National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Division of Training, Workforce Development and Diversity

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

August 5, 2024

NIGMS Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT) (R25 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed) (PAR-24-252)
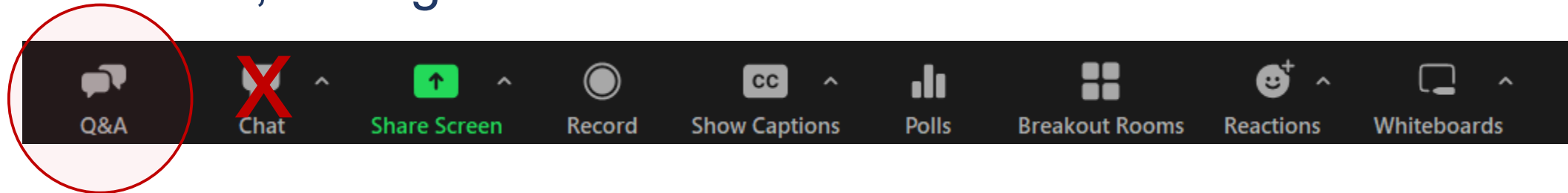
IPERT Program Officers: Sydella A. Blatch Alexander, Kalynda Gonzales Stokes, Joyce Stamm

Grants Management: Jennifer Lynch

Review: Latarsha Carithers

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.

Notice of Clarification of Instructions for the Resource Sharing Plan (NOT-GM-24-046)

Updated to read (changes in **bold**):

Resource Sharing Plan

Individuals are required to comply with the instructions for the Resource Sharing Plans as provided in the How to Apply - Application Guide, with the following modification:

A Resource Sharing Plan may not be necessary for all applications to this NOFO. Applicants should not duplicate information included in the Dissemination Plan.

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Key Program Dates

Program	NOFO	Application Due Date	Application Review	Advisory Council	Earliest Start Date
IPERT	PAR-24-252	Oct 17, 2024 Oct 15, 2025 Oct 14, 2026	March	May	July

Outline

- IPERT Program Objectives
- Key Program Considerations
- Highlights of the Application Components
- Key Changes to current NOFO
- Budget Overview
- Peer Review
- Q&A

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IPERT Program Objectives (I)

- To fund innovative, educational activities to equip participants with technical, operational, or professional skills required for careers in the biomedical research workforce.

- These activities must be open to the **broader** biomedical research community and may focus on participants at one or more career stages from undergraduates to professionals (for example faculty, staff scientists).

- IPERT applications must have a focus on **one or more** of the following:
    1. Courses for Skills Development
    2. Curriculum or Methods Development
    3. Mentoring Activities

IPERT Program Objectives (II)

1. **Courses for Skills Development**:

   - In-person or virtual courses designed to develop the skills necessary for biomedical research workforce careers.

   - For example, courses where participants develop:

     - **Technical skills:** appropriate and safe research methods, new technologies, quantitative/computational approaches, pedagogy

     - **Operational skills:** independent knowledge acquisition, rigorous experimental design, data interpretation

     - **Professional skills:** management, leadership, communication, teamwork/collaboration, mentoring, career navigation, outreach/advocacy, inclusivity.

IPERT Program Objectives (III)

2. **Curriculum or Methods Development**:
   - For example: activities where participants develop or enhance curriculum, methods, novel instructional approaches, or computer-based tools that are intended to improve biomedical research education at numerous organizations.

IPERT Program Objectives (IV)

3. Mentoring Activities:

- For example: activities where participants are trained as mentors or where participants receive advice, insight, and professional career skills training appropriate to their career stage as part of a mentoring network or similar **formal** mentoring structure.

- Typical **informal** mentoring activities associated with research experience programs and courses for skills development are assumed to be an integral part of those programs/courses, and therefore, do not typically merit the selection of "Mentoring" as a separate activity.

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Types of Applications Allowed

- Only **new** applications are allowed.

- Resubmissions and Renewal applications are **not** allowed.

