding Opportunities: A Journey of Exploration & Understanding

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Division of Extramural Activities (DEA)

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

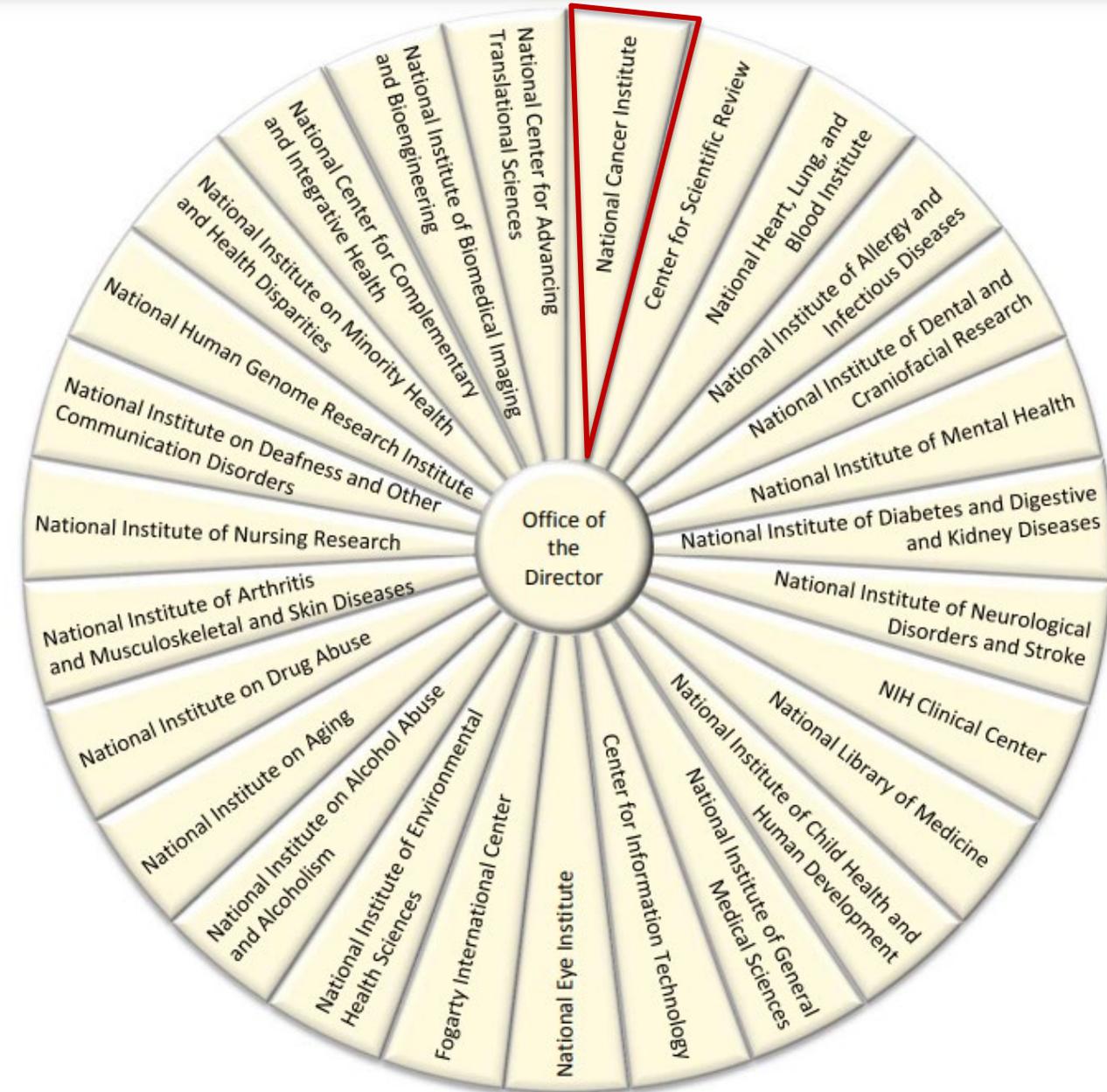
# Presentation Outline

- Development of Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)
- Spectrum of Funding Mechanisms at NIH/NCI
- FOA Types
- Components of an FOA
- Notices related to FOAs
- Finding FOAs
- Applying for an FOA
- Review of Grant Applications

