



National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences



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# Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA, R35)

## NIGMS

# Two Distinct MIRA Funding Opportunities

## ESI MIRA

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-23-145.html>

Scientific contacts: Dr. Sailaja Koduri & Dr. Michelle Bond

## Established Investigator / New Investigator MIRA

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-22-180.html>

Scientific contacts: Dr. Baishali Maskeri & Dr. Zhongzhen Nie

## Useful resources on the NIGMS MIRA webpage

<https://nigms.nih.gov/Research/mechanisms/MIRA>

Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) replaces Funding Opportunities Announcements (FOAs).

# Prominent Features of the MIRA Program

- A single NIGMS grant per PI to provide support for the NIGMS-related research in an investigator's lab, reduced administrative burden
- Five-year funding, flexibility in future research directions, higher stability
- Initial award budget higher than R01s
- Budget increase at renewal: moderate to significant increases
- High success rate: ~40% for ESI; ~50% new and ~80% renewal for EI/NI

# Eligibility for ESI MIRA (PAR-23-145)

## PIs need to meet the following requirements

- proposes research in an area within the NIGMS mission
- has an ESI status = 'Yes' in eRA Commons
- has an independent research appointment at an eligible organization

## Only single PD/PI applications are allowed

## Foreign institutions are not eligible

**Early Stage Investigator (ESI):** A 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.

ESI status may be extended upon request for family care responsibilities, extended training, disability or illness, active military service, and certain other reasons

# Letter of Support for ESI MIRA (PAR-23-145)

## A letter of support must be included for ESI MIRA applications

- From the department chair, dean, or other academic unit leader
- Institutional commitment to the development of the investigator

Start-up packages and other institutional research support

Space available to the PD/PI

Salary support commitment

Skills and career development opportunities

Mentoring during the promotion and tenure process

Career advancement prospects for non-tenure track applicants

**Applications will be withdrawn without review if the letter is missing**

**Budget request: \$250,000 in annual direct cost, inclusive of equipment**

# Eligibility for EI/NI MIRA (PAR-22-180)

## New applications converted from a qualifying award

- A single-PI R01-equivalent GM award (DP1, DP2, R01, R37, SC1, NRMN U01)
- By the end of the fiscal year following the one in which your qualifying award was originally set to expire (NCE has no effect on eligibility time window)
- A PD/PI may have more than one qualifying award

## New applications from New Investigators (always talk to us before applying)

- A PD/PI working in [NIGMS mission](#)
- Not a project leader on a multi-component award from NIH (except for NIGMS COBRE, IDeA-CTR, and NARCH)
- ESIs should apply through the ESI MIRA NOFO, [PAR-23-145](#)

## Renewal applications

- Both EI MIRAs and ex-ESI MIRAs will be renewed through this FOA
- By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> fiscal year following the one in which your current MIRA was originally set to expire

# Distinct Features of MIRA Applications

## Features of MIRA Applications

- No specific aims: flexible to follow new research directions
- Scientific topics: within the scientific mission of NIGMS  
(<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/about-nigms/who-we-are/overview>)  
(If you need more help, visit [NIGMS Staff](#) contact page to find a PO for further discussions)
- Research strategy: 6 pages (background, recent progress, future research)
- Biosketch: tailored
- Budget request: A single line of budget for each year, no detailed budget

# Most Common Page Allotment (6 pages for research strategy)

## Background and key knowledge gaps

- One to one and half pages

## Recent progress by the PD/PI

- One to one and half pages
- Focus on the past five years

## Overview of future research

- Three to four pages. No experimental details

Note that this is different from your R01 components: significance, innovation, approach  
Preliminary data not expected or required per PAR-23-145 (apply early, new res directions)  
ESIs can submit both R01 and R35/MIRA applications on overlapping science (not R15, R21)



# PD/PI Minimum Effort Requirement

- PD/PI is required to devote at least 51% of the PD/PI's total research effort to MIRA
- Total research effort should include the PD/PI's combined research effort at all institutions where the PD/PI holds an appointment
- Express effort in person-months
- NIGMS staff will verify the MIRA research effort requirement met by using the Other Support documentation and will exclude support for which the purpose is education, training, or enhancing workforce diversity.

**Thank you for your attention**