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Active or Previous IPERT Awardees

- New NOFO requirement: a *Results from Related NIGMS Support* section

- Relevant for applications with Senior/Key Personnel who have related **current or previous** NIGMS IPERT or R13 support must:
  - Include information about the supported program
  - Justify the need for additional funding
  - Describe how the proposed program **significantly differs** from or expands upon the previously funded program.
  - See **Section IV** of the NOFO for the full list of information requested

Applications with related current or prior support that do not include a *Results from Related NIGMS Support* section will not be reviewed.

Eligibility for Active or Previous IPERT Awardees

- A **PD/PI** with an active IPERT award is eligible to submit a new IPERT application if the new IPERT project is **distinct from the active award** and **no more than six months overlap** exists between the end date of the current IPERT award and the potential start date of the new IPERT award.

- An **organization** with previous or current IPERT R25 or NIGMS R13 awards is eligible to submit new applications that are distinct from and **do not overlap with those previous or current** IPERT R25 or NIGMS R13 awards.

  - Organizations with a contractual fee for service or consortium partnership with an active IPERT award may submit a new IPERT application if the proposed program is independent of the existing IPERT contractual fee for service or consortium partnership.

Key Program Considerations (I)

- Innovation is a central feature of the NIGMS IPERT funding opportunity. The proposed program should either apply novel concepts, methods or technologies, or use existing concepts, methods, technologies in novel ways, to achieve the program's overarching goal of enhancing the training of the nation's biomedical research workforce.

- An application that simply proposes to continue previously implemented activities may be considered to lack innovation or not align with the IPERT program goals.

  - However, broadly expanding participation for an already developed program may be appropriate if it will meet a significant need in the biomedical research workforce.

- Applications proposing programs related to those previously supported by NIGMS through an R13 or the IPERT R25 must **strongly justify the need for the program and additional funding from NIGMS and include new elements that significantly build** on the initial award activities.

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Key Program Considerations (II)

- NIGMS encourages applications that are intended for individuals in a variety of biomedical fields
  - However, if a scientific area is described, priority is given for programs addressing areas of study within the NIGMS mission.

- IPERT activities must be open to the broader biomedical community and not be restricted to participants from a single organization. NIGMS prioritizes programs that are open to participants nationwide.
  - Strong justification should be provided for proposed programs with regional participant pools, for example, if the program serves specific regional needs or if nationwide participation is not practical.

- IPERT activities may focus on individuals at a particular career stage or at a range of stages, from undergraduate to professional (for example faculty, staff scientists)

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Non-responsiveness criteria

Applications with the following characteristics will be considered non-responsive to this NOFO and administratively withdrawn:

- Applications that do not include plans for at least one of the following activities: Courses for Skills Development, Curriculum or Methods Development, or Mentoring Activities.

- Applications with senior/key personnel who have current or previous NIGMS IPERT R25 or R13 support for the proposed activities that do not include the Results from Related NIGMS Support section of the Research Education Program Plan (see Section IV of the NOFO).

- Applications proposing programs aimed at participants in a single organization.

- Applications proposing project-based mentored research experiences as integral to the IPERT program (as described in Section I of the NOFO).

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Highlights of the Application Components

Follow the SF424, NOFO and Notices

- Check the SF424 Application Guide—Forms H for institutional training: [Research 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