# National Institutes of Health's Mission and Its Components

**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 the burdens of illness and disability.

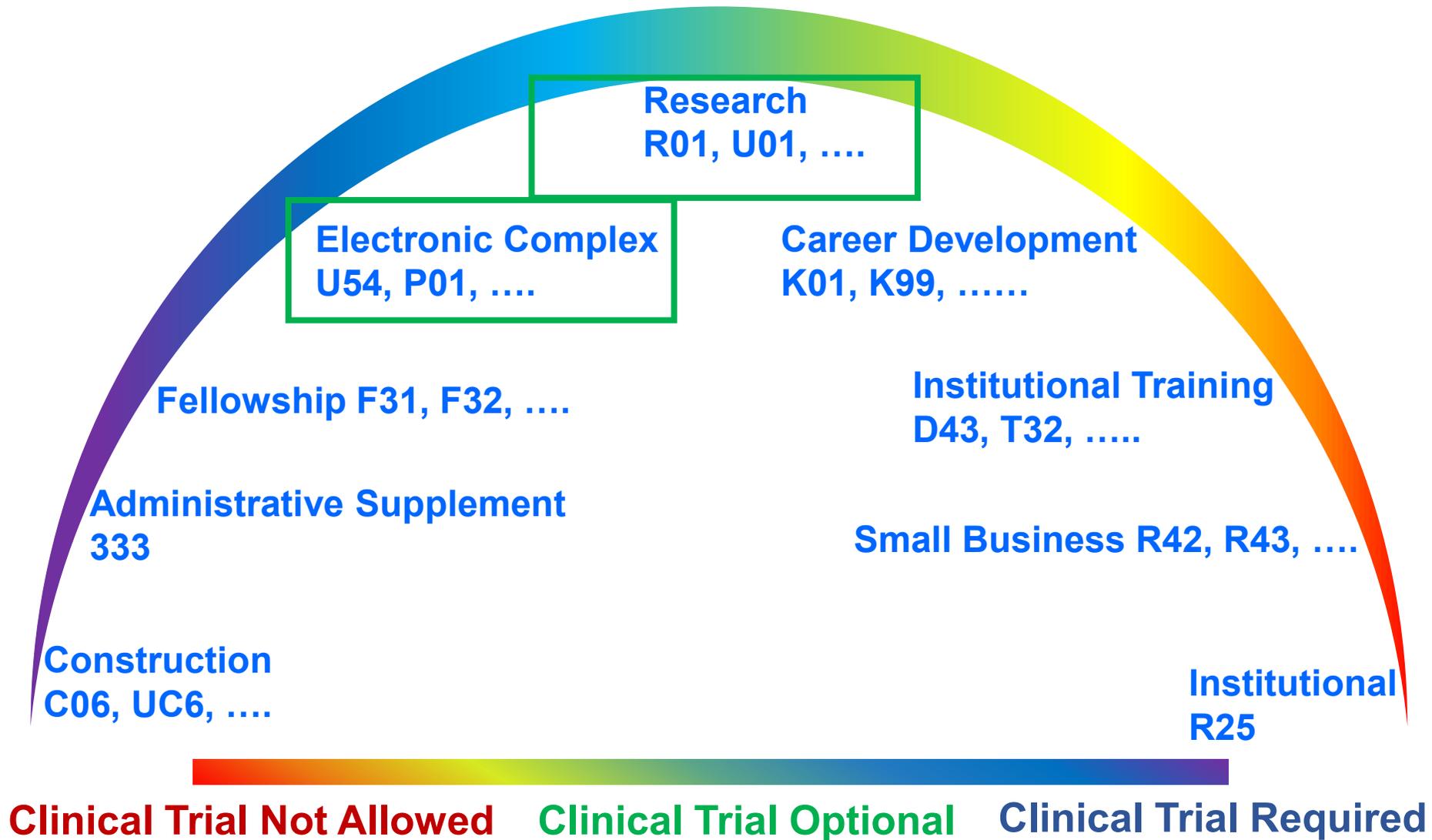
- **Intramural Research**
- **Extramural Research**



