

Division of Training,  
Workforce Development  
and Diversity

National Institute of  
General Medical  
Sciences

August 8, 2024

# **NIGMS Bridges to the Doctorate (B2D) Training Grant (T32) (PAR-24-232)**

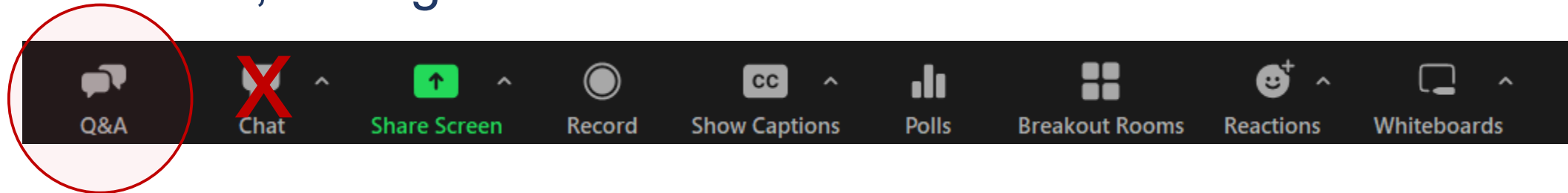
B2D Program: Sydella A. Blatch Alexander, Jeremy McIntyre

Grants Management: Adam Barnhart

Review: Marci Wright

# Webinar Information

- The webinar video and slides will be available on the NIGMS website.
- Please type your questions in the Q&A box, instead of in the chat box, throughout the webinar.



- If time permits, there will be an open Q&A period at the end of the webinar.

# Disclaimer

- This webinar and accompanying slides are for informational purposes only. They serve as an overview and are not meant to be comprehensive in coverage of all required components of an application.
- For any submission, applicants are responsible for following the instructions detailed in the [SF424 Guide](#), the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and any Related Notices.

# Outline

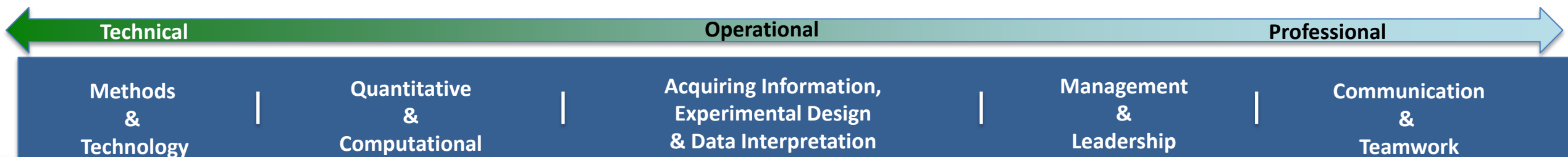
- Introduction to the Program
- Key Program Considerations
- Highlights of the Application Components
- Key Changes to Current NOFO
- Budget Overview
- Peer Review

# B2D Program Objectives

- To **promote broad participation in the biomedical research workforce** by strengthening research training environments and expanding the pool of well-trained master's students who transition to and complete biomedical Ph.Ds.
- NIGMS expects organizations to engage in **outreach and recruitment activities** to encourage individuals from [underrepresented groups](#) to participate in the program.

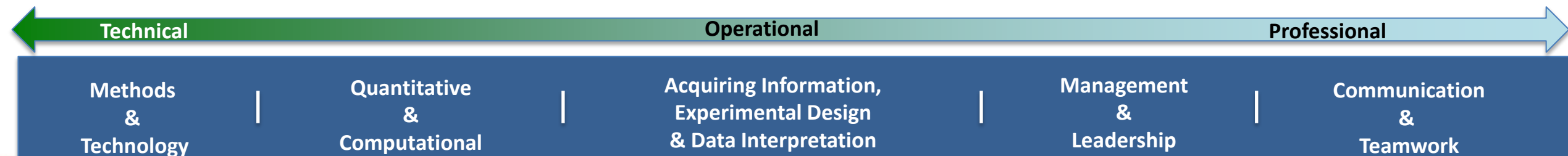
# Major Themes in NIGMS Training Programs

- **Training objectives** — specific, obtainable and measurable.
- **Trainee skills development** — use of evidence-informed approaches to provide technical, operational, and professional skills.
- **Rigor and transparency, responsible & safe conduct** of research throughout the training experience.
- Commitment to **inclusive, safe, supportive and accessible research training environments** that promote the development of trainees from all backgrounds.