FORMS VERSION H SERIES
Released: August 5th, 2023

RESEARCH INSTRUCTIONS FOR NIH
AND OTHER PHS AGENCIES

SF424 (R&R) APPLICATION PACKAGES
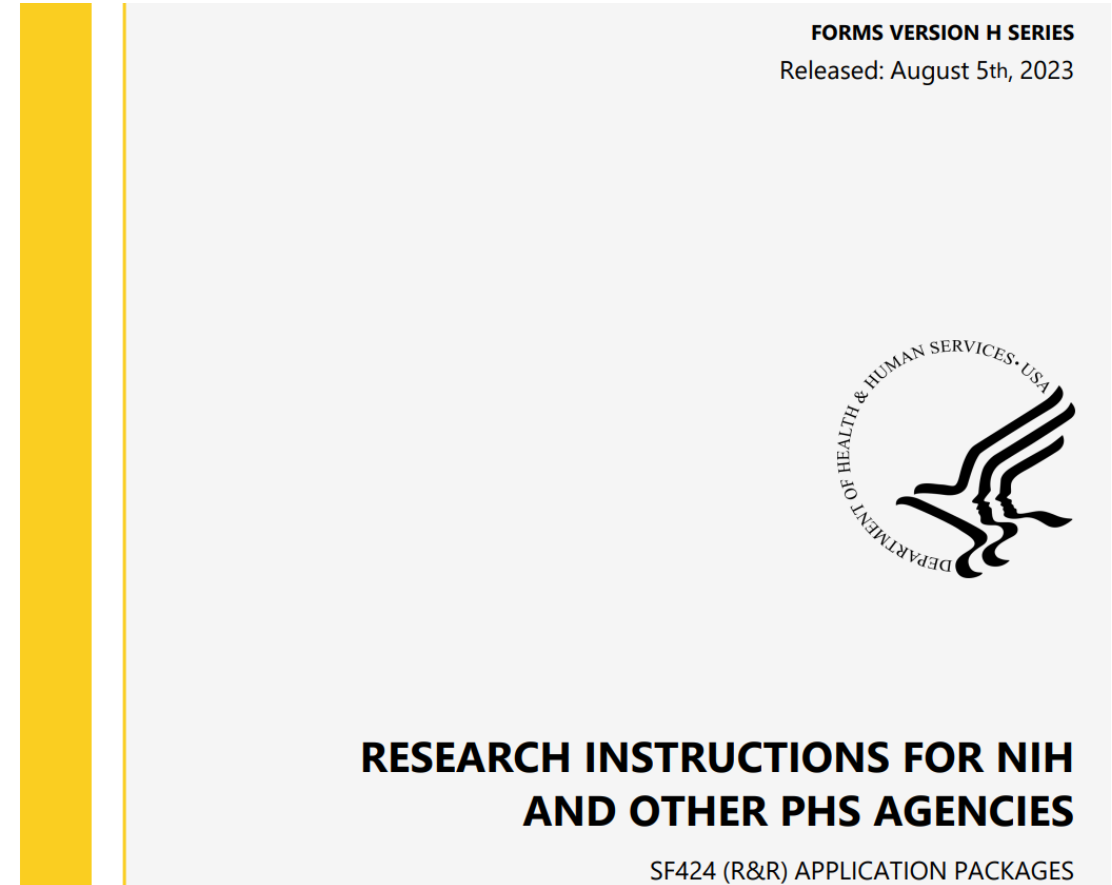
SF424 R&R Other Project Information: Additional Other Attachments

- [Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives](#) (**Required,** up to 2 pages)
  - a summary of actionable strategies to advance the scientific and technical merit of the proposed project through expanded inclusivity.
  - align proposed PEDP strategies with the research strategy section, providing a holistic and integrated view of how enhancing diverse perspectives and inclusivity are buoyed throughout the application
  - how the PEDP will advance the scientific and technical merit of the proposed project
  - timeline of proposed activities and evaluation methods

- Research Education Activities (Optional, up to 10 pages, previously allowed in the Appendix)
- Advisory committee (Optional, 1 page)

All remaining "Other Attachments" from the previous NOFO have been eliminated.

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PHS 398 Research Plan – Research Strategy

Upload the Research Education Program Plan in the Research Strategy Section. Use the section headings & sub-headings from the NOFO.

- ✓ Proposed IPERT Program
  - ✓ Use sub-headings for this section

- ✓ Program Leadership Structure

- ✓ Program Participants

- ✓ Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity

- ✓ Program Evaluation Plan and Dissemination Plan

Brief Highlights of the Proposed IPERT Program (I)

- **Rationale** – Describe the gap in biomedical research training the program intends to address. Include literature support & any baseline data to justify, if possible.

- **Objectives** - Explain why the educational objectives of the program are relevant at a regional or national level and why they cannot be met through existing widely-available programs.

- **Scientific focus** - If applicable, how the program aligns with NIGMS and/or NIH mission. If recruiting from one discipline, describe relevance to the broader biomedical research workforce.

- **Innovation**

- **Results from Related NIGMS Support**

Brief Highlights of the Proposed IPERT Program (II)

- **Program activities**
  - Describe activities, planning, implementation, accessibility, etc.
  - Include details described in the NOFO for each of the focus areas planned
  - If relevant, provide Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility and Responsible Conduct of Research plans in this section.