# FOA Development at NCI: Overview of the Process

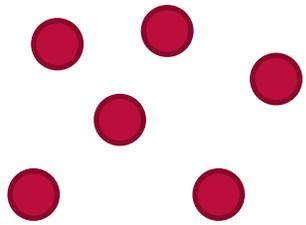
- **Concept:** Scientific Research Area to Focus
- **Approval:** First tier of review (DOC Director, SPL, & BSA)
- **Writing:** Using the right template
- **Review:** Second tier of review (NCI DEA)
- **Review:** Third tier of review (NCI OGA & NIH Guide)
- **Address Review Comments:** Final tier of review (NIH Guide Quality Control)
- **Publication:** The Funding Opportunity is Announced to the Public

# FOA: Choosing the Right Mechanism from a Spectrum of Mechanisms



# FOA: Choosing the Right Mechanism from a Spectrum of Mechanisms

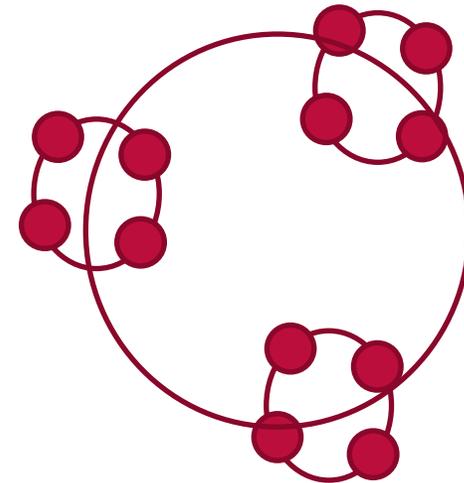
**Single Component**  
Rs, Fs, Ks, etc.



**Cooperative Agreement**  
Substantial Programmatic Involvement  
U mechanisms



**Multi-Component**  
With OR Without  
Cooperative Agreement



# FOA: Choosing the Announcement Type

## ➤ Request For Application (RFA)



**Special**

- **Science:** Well-defined scientific area to accomplish specific program objectives
- **Fund:** Set-aside fund (all participating ICs must commit funds) **required.**
- **Receipt Date(s):** **Special**; Single or Multiple
- **Review:** NCI
- **Review Criteria:** Standard NIH review criteria + FOA Specific

## ➤ Program Announcement (PA)

### ○ Parent PA:

- Broad scientific areas issued by NIH OD/OER requesting “investigator-initiated” or “unsolicited” applications
- **Receipt Date(s):** Standard
- **Review:** CSR
- **Review Criteria:** Standard NIH review criteria
- **Note:** Not all ICs participate in the Parent PAs

# FOA: Choosing the Announcement Type

## ➤ Program Announcement (PA)

### ○ PA with Set-aside funds (PAS)

- **Science:** Highlight areas of specific scientific interest
- **Fund:** Set-aside fund is **required**
- **Receipt Date(s):** Standard
- **Review:** CSR/NCI
- **Review Criteria:** Special review criteria not allowed

### ○ PA with special Receipt, Referral and/or Review (PAR)

- **Science:** A new or ongoing interest in a research area
- **Fund:** Set-aside fund is allowed but not required
- **Receipt Date(s):** Standard or Special
- **Review:** CSR/NCI
- **Review Criteria:** Standard NIH review criteria + FOA Specific

