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**Native American Research
Centers for Health
Planning Grants (R34)**

[PAR-24-041](#)

Pre-Application Webinar

January 12, 2024
2:30 – 4:00 pm EST

NIGMS Staff Participation

Michele McGuirl Acting Director, Division for Research Capacity Building

Krishan Arora Chief, Networks and Development Programs Branch and
NARCH Program Lead

Kyungsook Gartrell Program Officer, Research Advancement Programs Branch

Christy Leake Team Lead, Grants Administration Branch

Q&A via Chat Window, moderated by Michele McGuirl

Slides and Webinar Recording will be posted on the NARCH website.

If you think of questions after the webinar, send an email to
kyungsook.gartrell@nih.gov

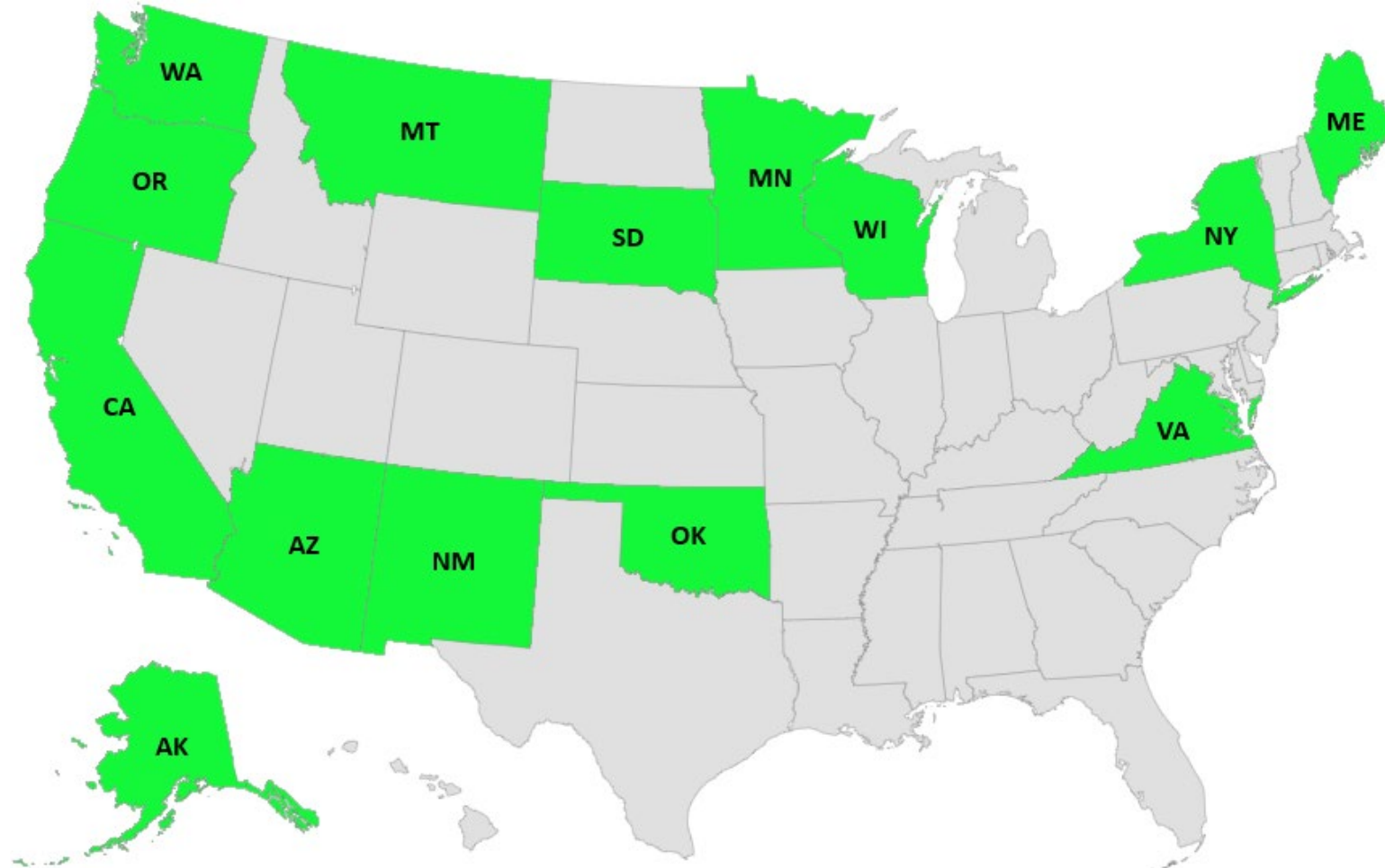
Native American Research Centers for Health ([NARCH](#)) Program

- Support federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes and organizations to build their capacity for doing health-related research.
- NARCH program began in 2001 in collaboration with Indian Health Service (IHS).
- Program management was moved from IHS to NIGMS, NIH in FY2017.
- NARCH is a trans-NIH program; each participating NIH ICO can support projects from different grant applications in their mission areas.