# Major Themes in NIGMS Training Programs (cont.)

- **Mentor training and oversight** of trainee/mentor matches.
- **Career preparedness** — provide knowledge of and skills to transition into the range of careers in the biomedical research workforce.
- **Strong organizational support** for research training.
- **Evaluation** — the collection and dissemination of data on the success/failure of education aims. Make career outcomes publicly available.



# Eligibility Overview

	Master's-Training	Ph.D.-Training
Organization(s)	<p><i>Master's degree is the highest biomedically-related degree</i></p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p><i>An <u>HBCU or TCCU</u> (including those that offer biomedical Ph.Ds.)</i></p>	<p><i>Any organization(s) that grants its own biomedical Ph.D.</i></p> <p><i>(no longer restricted by NIH funding level)</i></p>
Principal Investigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have full time appointment.</li> <li>• Multiple PIs are required– At least 1 from each organization and at least one established biomedical investigator.</li> </ul>	
Trainees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant organization selects and establishes qualifications, consistent with applicable law.</li> <li>• US Citizen, Permanent Resident or non-citizen National.</li> <li>• Pursue research training full time (see NIH Grants <u>Policy Statement</u>).</li> </ul>	



# Potential Organization partnerships

- A Master's-Training applicant organization that partners with one or more organizations that grant biomedical Ph.Ds.
- A Ph.D.-Training applicant organization that partners with one or more Master's-training organizations.

# Key Program Dates

Program	NOFO	Application Due Date	Application Review	Advisory Council	Budget Start Date
B2D	PAR-24-232	Sept 27, 2024 Sept 26, 2025 Sept 28, 2026	March	May	August

# Key Program Considerations

# Promote Broad Participation in the Biomedical Workforce

- NIGMS expects organizations to engage in **outreach and recruitment activities** to encourage individuals from [underrepresented groups](#) to participate in the program.
- Consistent with existing NIGMS practices and applicable law:
  - Funded programs may not use the race, ethnicity, or sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, or transgender status) of a trainee or faculty candidate as an eligibility or selection criteria.
  - NIGMS does not use the race, ethnicity, or sex of trainee candidates, trainees, or faculty in the application review process or funding decisions.

# Examples of Activities to Promote Broad Participation

- Outreach activities to foster awareness of research training opportunities for potential trainees from all backgrounds.
- Targeted recruitment activities to diversify program applicant pools.
- Program admissions processes that consider factors beyond grade point average and standardized test scores – such as how a trainee candidate’s lived experiences and perspectives further their commitment to program goals and a biomedical research career.
- Efforts to create and sustain inclusive research training environments for trainees from diverse backgrounds, for example strengthening faculty skills to work effectively with trainees from various cultural and neurodiverse groups.
- Updating curricula, pedagogy, and academic supports to enhance student success and engagement.
- Expanding mentoring, networking, and skills development opportunities, and financial support for trainees.
- Utilizing data to identify, and as appropriate, feasibly address biases and barriers in the research training environment that impede trainee success.

Applicants are encouraged to consult with their General Counsel to ensure all applicable laws and regulations are being followed. See more information [here](#).

# Highlights of General Program Considerations

- **Tailored** to the organizational context – using data to identify specific needs and leveraging organizational strengths.
- Be well integrated into one or more departments and exert strong organizational impact.
- **More than financial aid** for students to conduct research:
  - Provide rigorous, well-designed mentored research experiences.
  - Include additional opportunities that will build a **strong cohort** of research-oriented individuals and promote trainee skill development.
- Use **evidence-informed**, creative, and transformational approaches to graduate training and mentoring.
- Demonstrate effective oversight of trainee development and promote retention.
- Strong program evaluation – includes, for example, trainee feedback and climate evaluation.
- Trainees cannot be supported at the same organization for both degrees (they must transition).

