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NIGMS
Division of Training and
Workforce Development

NIGMS Institutional Postdoctoral Career Development Opportunities (K12) (PA-27-030)

September 2026

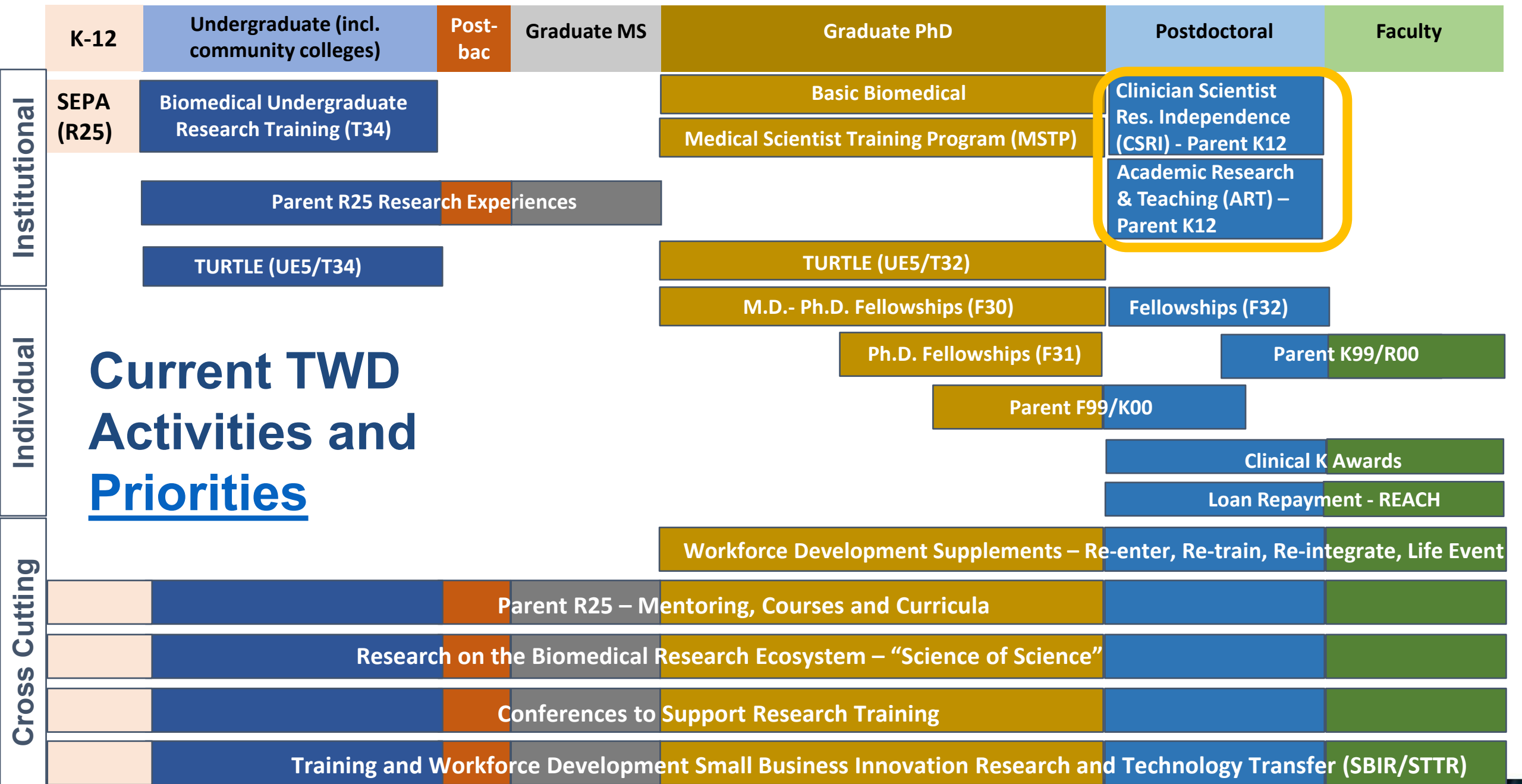
Disclaimer

- This presentation 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 instructions detailed in:
 - [How to Application - Application Guide](#)
 - The [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#), and
 - Any Related Notices (see [Policy Change Notices](#))

Each NOFO has unique requirements – please read and follow them closely, and reach out to [NIGMS staff](#) with questions

Outline

- Overview of NIGMS Division of Training and Workforce Development and Priorities
- General Overview of Institutional Career Development (K12)
 - Overview of Clinician Scientist Research Independence (*CSRI*)
 - Overview of Academic Research and Teaching (*ART*)
- Budget Overview
- Peer Review Overview



NIGMS Profile Page: NIGMS Priorities

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

+

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

+

National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

+

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

+

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

+

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

+

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

+

National Library of Medicine (NLM)