# Different Components of an FOA

**Part 1. Overview Information - Participating ICs; Key Dates**

**Part 2. Full Text of the Announcement**

**Section I. Funding Opportunity Description – Science; Non-Responsive Applications**

**Section II. Award Information – Application Type; Fund Available; Award Budget & Period**

**Section III. Eligibility Information – Required Registration**

**Section IV. Application and Submission Information – LOI; Budget; Research Plan**

**Section V. Application Review Information – FOA Specific Review Criteria**

**Section VI. Award Administration Information – Cooperative Agreement - U mechanisms**

**Section VII. Agency Contacts – For additional questions specific to this FOA**

**Section VIII. Other Information**

# Special FOA: Notice Of Special Interest (NOSI)

## Notice Of Special Interest (NOSI)

- **Two Types:** Regular & Administrative Supplement
  - *Regular NOSI:*
    - Scientific topics of interest that **point to published FOA(s)** to which applicants can apply using that FOA's rules.
    - NOSIs don't change the FOA rules.
    - **Only science is different than target FOA(s)**
  - *Administrative Supplement:*
    - Used for supplemental fund (travel, program specific research, diversity) to active grants through NIH Parent Administrative Supplement PA
    - Can modify Project period; Budget limits and allowable costs; Due dates; Eligibility; Page limits; Review process
- **Fund:** Set aside fund not required
- **Receipt Date(s):** Special or follow the target FOA(s)
- **Review:** NCI Program (Admin Suppl) or Follow Target FOAs (Regular)

# Notices Related to Funding Opportunity Announcements

- Notice of Information: *Such as pre-application webinar*
- Notice of Change: *Such as change in 'Key Date(s)'*
- Notice of Intent to Publish: *FOA will be published soon*
- Notice of Policy: *Any policy change related to FOAs*
- Request for information: *on an area of science from the research community*

# Connecting with NIH: Getting Notified About New FOAs

The screenshot shows the NIH Grants & Funding website. At the top left is the NIH logo and the text 'GRANTS & FUNDING NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information'. On the top right is a search bar and links for 'eRA | NIH Staff | Glossary | FA'. A navigation bar below contains 'HOME', 'ABOUT GRANTS', 'FUNDING' (highlighted), 'POLICY & COMPLIANCE', 'NEWS & EVENTS', and 'ABOUT OER'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home » Funding » About the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts'. On the left is a 'FUNDING' sidebar with links: 'Find Grant Funding: NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts' (highlighted), 'Other Transactions', 'Contracts', 'Research Training and Career Development', 'Extramural Diversity', and 'NIH Funding Strategies'. The main content area has the title 'About the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts' and a sub-header 'Weekly NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices Email'. A blue button 'Search for funding opportunities and notices' is highlighted with a red arrow. Below the email sub-header, a blue button 'Subscribe today!' is also highlighted with a red arrow. At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'Current Weekly Funding Opportunities and Notices' and 'Past Mailings'.

**Subscribe to get notified:** <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/about-nih-guide-to-grants-and-contracts.htm>

# Search for NIH FOAs Starts Here

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html>

## Find Grant Funding

NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts

The NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts is NIH's official publication of notices of grant policies, guidelines and funding opportunity announcements (FOAs).

We publish daily and issue a table of contents weekly. Learn more about the NIH Guide and subscribe to receive updates today!