# Breadth of Research Training Disciplines

- Programs should provide research training opportunities to students from the **breadth of biomedical disciplines at the organization.**
- Proposed programs focused on a single biomedical discipline or approach *at an organization with multiple biomedically* relevant departments will be a low priority for funding.

# Trainee Support

- B2D trainees are typically provided support for 2-3 years.
  - At the time of initial appointment, trainees must be enrolled in a biomedical **master's degree** program.
    - Programs are encouraged to consider how to structure the appointment of trainees in a manner that minimizes debt incurred during their graduate training
- Plans for cohort structure:
  - Plan to appoint a new cohort **each year** of the five years of the program.
    - Ideally: same point in training
    - Similar duration
  - Explain any planned or expected deviations in the application.



# Highlights of the Application Components

# Application Title Format

Use the format:

“Bridges to the Doctorate at \_\_\_\_ [Name of Applicant Organization] with [Name(s) of Partner Organization(s)]\_\_\_\_\_”

Example:

Bridges to the Doctorate at the University of Success with Fantastic University

# Follow the SF424, NOFO and Notices

- Check the SF424 Application Guide—Forms H for institutional training: [Training Instructions For NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#).
- NOFO supersedes the SF424 Guide.
- Notices supersede the NOFO and the SF424 Guide.
- Check the NOFO for required items:
  - Notices
  - Required attachments
  - Optional material
  - Appendices

Released: August 5th, 2023



## TRAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR NIH AND OTHER PHS AGENCIES

SF424 (R&R) APPLICATION PACKAGES

# Selected Application Components and Page Limits

Application Components	Page Limit
Project Summary/Abstract	30 lines of text
Training Program Plan	25 pages
<b>Required Other Attachment #1:</b> Baseline Data on the Trainee Pool	
<b>Required Other Attachment #2:</b> Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity	3 pages
<b>Optional Other Attachment #1:</b> Advisory Committee	1 page
<b>Optional Other Attachment #2:</b> Training Activities	10 pages
Each Biosketch (include commitment to scientific rigor, training & mentoring, and promoting inclusive, safe, & supportive scientific environments)	5 pages
Organizational Eligibility and Support Letter	10 pages
Progress Report ( <b>renewal applications only</b> )	5 pages - program overview 1 page - each appointee to grant

# Other Attachments

- Required:
  - Baseline Data on the Trainee Pool
  - Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity (3 page maximum)
- Optional
  - Advisory Committee (1 page maximum)
  - Training Activities (10 page maximum)

**R&R Other Project Information Form**

RESEARCH & RELATED Other Project Information OMB Number: 4040-0001  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2022

1. Are Human Subjects Involved?  Yes  No

1.a. If YES to Human Subjects

Is the Project Exempt from Federal regulations?  Yes  No

If yes, check appropriate exemption number.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8

If no, is the IRB review Pending?  Yes  No

IRB Approval Date:

Human Subject Assurance Number:

2. Are Vertebrate Animals Used?  Yes  No

2.a. If YES to Vertebrate Animals

Is the IACUC review Pending?  Yes  No

IACUC Approval Date:

Animal Welfare Assurance Number:

3. Is proprietary/privileged information included in the application?  Yes  No

4.a. Does this Project Have an Actual or Potential Impact - positive or negative - on the environment?  Yes  No

4.b. If yes, please explain:

4.c. If this project has an actual or potential impact on the environment, has an exemption been authorized or an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) been performed?  Yes  No

4.d. If yes, please explain:

5. Is the research performance site designated, or eligible to be designated, as a historic place?  Yes  No

5.a. If yes, please explain:

6. Does this project involve activities outside of the United States or partnerships with international collaborators?  Yes  No

