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

## **Notice of Funding Opportunity**

**PAR-25-441**

November 4, 2025

# NIGMS NARCH Team

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

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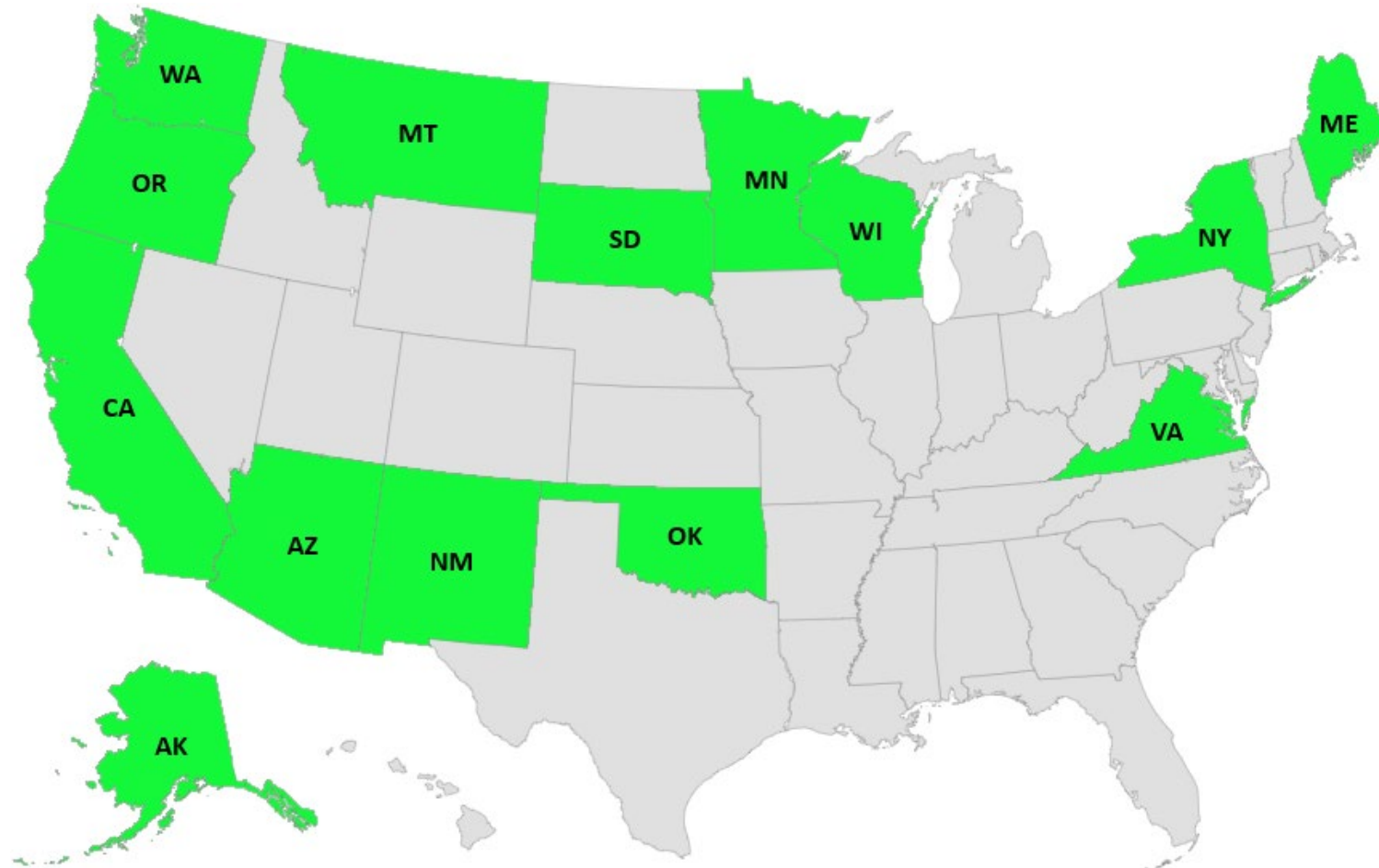
- Support federally recognized Tribes and organizations to build their capacity for doing health-related research.
- NARCH program began in 2001 in collaboration with Indian Health Service.
- Program management was moved to NIGMS, NIH in FY2017.
- NARCH is a trans-NIH program; each participating NIH 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

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- Tribal Consultation held June 14, 2021 (report and feedback at [NIGMS Evaluations.](#))
- Report presented to [NIGMS Advisory Council in September 2021.](#)
- The feedback from the Formal Tribal Consultation included:
  - Ensure both research projects and research infrastructure/capacity building are primarily conducted by Tribal Nations and communities.
  - Remove barriers to application by reducing complexity of submission requirements, particularly for Tribal Nations that do not already hold NIH grants.
  - Create opportunities for new applicants to learn from existing grantees through mentorship or collaboration on applications.