## Search Box

Active Funding Opportunities and Notices Search Terms

Search

Advanced Search

Displaying: 1 to 25 of 15547 results

Results Per Page 25

Export to Share Search Save your Search

Title	FOA/Notice Number	Issuing Organization	Release Date	Expiration Date	Activity Code
Multidisciplinary K12 Urologic Research (KURe) Career Development Program (K12 Clinical Trial Optional)	RFA DK 22 006	NIDDK	Jun 6, 2022	Oct 28, 2022	K12
Solicitation of Nominations for the 2022 National Human Genome Research Institutes Outstanding Award for Enhancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Genomics Workforce	NOT HG 22 014	NHGRI	Jun 6, 2022	N/A	N/A
Research Coordinating Center to Support Climate Change and Health Community of Practice (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	RFA ES 22 003	NIHES	Jun 6, 2022	Aug 26, 2022	U24
<a href="#">Notice of Special Interest: Administrative Supplements to NIH funded T32 and T11 Training Grants to Better Integrate Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) with other Health-Related Sciences</a>	NOT OD 22 141	OBSER	Jun 6, 2022	Jul 12, 2022	Admin Supp
Notice of Special Interest (NDSI): Innovative Technologies for Research on Climate Change and Human Health (R43/R44 Small Business Innovation Research (R43/R44 Clinical Trial Optional)	NOT ES 22 010	NIHES	Jun 3, 2022	Apr 6, 2023	R43/R44
Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Centers of Excellence in Maternal Health Research	NOT HD 22 022	NICHHD	Jun 3, 2022	N/A	N/A
Notice to Extend the Application Due Date for RFA FD 22 020 *OMHHE Educational Funding Opportunity: Expanding education on skin lightening products (U01 Clinical Trials Optional)	NOT FD 22 013	FDA	Jun 3, 2022	N/A	N/A
Notice of Information for Development for Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce in Translational Neuroscience	NOT NS 22 102	NINDS	Jun 3, 2022	N/A	N/A
Notice of Special Interest (NDSI): Innovative Technologies for Research on Climate Change and Human Health Small Business Technology Transfer (R41/R42 Clinical Trial Optional)	NOT ES 22 009	NIHES	Jun 3, 2022	Apr 6, 2023	R41/R42
PHS 2022 2 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH, CDC and FDA for Small Business Innovation Research Grant Applications (Parent SBIR (R43/R44) Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	PA 22 176	OD	Jun 2, 2022	Apr 6, 2023	R43/R44
PHS 2022 2 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH and CDC for Small Business Innovation Research Grant Applications (Parent SBIR (R43/R44) Clinical Trial Required)	PA 22 177	OD	Jun 2, 2022	Apr 6, 2023	R43/R44
PHS 2022 2 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH for Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Applications (Parent STTR (R41/R42) Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	PA 22 178	OD	Jun 2, 2022	Apr 6, 2023	R41/R42
PHS 2022 2 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH for Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Applications (Parent STTR (R41/R42) Clinical Trial Required)	PA 22 179	OD	Jun 2, 2022	Apr 6, 2023	R41/R42
Notice of Information Regarding NCIPC Change to Activity Code Eligibility for PA 21 071 Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	NOT CE 22 002	CDC	Jun 2, 2022	N/A	N/A
Notices of Special Interest (NDSI): High Priority Areas in Integrative Neuroscience Branch in the Division of Neuroscience and Behavior	NOT DA 22 058	NIDA	Jun 2, 2022	Jan 8, 2026	R21, R03, R36, K01, K99/R00, R01
Transformative Research on the Basic Mechanisms of Polysubstance use in Addiction (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	RFA DA 23 015	NIDA	Jun 2, 2022	Nov 15, 2022	R01
Notice of Informational Webinar for BRAIN Initiative Connectivity across Scales (BRAIN CONNECTS) Funding Opportunity Announcements	NOT NS 22 100	NINDS	Jun 1, 2022	N/A	N/A
Needs Assessment Program for National Institutes of Health (NIH) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Awardees	NOT OD 22 133	OD	Jun 1, 2022	N/A	N/A

Organizations

Activity Code

Type of Research

Type of FOAs

Date Range

**Organizations**

Issuing Only  
 All  
 AHRQ  
 CDC  
 DHHS  
 FDA  
 HRSA  
 HHS  
 NASA  
 NIH  
 CSR

**Activity Code**

All  
 332  
 444  
 Admin Supp  
 C06  
 D43  
 D71  
 DP1  
 DP2  
 DPS  
 Other

**Type of Research**

All  
 Clinical Trials  
 Not Clinical Trials

**Type of Funding Opportunities**

All Funding Opportunities  
 Notice of Special Interest  
 PA  
 PAR  
 PAs  
 RFA  
 Parent Announcements

**Date Range**

Release Date

01/02/1991 06/06/2022

# Know Before You Apply

<https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker>

## Matchmaker

Enter abstracts/scientific text



15,000 characters are permitted



Terms weighted by the frequency of appearance



Automated & Confidential



Does not track and store text



Returns lists of similar projects/  
program officials from RePORTER



Summarizes the projects by the  
program official, institute or center,  
review panel, and activity code.

NIH RePORTER

Quick Search

Search RePORTER

Search

Advanced Search

Welcome to the NIH RePORTER

Each award supported by NIH promotes efforts to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and/or the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

Guided Tour

Feedback

Active Funding by State

Select a state to view projects

Active Projects by Institute/Center

Select a bar to view projects for an Institute/Center

Number of Active Projects

Advanced Projects Search

Search using specific criteria to find NIH projects and funding information.

Get Started >

Publications Search

Find publications associated with extramural or intramural funded projects using PubMed IDs (PMID) or PubMed Central IDs (PMC ID).