6.a. If yes, identify countries:

6.b. Optional Explanation:

7. Project Summary/Abstract


8. Project Narrative

9. Bibliography & References Cited

10. Facilities & Other Resources

11. Equipment

12. Other Attachments



# Baseline Data on the Trainee Pool

- The application must provide baseline data on the proposed program (**from each partner organization**).
- All applicants must provide the numbers and average for the past **five** academic years of training grant eligible candidates who applied to, were admitted to, and matriculated into the training program or departments described in the application.
  - NIGMS encourages the use of [Suggested Formats A](#) to aid in the structuring of the data.
- Applicants are encouraged to use categories reflected in the [Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity](#) or the [NIH Trainee Diversity Report](#)
- **Include in “Other Attachments” Section, NOT NIH Data Tables.**

# Research Training Program Plan Format

[View Burden Statement](#)

**PHS 398 Research Training Program Plan**

OMB Number: 0925-0001  
Expiration Date: 09/30/2024

Introduction			
1. Introduction to Application (for Resubmission and Revision applications)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
Training Program Section			
2. * Program Plan	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
3. Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
4. Plan for Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
5. Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
6. Progress Report (for Renewal applications)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>

**Multiple Sections - FOLLOW THE NOFO! See page limits [here](#).**

← Training Program Plan – use headers

← Responsible Conduct of Research

← Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility

← Multi PD/PI Leadership Plan

← Progress Report (renewal only)



# 2. Research Training Program Plan

For this component, follow the NOFO, not the SF424 Application Guide

- ✓ Rationale, Mission and Objectives
- ✓ **Partnership(s)**
- ✓ Curriculum and Overview of Training Plan
- ✓ Career Development
- ✓ Program Oversight of Training and Mentoring
- ✓ Training Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PDs/PIs)
- ✓ Preceptors/Mentors (Participating faculty)
- ✓ Trainee Candidate Review Process
- ✓ Trainee Appointments and Financial Support
- ✓ Trainee Outcomes
- ✓ Program Evaluation Plan, Dissemination, and Data Storage



# Research Training Program Plan (2)

For this component, follow the NOFO, not the SF424 Application Guide

## Rationale, Mission and Objectives

- Include a discussion of why the trainees are seeking master's degrees prior to Ph.D. training and how they will benefit from the master's degree research training in the context of the proposed program.
- If a master's training program is part of a dual BS/MS program, describe processes to determine that the candidate is in the master's phase and will receive significant research training. PD/PIs of programs that recruit dual-degree BS/MS students are strongly encouraged to contact the Scientific/Research contacts well in advance of application submission to discuss structure and relevance to NIGMS goals.

# Research Training Program Plan

## (3)

### Partnership(s) – new section in this NOFO

Describe the ways in which the proposed partnership(s) enhances the research training environment at all participating organizations and facilitates an efficient and timely transition for trainees.

Examples include:

- Agreements for course credit transfer.
- Opportunities for exposure to relevant research at the Ph.D.-Training Organization(s) during master's training.
- Courses, cross-organizational research collaborations, or other activities that contribute to degree or career progression.
- Support for transitioning to organizations within the partnership.
- Appropriate early start of Ph.D. program orientations.
- Arrangements that would contribute to decreased time-to-degree at a Ph.D.-Training Organization(s).

# 3. Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

- All applications must include a plan to fulfill NIH requirements for instruction in RCR.
  - Five required components must be addressed.
  - Components should be well integrated into the overall curriculum at multiple stages of trainee development in a variety of formats and contexts.
- Explain how teaching of RCR synergizes with the curriculum designed to enhance trainees' abilities to conduct rigorous and reproducible research.
- Describe how all program faculty will reiterate and augment key elements when trainees are performing research in their labs.
- Applicants are required to comply with the SF424 Application Guide instructions:
  - [RCR Policy](#) and [Updated Guidance](#)
  - [Resources](#)