# NARCH Planning Grants (R34)

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## Goal: To Provide Planning Grants for Tribal Entities without NARCH Awards

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) addresses recommendations received through the Consultation:

- To increase participation of eligible Tribal entities in the [NARCH S06 program](#).
- To assess the research workforce and administrative needs.
- To build administrative capacity for application support and grant management.
- To provide time and resources for Tribal entities to define research questions.
- To identify collaborators and advisors and build relationships and partnerships.

**Expected Outcome: to submit a NARCH S06 application within **one year** of the end date of the NARCH R34 Planning Grant award.**

# NARCH R34 Application Due Dates

FY	Due Date	Review	Council	Earliest Start Date
2026	<i>October 16, 2025</i>	March 2026	May 2026	July 2026
2027	July 08, 2026	November 2026	January 2027	April 2027
2028	July 08, 2027	November 2027	January 2028	April 2028
2029	July 07, 2028	November 2028	January 2029	April 2029

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

# What to Include in an R34 NARCH Application

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## **1. Include a plan detailing overall goals for a future NARCH application:**

- Assessment of administrative capacity needs to support a future NARCH award.
- Decide on components of a future NARCH S06 (e.g., Pilot Project Program, Career Enhancement Projects).

## **2. Include initial activities to prepare for the future NARCH application:**

- Define research questions prioritized by the Tribal community involved.
- Assess research workforce and infrastructure needs for a required Administrative Core and optional components.

## **3. Include planned efforts to identify collaborators and advisors.**

**All activities to be supported in the NARCH R34 Planning Grant must contribute to the goal of developing a competitive NARCH S06 application.**



# NARCH R34 Eligibility Criteria

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- ✓ A federally-recognized Tribe, Tribal college or university, Tribal health program, Tribal organization, or consortium of Tribal entities.
- ✓ Tribal entities **not** currently supported by a **NARCH S06 award**.
- ✓ Tribal entities **not** supported by an **active NARCH R34 Planning Grant award**.
- ✓ Check eligibility: [NARCH Dashboard](#) and [archived NARCH S06 awards](#).

Each eligible Tribal entity may submit **only one** application **per due date**.

A NARCH R34 Planning Grant is **not renewable**.

**Resubmission** is allowed for unsuccessful initial R34 NARCH applications.

# PD/PI Eligibility

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## Principal Investigators:

- The PI must have a **primary appointment** with the applicant organization.
- PIs with **special employment arrangements** are allowable.

## Multiple PI (MPI) and Collaborators:

- **MPI** applications are allowed – all **MPIs** must be from eligible Tribal entities.
- Non-contact PI **must have** a primary appointment at an eligible Tribal entity.
- Collaborators are allowed (S06 awardees, other Tribal or non-Tribal entities).

# NARCH R34 Award Budget

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- **Maximum \$225,000/year Direct Costs for up to 2 years.**
- For applications including **partner organizations** that are **not** Tribal entities, their direct costs combined must be **25% or less** of the application's overall direct cost budget.

# Application Requirements

- **Required Registrations:** The submitting organization must complete in advance.
- **Letter of Vision and Commitment (official file name)**
  - Must be from a Tribal council leader or Tribal college 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 the R34 NARCH.
- **Page limits** as described in the [SF424 application guide](#).
  - Specific Aims - 1 page.
  - Research Strategy - 12 pages.



# Research Strategy – Overall Goal

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- Describe the **organization's needs** for a NARCH Planning Grant award.
- Explain how **proposed activities** will lead to a future NARCH S06 application.
- Lay the **groundwork** for a future NARCH S06 application.
  - define research questions
  - assess research workforce
  - assess infrastructure needs
- Identify **collaborators** for the R34 application and explain their roles.
  - propose activities to identify potential S06 collaborators

# Research Strategy Elements

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- **Community Engagement:** describe activities to involve communities in planning.
- **Administrative Capabilities Assessment:** identify what is needed and what is currently available to support future research.
- **Workforce & Infrastructure Assessment:** identify what is needed and develop strategies to build capacity including for required Administrative Core.
- **Component Selection:** outline strategies for choosing future S06 components:
  - Research Projects
  - Pilot Projects
  - Career Enhancement Projects
  - Research Infrastructure Enhancement Projects

# Research Strategy Elements continued

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- Describe plans to develop a **Data Management & Sharing Plan** for the S06 that respects Tribal cultural considerations and data sovereignty.
- If the R34 involves multiple entities, describe their **roles and contributions** to the planning activities.
- If other partnerships are anticipated for the S06, provide plans to identify people with appropriate expertise and **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 \(PAR-25-441\)](#) 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

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- Assigned reviewers provide **preliminary scores** (1 – 9) and written critiques before the meeting starts (1 = best possible score, 9 = worst possible score).
- At the meeting, the more meritorious applications are discussed and scored.
- All panel members **vote** on discussed applications 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

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- 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).



# Questions?

**Please contact us!**

**[NIGMS NARCH Planning@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIGMS_NARCH_Planning@mail.nih.gov)**