Matchmaker

Enter abstracts or other scientific text to find potential Program Officials, ICs, and review panels for your research.

15,000 characters left

Reset

Search

Similar Projects

Similar Program Officials

# Important Questions to Ask Before Applying

**NIH funding is very competitive:** <https://report.nih.gov/funding/nih-budget-and-spending-data-past-fiscal-years/success-rates>

Which IC might be interested in your area of science?



Does your area of science fit into that IC's mission and priorities?



Has your area of science (planned project) already been funded?



Is your project/science novel?



Have you decided on the right mechanism (fellowship/career development/research...) & activity code (F, K, R...)?



Have you read carefully different sections ('Participating ICs', 'Key Dates', 'Funding Opportunity Description', Award Information, Eligibility, Submission Requirements, Review Criteria, Award Administration, Agency Contacts) of the FOA.

# Early Stage Investigator (ESI)

## Early Stage Investigator (ESI) Status

### What is ESI?

NIH defines an **Early Stage Investigator (ESI)** as a Program Director / Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award.

### What is the benefit of having an ESI status?

ESI applications with meritorious scores will be prioritized for funding by the institute or center receiving the application.

### How can I check if I have an ESI status?

Check the Education section of your eRA Commons profile. ESI status is determined automatically by functionality built into eRA Commons. The status is based on the investigator's record of receiving NIH grants and the completion date of his/her terminal research degree or the completion of post-graduate clinical training entered into the eRA Commons personal profile.

### Where can I find out more?

You can find more information here:

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm>

Related NEXUS posts: <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/tag/esi/>

FAQs: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/faqs.htm>



Created 4/9/2020

	Will I lose ESI status if...
YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has been more than 10 years since my terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training and I have not experienced situations that qualify for an ESI extension request. (See these <a href="#">FAQs about ESI Extensions</a>.)</li> </ul>
MAYBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am the PD/PI (or multi-PD/PI) on an NIH award.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, if you successfully competed as a PD/PI for a substantial independent research award.</li> <li>No, if you are the PD/PI of an award on our <a href="#">list of smaller grants &amp; awards that maintain ESI status</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>I am the PD/PI (or multi-PD/PI) on a multi-project award.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, if you successfully competed as a PD/PI for the overall multi-project application.</li> <li>No, if you led a component but were not the PD/PI of the overall application.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'm a Co-Investigator on the grant. (NIH only recognizes senior/key with the role PD/PI as principal investigators.)</li> <li>I'm the PD/PI on a subaward or subcontract.</li> <li>I became the PD/PI due to a change of investigator action. (If you did not compete successfully as the PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award you won't lose status.)</li> </ul>

R01-equivalent ESI applications with meritorious scores will be prioritized for funding.

## New Investigator

An investigator who **has not** previously competed successfully for substantial, independent funding from NIH.

NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) fund New Investigators according to the ICs' programmatic and strategic interests.

If your status is incorrect, please contact the [NIH eRA Service Desk](#).

# How to Apply

Resources: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>  
<https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/PlanningAndWriting>

## Prepare to Apply

- Systems and Roles
- Register
- Find Grant Funding
- Understand Funding Opportunities
- Types of Applications
- Submission Options
- Obtain Software

## Write Application

- Write Your Application
- How to Find Forms
- Develop Your Budget
- Format Attachments
- Rules for Text Fields
- Page Limits
- Data Tables
- Reference Letter
- Biosketches

## Submit

• How to Submit

## Planning & Writing

### Planning

Submission Pitfalls

Target Your Application

Understand Your Reviewers

Early Stage Investigator Advantages

Get Application Help

Duplicate and Overlapping Applications

Continuous Submission

### Writing

Sample grant applications

Writing Your Application – Advice from NIH

Writing Your Application – Advice from CSR

Writing Your Cover Letter

Grant Writing Tips

### Additional Resources

Research Involving Human Subjects

Clinical Trials

Inclusion of Women and Minorities

Inclusion of Children

NIH Policy on Data Monitoring

NIH Data Sharing Policy

# Finding the Correct Set of Forms

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/find-forms.htm>

- Each funding opportunity has its own unique set of application forms.
- Once you have identified a [funding opportunity](#) of interest, you must use one of these [submission options](#) to access, prepare and submit the forms needed to apply.
  - [ASSIST](#)
  - Institutional Solutions (System-to-System, S2S)
  - [Grants.gov Workspace](#)(not available for complex, multi-project applications)
- **Check with your administrative officials before choosing how you will submit.**

# Identify a Study Section

<https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART>



Assisted Referral Tool (ART) [Help](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [User Guide](#)

[ART Home](#) >> SRG

Animal Usage?