# 4. Plan for Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility

- Applicants are required to comply with the instructions for **Plan for Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility** as provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.
- Rigor & Reproducibility Resources:
  - [NIH Website on Rigor and Reproducibility](#)
  - [Clearinghouse for Training Modules to Enhance Data Reproducibility](#)

# 6. Progress Report (**RENEWAL Applications ONLY**)

- Demonstrate that the program successfully advanced the goals of B2D (for example, promoted broad participation in the biomedical research workforce by strengthening the research training environment, expanding the pool of well-trained master's students that matriculated into research-focused Ph.D. programs).
- Describe:
  - Implementation of Proposed Activities
  - Results and Changes from Program Evaluations
  - Impact and Dissemination
- If challenges or program shortcomings are identified, describe sound plans for overcoming or remediating them.
- Include up to 5 pages for the program overview and up to one page summary of progress for each trainee appointed to the training grant (see page limits [here](#)).

Renewals for B2D are only allowed for programs funded through [PAR-19-300](#) or [PAR-21-198](#) NOFOs only.

# Faculty, Trainees, and Training Record Section

Faculty, Trainees and Training Record Section			
7. Participating Faculty Biosketches	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
8. Letters of Support	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
9. Data Tables	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
Other Training Program Section			
10. Vertebrate Animals	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
11. Select Agent Research	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
12. Consortium/Contractual Arrangements	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
Appendix			
13. Appendix	<input type="button" value="Add Attachments"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Attachments"/>	<input type="button" value="View Attachments"/>

## Required

- ← 7. Participating Faculty Biosketches
- ← 8. Required Organizational Eligibility and Support Letter (10 pages maximum) & optional other letters (1 combined pdf)
- ← 9. *NIH* Data Tables
  - New: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 8A Part II
  - Renewal: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 7, 8D Part I
- ← Generally, not applicable
- ← Appendix: follow [SF424 Application Guide](#)

# 7. Faculty Biosketches

- Personal statements should be tailored to the application. Address how the faculty mentor is
  - committed to training and mentoring
  - promoting rigor, reproducibility and safety as described in the NOFO
  - fulfilling the need of the trainees to complete their Ph.D. degrees in a timely fashion with the skills, credentials, and experiences to transition into careers in the biomedical research workforce.
- New Format (NOT-OD-21-073): **Failure to follow the appropriate Biosketch format may cause NIH to withdraw your application from consideration.**

# 8. Letters of Support

- **Required:** *Organizational Eligibility and Support Letter* must be attached as part of Letters of Support (10-page maximum).
  - The letter must be on organizational letterhead and signed by a President, Provost, Dean or similar key leader from each partner organization
  - **Eligibility:** Certify eligibility of the applicant organization.
  - **Support:** Describe the activities and resources provided by the organization that will ensure the success of the planned training program and its trainees (see NOFO).
  - **If this letter is not included, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.**
- Additional letters of support are permitted; however, these letters may not contain any information that is required in the Organizational Support Letter.
- Combine all Letters of Support into a single PDF file.



# 9. Required NIH Training Tables

TABLE	CONTENT
Table 1	Census of participating departments (# of total and Participating trainers, trainees, other pre/postdocs)
Table 2	Details on Participating faculty (name, rank, dept, research interest, training record)
Table 3	Other federal institutional training grants (T32, T35, R25, K12)
Table 4	Participating faculty research support
Table 5A	Trainee publications (organized by mentor)
Table 7	Appointments to the training grant by year ( <b>ONLY IN RENEWALS</b> )
Table 8A	Program outcomes of trainees (support, start/end dates, research topic, initial and current positions ( <b>New Application = Part III</b> , Renewal Application=Parts I, II and IV))

**Applications that do not contain the required tables, or that submit any additional tables in this attachment will be considered noncompliant and may not be reviewed.**

# 9. Required NIH Data Tables

Introduction	Date Posted	File Link/Format/Size
Introduction to Data Tables – Read this first!	9/16/2022	<a href="#">MS Word (53 KB)</a> <a href="#">PDF (437 KB)</a>