Active NARCH S06 Awards

NARCH Dashboard by States:

28 NARCH active awards to 19 Tribal entities in 14 states



NARCH Evaluation & Tribal Consultation

- Tribal Consultations report and feedback at [NIGMS Evaluations](#).
- Report presented to [National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council in Sep 2021](#).
- A summary of feedback from Formal Tribal Consultation:
 - Ensure both research projects and research infrastructure/capacity building are primarily conducted by Tribal Nations and communities rather than by academic partner institutions.
 - Remove barriers to application by reducing complexity of submission requirements, particularly for Tribal Nations or organizations that do not already hold NIH grants.
 - Create opportunities for new applicants to learn from existing grantees through mentorship or collaboration on proposals.
 - Ensure that reviewers understand the importance of culture and language as research elements for examining health disparities, resilience, and dealing with trauma in Indian Country.

NARCH Planning Grants (R34)

- **Planning Grants** addresses a specific recommendation received through the Consultation:
 - To increase participation of eligible Tribal entities in the [NARCH S06 program](#).
 - To provide support for potential applicants to conduct **preparatory work needed** to develop competitive NARCH S06 applications.
 - To explore **Tribal research interests**, assess the available research and administrative workforce, build relationships and partnerships.
 - To formulate **overall goals** for a future NARCH S06 application.
 - **Expected** to submit a NARCH S06 application within **one year** of the end date of the NARCH Planning Grant award.

NARCH Application Due Dates

FY	Due Date	Review	Council	Earliest Start Date
2024	July 08, 2024	November 2024	January 2025	April 2025
2025	July 08, 2025	November 2025	January 2026	April 2026
2026	July 08, 2026	November 2026	January 2027	April 2027

All applications are due by **5:00 PM** local time of applicant organization.

Tribal Entities

- **The applicant organization must meet one of the following criteria:**
 - A federally recognized **Tribe**
 - A **Tribal college or university, a Tribal health program, or a Tribal organization or government**
 - A consortium of two or more **Tribal entities is allowed as long as all meet eligibility requirement**

R34: Organizational Eligibility

- Tribal entities who have **never** had a **NARCH S06** award, and
- At the time of submission, are **not** supported by an **active NARCH R34 Planning Grant award** (includes those in no-cost extension).
 - This only applies to future submissions.
- Each eligible Tribal entity may submit **only one** application **per due date**.

PD/PI Eligibility (Applies to All PD/PIs if MPI)

- PD/PI must have a **primary appointment** with the applicant organization.
- PDs/PIs with **special employment arrangements**, such as interorganizational personnel agreements among federally recognized AI/AN Tribes, are allowable.
- **Multi PI** applications are allowed – all **MPIs** must be from eligible Tribal entities.
 - Non-contact PD/PI must also have a primary appointment at an eligible Tribal entity.
 - Partners who are not PIs are allowed: can be S06 awardees, other Tribal entities, or non-Tribal entities.

NARCH Award Budget

- **Maximum \$225,000/yr Direct Costs for up to 2 years.**
- For applications that include **partner organizations** that are **not** Tribal entities, the direct costs of subcontracts to these organizations, combined, must be **25% or less** of the application's overall direct cost budget.
- A NARCH R34 Planning Grant is **not renewable**.
 - If an R34 application is unsuccessful the 1st time, resubmission is allowed.
 - If an S06 is submitted but not funded, could apply for a new R34.

Application Requirements

- **Required Registrations:** The submitting organization must complete in advance.
- **Letter of Vision and Commitment (official file name)**
 - Must be from a senior organizational official such as a Tribal council leader or Tribal college/university president.
 - Describes the organization's vision and commitment to develop their workforce and infrastructure for health-related research.
 - Applications missing this attachment will **not** be accepted for review.
- **Letters of Support** should be included.
- **Data Management and Sharing Plan** is **not** required for this NOFO.
- **Page limits** as described in the [SF424 application guide](#).
 - Specific Aims - 1 page.
 - Research Strategy - 12 pages.