- **Ongoing Engagement with Program Participants** - to help ensure program activities have desired effects, participants should have opportunities for continued engagement after completion of courses, seminars, or workshops.
  - For example, through peer or group mentoring, follow-up activities, etc.

- **Learning Environment**

- **Timeline**

Program Leadership Structure

- Provide evidence that the PD(s)/PI(s) has the appropriate expertise and ability to ensure appropriate and timely progress of the program. PDs/PIs may include biomedical researchers, subject-matter experts, program administrators, educators, evaluators, etc.

- Programs may include additional individuals, such as subject-matter or technical experts, program facilitators, instructors, mentors, etc. Describe recruitment plans and desired qualifications for these program personnel, who may or may not be senior/key personnel.

- Include biosketches for all senior/key personnel. The personal statement should describe relevant educational program experience and commitment to educational training.

Program Participants

- State the educational and/or career level(s) of the planned participants, and the number of anticipated participants in each segment of program offering(s).

- When relevant, describe participant eligibility or selection criteria. All selection processes must be consistent with applicable laws.

- Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity. If applicable, provide a plan that includes strategies and activities designed to recruit potential participants from diverse backgrounds, for example, individuals from underrepresented groups (see Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity). Applicants are encouraged to consult the NIGMS webpage for strategies to enhance diversity in training programs when designing their plans.

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Evaluation and Dissemination Plans

- IPERT programs must conduct ongoing evaluations to monitor the success of the activities for formative and summative evaluative purposes. [Evaluation resources](#) are available on the NIGMS training resources webpage.

- Provide a plan to disseminate any findings resulting from or materials developed by the IPERT program nationally, to the broader and relevant biomedical research community.

- Applicants should also describe additional plans to continue IPERT activities and tracking of outcomes beyond the award, as renewal applications are not accepted.

Letters of Support

- **Required: Organizational Support Letter**
    - Describe the availability of staff, facilities, and activities and educational resources that can contribute to the planned research education program and its evaluation and dissemination. Program personnel should have sufficient organizational support to create a sound educational environment for the program participants.
    - **Applications lacking an Organizational Support Letter will not be reviewed.**

- Additional letters of support (for example, from partner organizations) 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.

Resource Sharing Plan

- If applicable, comply with the instructions for the Resource Sharing Plans as provided in the [SF424 Application Guide](#).

- A Resource Sharing Plan may not be necessary for all applications to this NOFO. Applicants should not duplicate information included in the Dissemination Plan.

Appendix

- **NOFO-specific 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.**

- Syllabi and outlines of required training activities may be included in the optional *Research Education Activities* "Other Attachment".

Key Changes to Current NOFOs

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Summary of Key Changes

Application Information	Summary of Changes
Program Objective	Applications must focus on at least one of three types of activities.
Types of Applications allowed	NEW applications **only.** RENEWAL and RESUBMISSION applications are **not allowed**.
Non-responsive applications	Criteria for non-responsive applications have been added.
Other Attachments	Required: Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP) Optional: Research Education Activities Eliminated: Outcomes Data Collection and Storage Plan
Research Education Plan	Content of the Research Education Plan has been significantly revised and reorganized.
Appendices	NOFO-specific requirements for appendices have been eliminated.

Information for Applicants

Applicants are encouraged to:

- Read the NOFO PAR-24-252 including Related Notices in the Overview Section

- Refer to the IPERT website, which also contains webinar materials

- **Contact the IPERT Program Officers for preliminary, non-binding feedback on the proposed program's** fit by sending a single email to Drs. Sydella A. Blatch Alexander, Kalynda Gonzales Stokes, and Joyce Stamm, that includes a one-page program summary with the following information:

  o Brief rationale for the proposed program and program objectives

  o If applicable, a brief explanation of how the proposed program differs from current or previous NIGMS R25 or R13 support

  o Summary of activities proposed for the areas of focus of the proposed program

  o Characteristics of proposed participant pool

Budget Section

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Budget: Overview

- The total direct costs for each award are limited to **$500,000** annually.

- The total project period may not exceed **5 years**.

- Indirect Costs are reimbursed at **8% of modified total direct costs** (exclusive of tuition and fees and expenditures for equipment).