Data Tables	Date Posted	Blank Data Tables File Link/Format/Size	Instructions and Sample Data Tables File Link/Format/Size
<b>New Applications</b>			
New Predoctoral Training Submit tables: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 6 <del>X</del> , 8A	9/16/2022	<a href="#">MS Word (40 KB)</a>	<a href="#">MS Word (87 KB)</a> <a href="#">PDF (453 KB)</a>
<b>Renewal or Revision Applications</b>			
Renewal or Revision Predoctoral Training Submit tables: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 6 <del>X</del> , 7, 8A	9/16/2022	<a href="#">MS Word (43 KB)</a>	<a href="#">MS Word (93 KB)</a> <a href="#">PDF (472 KB)</a>

[Training Instructions For NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#)

[Informational videos for completing NIH Data Tables](#)

# NIH Training Tables (cont'd.)

- In the Program Plan, summarize key data from the training tables that highlight the characteristics of the training grant eligible pool, program faculty, organizational support, student outcomes, and other factors that contribute to the overall training environment of the program.
- **Training tables** for applications submitted as “New” applications only allow for **five years** of recent outcomes, the **application may describe up to 15 years of outcomes** in the narrative.
- Applicants may include tables in the narrative, but they must have different labels than the required Data Tables

- **Do not submit Table 6A**
- Instead, Baseline Data on the Trainee Pool must be uploaded as an “**Other Attachment.**” NIGMS strongly encourages the use of Suggested Format Table A – [see more information on the NIGMS website](#)

# Instructions for Table 8A

- Renewal applications should complete:
  - Part I. Those Appointed to the Training Grant.
  - Part II. Those Clearly Associated with the Training Grant.
  - Part IV. Program Statistics.
- New applications should complete Part III. Recent Graduates **only**.
- The data presented in Table 8A should be discussed in the Training Program Plan narrative.

# Additional Table Resources

- [NIGMS Informational Videos: How to Complete NIH Training Tables](#)
- [T32 Data Tables \(Forms H\) & Instructions](#)
- [Suggested Format A](#)
- [Research Training Data Tables FAQs](#)
- [xTRACT User Guide and Resources](#)
- [xTRACT videos](#)

# Key Changes to Current NOFOs

# Summary of Key Changes

Application Information	Summary of Changes
Types of Applications allowed	RESUBMISSION applications are only accepted for RENEWAL applications.
Eligibility Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Master's Orgs can include HBCUs/TCCUs that offer a PhD</li><li>• Any biomedical PhD - granting organization (not limited based on NIH RPG funding)</li></ul>
Required Other Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Two required</b> (Baseline Data on Trainee Pool, Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity).</li><li>• Two optional (Advisory Committee, Training Activities).</li><li>• All others have been eliminated – information included in Program Plan.</li></ul>
Appendices	NOFO-specific requirements for appendices have been eliminated.
Required Letters of Support	Single letter required – will address both organizational eligibility and support (previously two separate letters).
Budget Section	Increased Training Related Expenses.

# New vs. Renewal Applications

- Application is considered RENEWAL **only** if the organization has a funded grant through the following NIGMS notices of funding opportunity:
  - [PAR-19-300](#) or [PAR-21-198](#).
- **Ineligible renewal applications will not be reviewed.**
- There are different requirements for New vs. Renewal applications (for example, Training Tables and Progress Report).



# Resubmissions: New vs. Renewal Applications

- **RESUBMISSION applications are only accepted for RENEWAL applications:**
  - RENEWAL applications (grants funded through NIGMS NOFOs [PAR-19-300](#) or [PAR-21-198](#)) that are not funded on the initial attempt may be revised and resubmitted as a resubmission application (as an –A1).
  - NEW applications that are not funded **are not** allowed to submit a Resubmission application (no –A1). Unsuccessful NEW applications are encouraged to reapply by submitting another NEW application that utilizes constructive feedback from the previous review.
- **Ineligible resubmission applications will not be reviewed.**

# New, Renewals and Resubmissions

There are different requirements for New vs Renewals (for example, Training Tables and Progress Report) and for Resubmissions.