Enter application text and hit the Submit button to get a list of relevant study sections in two groups, "Strong" and "Possible". Within a group, study sections are listed alphabetically by the SRG acronym

Title

Sample

Clear

# Request a Study Section for Your Application

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-f/general/g.600-phs-assignment-request-form.htm>

## PHS Assignment Request Form

OMB Number: 0925-0001

Expiration Date: 2/28/2023

Funding Opportunity Number:

Funding Opportunity Title:

### Awarding Component Assignment Suggestions *(optional)*

If you have a suggestion for an awarding component (e.g., NIH Institute/Center) assignment, use the link below to identify the appropriate short abbreviation (e.g., "NCI" for National Cancer Institute) and enter it below in the boxes for "Suggested Awarding Components". All suggestions will be considered; however, not all assignment suggestions can be honored.

Information about Awarding Component can be found here: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/phs\\_assignment\\_information.htm#AwardingComponents](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/phs_assignment_information.htm#AwardingComponents)

Suggested Awarding Components:

### Study Section Assignment Suggestions *(optional)*

If you have a suggestion for a study section assignment, use the link below to identify a study section(s). Enter the short abbreviation for that study section in the boxes for "Suggested Study Sections." Remove all hyphens, parentheses, and spaces. All suggestions will be considered; however, not all assignment suggestions can be honored.

For example, enter "CAMP" if you wish to suggest assignment to the NIH Cancer Molecular Pathobiology study section, or "ZRG1HDMR" if you wish to suggest assignment to the NIH Healthcare Delivery and Methodologies SBIR/STTR panel for informatics.

Information about Study Sections can be found here: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/phs\\_assignment\\_information.htm#StudySection](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/phs_assignment_information.htm#StudySection)

Suggested Study Sections:

Each entry is limited to 20 characters

Rationale for assignment suggestions *(optional)*

Entry is limited to 1000 characters

# Track Your Application

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/submission-process/submit-track-view.htm>

- You are responsible for tracking your application through Grants.gov to a visible application image in eRA Commons.
- You will receive a series of Grants.gov and eRA Commons [email notifications](#) throughout the submission process. Email can be unreliable, so it is good practice to proactively track your application status in Grants.gov and eRA Commons.
  - [Track submission status in Grants.gov](#) 
  - [Steps for PI to track submission status in eRA Commons](#)
  - [Steps for Signing Officials \(SOs\) to track submission status in eRA Commons](#)
- You must address any errors identified in Grants.gov and eRA Commons before the submission deadline. Warnings do not stop application processing. Read all warnings carefully and use your discretion to determine which, if any, you will address.
  - [Learn How We Check Your Application for Completeness](#)
  - [Submit a Changed/Corrected Application](#)

Note that PIs can check status information in eRA Commons on the go, using Commons Mobile (see [info](#)).

# Application Review & Funding Process at NIH/NCI

➤ **Submitted Applications**



➤ **Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR)**  
Center for Scientific Review (CSR)



➤ **Assigned to Institute/Center**

**1. Level I Review: Peer-review**

**Scientific Review Officer (SRO): CSR or NCI**

- Reviewer Recruitment
- Applications Assigned to Reviewers
- Reviewers Meet, Discuss, & Score
- Score Released
- Summary Statement Released

**2. Level II Review: Council/Board Review**

**Program Officials: NCI**

- Overall Impact Scores,
- Percentile Rankings
- Summary Statements
- NCI Priorities



**Grant-Funding Plan**



**National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB)**

access to

- Applications
- Summary Statements



➤ **Final funding decisions: NCI Director – with staff and Advisory Council/Board advice**

# Thank You!