- Use the detailed **R&R Budget Format.**

"Detailed" R&R Budget Form

- The R&R (Research and Related) requires a detailed itemized listing of all items of Direct Cost over a minimum of 3 budget pages per year (sections A through K).

- Also requires a full accompanying budget justification **with individual salary information**.

- R&R Form Instructions under Section G.300 of the SF-424 Instruction Set.

"Detailed" R&R Budget Form (cont'd.)

- Include all personnel other than the PD(s)/PI(s) in the Other Personnel section, including clerical and administrative staff.

- Use the section on Participant/Trainee Support Costs to include all allowable categories of funds requested to support participants in the program.

- PEDP implementation costs: Applicants may include allowable costs associated with PEDP implementation (as outlined in the Grants Policy Statement, Section 7).

R&R Budget Form (sections A & B)

RESEARCH & RELATED BUDGET - Budget Period 1

Delete Period

OMB Number: 4040-0001
Expiration Date: 10/31/2019

ORGANIZATIONAL DUNS: [ ]

Enter name of Organization: [ ]

Budget Type: ☐ Project ☐ Subaward/Consortium

Budget Period: 1   Start Date: [ ]   End Date: [ ]

A. Senior/Key Person

	Prefix	First	Middle	Last	Suffix	Base Salary ($)	Months			Requested Salary ($)	Fringe Benefits ($)	Funds Requested ($)
							Cal.	Acad.	Sum.			
×		▼				▼						

Project Role: PD/PI

[Add Additional Key Person]

Additional Senior Key Persons: [ ]   [Add Attachment] [Delete Attachment] [View Attachment]

Total Funds requested for all Senior Key Persons in the attached file [ ]

Total Senior/Key Person [ ]

B. Other Personnel

Number of Personnel	Project Role	Months			Requested Salary ($)	Fringe Benefits ($)	Funds Requested ($)
		Cal.	Acad.	Sum.			
[ ]	Post Doctoral Associates	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	Graduate Students	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	Undergraduate Students	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	Secretarial/Clerical	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
× [ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

[Add Additional Other Personnel]

[ ] Total Number Other Personnel

Total Other Personnel [ ]

Total Salary, Wages and Fringe Benefits (A+B) [ ]

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Reminders: Participant Costs

- Participants may be compensated for participation in activities specifically required by the proposed research education program, if sufficiently justified. **Participant costs must be itemized in the proposed budget.**

- While generally not an allowable cost, **with strong justification**, participants in the research education program may receive per diem unless such costs are furnished as part of the registration fee.

- Individuals supported by NIH K, T, or F awards may receive educational experiences supported by an R25 program, as participants, but may not receive salary or stipend supplementation from a research education program.

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Reminders: Other Program-Related Expenses

- Consultant costs, equipment, supplies, travel for key persons, and other program-related expenses may be included in the proposed budget. These expenses must be justified as specifically required by the proposed program and must not duplicate items generally available at the applicant institution.

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Peer Review

Review of Applications

- IPERT applications reviewed by an NIGMS special emphasis panel.

- 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.

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Scored Review Criteria
(Section V of NOFO)

1. Significance

2. Investigator

3. Innovation

4. Approach

5. Environment

*"Specific to this NOFO"

Additional Review Criteria

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

- Protections for Human Subjects
- Inclusion of women, minorities, and individuals across the lifespan
- Vertebrate Animals
- Biohazards
- Training in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility

Additional Review Considerations

o Will not be given individual scores and will not be considered in the overall impact score.

o Will need to be resolved prior to funding

- Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity

- Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research

- Resource Sharing Plan (i.e. Model Organisms)

- Budget and Period of Support

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 <u>not all</u> 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 goals.

- Be sure to address plans for sustainability, dissemination, and evaluation.

Questions and Contacts

Scientific/Research Contacts

Sydella Blatch Alexander (sydella.blatch@nih.gov)

Kalynda Gonzales Stokes (kalynda.stokes@nih.gov)

Joyce Stamm (joyce.stamm@nih.gov)

Peer Review Contact

Latarsha Carithers (NIGMSReview@mail.nih.gov)

Financial/Grants Management Contact

Justin Rosenzweig (rosenzwj@nigms.nih.gov)

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Thank you and Good Luck on the Application!

We are happy to take questions.

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