Content	New No -A1s	Renewal NOFOs PAR-19-300 or PAR-21-198	Resubmission of Renewal (-A1) NOFOs PAR-19-300 or PAR-21-198
Response to Prior Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Resubmission</li> <li>• Mentions of previous overall or criterion scores, reviewer comments</li> <li>• Mentions of how the application has been modified</li> </ul>	X	X	✓
Progress Report (including description of previously implementation of proposed training activities)	X	✓	✓
Table 7: Appointments to the Training Grant	X	✓	✓

# What's new in PAR-24-232 “Other Attachments” Section?

The number of required “Other Attachments” is reduced:

**Two “Other Attachments” are required:**

1. Baseline data on the trainee pool- Data from all partner organizations
2. Recruitment plan to enhance diversity

*Two “Other Attachments” are now optional:*

1. Advisory committee
2. Training activities

All remaining “Other Attachments” from the previous NOFO have been eliminated. Content from many of those is incorporated into various sections of the Program Plan, as described in the NOFO.

**No additional “Other Attachments” may be included in this section, or the application will be withdrawn without review.**

# What's new in PAR-24-232 Appendices Section?

NOFO-specific requirements for **appendices** have been eliminated. Applications may only contain appendices that are allowed according to the [SF424 Application Guide](#).

**Applications that contain any additional appendices will be withdrawn without review.**

Applicants may incorporate information previously allowed in the “Other Attachments” and appendices (for example, retention plans, trainee data collection and storage, conflict resolution protocols) into the *training program plan* as indicated in the NOFO.

# Resources

- [Bridge to the Doctorate](#) website
- [Answers to NIGMS Training Program FAQs](#)
- Dashboard of funded [B2D](#) programs
  
- We also encourage you to consult the B2D program officers before submission.
  - [Sydella.blatch@nih.gov](mailto:Sydella.blatch@nih.gov)
  - [Jeremy.mcintyre@nih.gov](mailto:Jeremy.mcintyre@nih.gov)

# Budget Overview

# Stipends, Tuition and Fees

- Kirschstein-NRSA awards provide stipends as a subsistence allowance to help defray living expenses during the research training experience.
- NIH will contribute to the combined cost of tuition and fees at the rate in place at the time of award.
  - Request the full tuition amount per institution
- Stipend levels, as well as funding amounts for tuition and fees are announced annually in the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts*, and are also posted on the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) webpage.

# Trainee Travel

- NIGMS will provide **up to \$1,000 (\$1,250 for institutions outside the continental US)** per trainee for travel to scientific meetings and workshops.
- Trainees must be appointed to the training grant at the time of the actual travel for this to be an allowable cost.
- Plans for trainee travel should be well justified.



# Training Related Expenses (TRE)

- NIH provides funds to help defray other research training expenses, such as health insurance, staff salaries, consultant costs, equipment, research supplies, and faculty/staff travel directly related to the research training program.
  - **B2D TRE: \$12,500/trainee/year.**
  - **Combined across all partner institutions.**
- Expect organizations to prioritize trainee benefits (such as health insurance).
- **The grant does not set firm limits for allowable costs** (for example, salary support or evaluation costs).
- Training related expenses should be well justified.

# Budget Justification

- State the number of requested funded trainee slots per year.
  - Specify how many trainees per site on budget page
- Provide a justification for the number of requested funded slots per year in the context of the following:
  - Number of training grant eligible candidates provided in the trainee pool baseline data across all departments participating in the training program.
  - Number of participating faculty.
  - Other NIGMS-funded training grants at the organization that relate to the goals of this training program.
  - **For Renewal Applications:** The success in filling the awarded training positions. An explanation for the failure to fill previously requested slots should be provided in the application.
- Encouraged to describe the total effort for personnel in the budget justification (delineate effort charged to the grant and effort compensated by other sources).