Research Strategy – Overall Goal

- Describe the **organization's needs** for a NARCH Planning Grant award.
- Explain how the **proposed activities** will lead to a future NARCH S06 application.
- Lay the **groundwork** for a future NARCH S06 application.
 - Examples: define research questions, assess research workforce and infrastructure needs for S06 components.
- Identify any **collaborators/consultants/advisors** who will contribute to the R34 application and explain their roles.
 - Can also propose activities to identify potential S06 collabs/consultants/advisors.

Research Strategy Elements

- **Community Engagement:** describe activities to involve communities in planning and reflect their needs and values.
- **Administrative Capabilities Assessment:** identify what is available and what is needed to support future research.
- **Workforce & Infrastructure Assessment:** identify what is available and what is needed, and develop strategies to build capacity including for required Administrative Core.
- **Component Selection for a Future S06 application:** outline strategies for choosing among the allowed S06 components: Research Projects, Pilot Projects, Career Enhancement Projects, and Research Infrastructure Enhancement Projects.
 - For Research Projects or Pilot Projects: explain activities to define research question(s) and provide a plan for how to manage the projects.

Research Strategy Elements continued

- **Describe Plans to Develop a Data Management & Sharing Plan for the S06:** describe plans to develop a DMS plan that respects Tribal cultural considerations and data sovereignty.
- **If the R34 involves more than 1 Tribal Entity, non-Tribal partners, External Collaborators, Consultants, or Advisors,** describe their roles and contributions to the planning activities.
- **If other partners, external collaborators, consultants, and advisors are anticipated for the future S06 application,** provide a plan to identify individuals with suitable expertise, along with a plan to engage them in the development of the S06 application.
- **If the S06 is likely to involve Human Subjects Research,** describe plans to identify or develop needed infrastructure like an Institutional Review Board.

Review Process: Step 1 – Administrative Review

- All applications go through Administrative Review by NIGMS Program Officers and Center for Scientific Review.
- All applications deemed non-compliant/non-responsive/ineligible are withdrawn. To avoid this:
 - Read and follow the [NOFO \(PAR-24-041\)](#) instructions.
 - Make sure all PIs are eligible.
 - Make sure the submitting organization(s) are eligible – check the [NARCH Dashboard](#) and [archived NARCH S06 awards](#).
 - Apply a few days **prior** to the deadline, check your application, and make corrections if needed.

Review Process: Step 2 – Scientific Review

- Assigned reviewers provide **preliminary scores** (1 – 9) before the meeting starts (1 = best possible score, 9 = worst possible score).
- At the meeting, these reviewers describe **strengths** and **weaknesses** and **provide written critiques** according to the review criteria.
- All reviewers then **discuss** the application.
- All panel members **vote** on the application and provide their individual impact scores.
- Those scores are averaged and multiplied by 10 to give the **Final Overall Impact/Priority score**, which is available within **a few days** of the review meeting.
- **Summary Statements** are available **~30 days** later.

Interpreting the Overall Impact Score

Overall Impact:

The likelihood for a project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on research field(s) involved.

Overall Impact	High	Medium	Low
Score	1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9

Evaluating Overall Impact:

Consider the 5 criteria: significance, investigator, innovation, approach, environment (weighted based on reviewer's judgment) and other score influences (e.g., human subjects)

Planning activities are most likely to lead to the submission of a successful S06.

High Impact

5 is a good medium-impact application, and the entire scale (1-9) should always be considered.

Planning activities may lead to the submission of a successful S06, but minor weaknesses decrease the impact.

Medium Impact

Planning activities may lead to the submission of a successful S06, but major weaknesses decrease the impact.

Low Impact

Advice to Applicants

- **Read the entire NOFO carefully.**
- **Pay attention to Section V - review criteria ([Section V](#)):** reviewers' critique templates contain these criteria/questions.
- **Optional: Use the PHS Assignment form** to indicate expertise needed, but **DO NOT** suggest reviewer names. You may provide names of those who **SHOULD NOT** review your application.
- **Who to contact and when:**
 - Before submission and after the Summary Statement is released: Program Officer (PO).
 - After Submission and before the Review Meeting: Scientific Review Officer (SRO).

Upcoming Webinar for NARCH S06

NARCH S06 Program ([PAR-23-166](#)) Pre-Application Webinar

- **When:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 2:30-4:00 pm ET.
- **Webinar Info:** [Zoom link](#)
Meeting ID: 160 175 6395
Passcode: NIGMS
- **Contact:** Krishan Arora at arorak@nih.gov

Q&A

Thank you very much
Please type your questions into the Chat box