# Peer Review

# Review of Applications

- B2D applications reviewed by standing NIGMS review committees: TWD-C and TWD-D: <https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/application/Pages/studysection.aspx>
- Committees are equivalent: applications assigned to one of two committees to balance conflicts and workload.
- Receipt letter from scientific review officer (SRO) will provide information about meeting dates, instructions for providing updates, link for committee roster, and people to contact during the review and post-review process.
- Scores and summary statements accessed through PI's eRA Commons account.

# Review Process: Usual Timeline

From submission date:

Timeframe

Activity

1 - 2 months

Referral

2 - 6 months

Review Panel

6 - 7 months

Summary Statement Available

7 - 8 months

Advisory Council

8 - 9 months

Funding Decisions

9 - 10 months

Award Start Date

*Reach out your SRO with review questions (during review phase)*

*Post review- reach out to your PO for next steps*

# Review of Applications (2)

- Please read the review criteria described in **Section V** of the NOFO while preparing your application. Make sure all the required information is included.
- Review panel will assess your application against the review criteria.

# Scored Review Criteria

## (Section V of NOFO)

### Training Program and Environment (Most expansive)

- *Rationale, Mission, and Objectives*
- *Partnerships*
- *Curriculum and Overall Training Plan*
- *Career Development*
- *Program Oversight of Training and Mentoring*
- *Organizational Commitment to the Program*

### Training Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s)

### Preceptors/Mentors

### Trainees

- *Trainee Candidate Review Process*
- *Trainee Appointments and Financial Support*

### Training Record

- *Training Outcomes*
- *Program Evaluation, Dissemination, and Data Storage*

# Additional Review Criteria

Contribute to the overall impact score but do not get separate scores.

- **Resubmissions**
- **Renewals**
  - *Implementation of Proposed Activities*
  - *Results and Discussion from Program Evaluations*
  - *Impact and Dissemination*
- **Training in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility**
- **Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research**
- **Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity**
- *Generally, not applicable criteria*
  - Protection of Human Subject
  - Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals Across the Lifespan
  - Vertebrate Animals
  - Biohazards
  - Revisions (NOT APPLICABLE)



# Additional Review Considerations

- Will not be given individual scores and will not be considered in the overall impact score.
- Will need to be resolved prior to funding
  - **Budget and Period of Support (# of slots)**
  - Select Agents (Generally not applicable)

# Advice for Applying

- **Submit early**—at least two days before the deadline to allow time for review.
- Always review your application and check for completeness.
- Correct any errors and address all warnings:
  - Note that not all failures to comply are caught by the automated notification.
  - We cannot accept any missing items after the receipt deadline.

**⊘ Applications will be *withdrawn* if anything is missing or unallowed materials are included!**

[\(NIH grants application guide\)](#)

# Application Preparation - Tips

- Don't expect reviewers to “read between the lines” to figure out what you are proposing. Directly and clearly state the most important information.
- Include clear, measurable and attainable program goals
- Make sure faculty biosketches are up-to-date and relevant for training program (personal statement).
- Data in tables and text should match; also, across tables.
- Present outcomes data in a straightforward manner.
  - Don't exaggerate.
  - Don't hide data (reviewers will “do the math”).
- Avoid non-compliance and withdrawal
  - [Feedback Loop Post](#)

# Questions and Contacts

## Scientific/Research Contacts

Sydella A. Blatch Alexander ([sydella.blatch@nih.gov](mailto:sydella.blatch@nih.gov))

Jeremy McIntyre ([jeremy.mcintyre@nih.gov](mailto:jeremy.mcintyre@nih.gov))

## Peer Review Contact

Marci Wright ([NIGMSReview@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIGMSReview@mail.nih.gov))

## Financial/Grants Management Contact

Justin Rosenzweig ([rosenzwj@nigms.nih.gov](mailto:rosenzwj@nigms.nih.gov))

**Thank you and Good Luck on the  
Application!**

**We are happy to take questions.**