+

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research/nih-institutes-centers-offices/NIGMS>

Institutional Career Development Page Shares all Institute Priorities

Additional Information by Funding Category

Administrative Supplements	+
Conferences and Meetings	+
Individual Career Development	+
Individual Fellowship	+
Institutional Career Development	+
Institutional Training	+
Research Education	+
Small Business	+

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research/nih-institutes-centers-offices/NIGMS?category=institutional-career>

Introduction to the NIH Institutional Career Development Program

NIH Career Development Programs

- The overall goal of **NIH Research Career Development programs (K)** is to help ensure that a pool of highly trained scientists is available in appropriate disciplines to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs.
- Scholars are provided salary and research support for a period of "protected time" to support a tailored career development plan designed to facilitate the scholar's transition to research independence.
- Scholars are not eligible to lead clinical trials, but may participate in clinical trials with their sponsors

Funding Opportunity: [PA-27-030](#)

NIGMS Institutional Career Development Award Priorities

We prioritize Institutional Career Development Programs relevant to our [mission](#) that prepare *postdoctoral researchers* for the following career pathways:

Clinician Scientist Research Independence (CSRI)

Prepares **clinician-scientists** for independent research careers in NIGMS-mission relevant clinical areas:

- *Anesthesiology*
- *Clinical pharmacology*
- *Injury and critical illness*

Academic Research and Teaching (ART)

Prepares early career **postdoctoral scholars** for **academic careers** that combine rigorous research and state-of-the art teaching approaches.

- Scholars gain teaching experience at distinct primarily undergraduate institutions.

NIGMS Institutional Career Development Award Priorities (continued)

To promote broad geographic and organizational participation in rigorous career development programs, NIGMS strongly encourages applications from:

- Institutions in [IDeA-eligible states](#)
- [HBCUs](#)
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), as defined under 25 U.S.C. 1603 (24).
- Resource-limited institutions.

NIGMS also encourages the participation of these institutions as partners in career development programs, especially *Academic Research and Teaching (ART)*.

Eligibility and Key Dates

Eligibility Overview (See Section III of NOFO)

Organization	• Many types of organizations are eligible. • Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is programmatically distinct. • Eligibility is not limited based on institutional NIH funding. • Multiple organizations may partner to submit one application.
Principal Investigator	• The PI should have appropriate expertise to provide both administrative and scientific leadership. • Multiple PIs are encouraged – at least one with record of rigorous biomedical research. • For ART K12 Programs, an MPI from the teaching partner is strongly encouraged.
Scholars	• Applicant organization selects and establishes qualifications, consistent with applicable law. • US citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident.

Additional Scholar Eligibility

Eligible

Individuals who are or were PDs/PIs on NIH Small Grant (R03), Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21), Planning Grant (R34/U34), Dissertation Award (R36), SBIR/STTR Award, Transition Scholar Award (K38)

Not eligible

- Individuals who have been previously supported by NIH or non-NIH career development awards.
- Individuals who have served as PDs/PIs of substantial research project grants (R01), project leaders on sub-projects of multi-component awards, such as program projects (P01) or Center grants (e.g., P50, U54) or the equivalent

Key Program Dates (2026 - 2027)

Application Due Date	Application Review	Advisory Council	Earliest Start Date*
October 12, 2026	March 2027	May 2027	July 2027
February 12, 2027	July 2027	August 2027	December 2027
June 12, 2027	November 2027	January 2028	April 2028
October 12, 2027	March 2028	May 2027	July 2028

***NOFO expires July 13, 2029.**

- **For FY2027 (October 2026 due date), NIGMS intends to make awards in summer 2027 for *Academic Research and Teaching (ART) awards*.**
- **For subsequent due dates, NIGMS will prioritize awards for the August and January Advisory council rounds**

Key Program Considerations

Program Considerations

The proposed institutional career development program should:

- **Clear need and distinct from ongoing efforts**
 - Can complement other, ongoing research training and career development programs at the applicant institution
- Have clearly **defined goals and objectives**
- **Foster safe and supportive** research training environments
- Develop **individualized career development plans** for each scholar that are congruent with their stated goals and current skill and knowledge levels
- Include **cohort development activities** that allow scholars to learn from each other, work effectively in teams with colleagues, and communicate scientific advances to a wide variety of audiences (discipline specific and the public).

Mentor Training Expectations



Support effective mentorship by ensuring all program faculty complete **formal mentor training** and **continuing education** to enhance the ability of mentors to facilitate the transition of scholars to research independence.

SF424 instructions under Program Faculty now include mentor training activities.

Program Faculty

Preceptors/Mentors are expected to

- Be **active researchers** in the biomedical sciences as demonstrated by recent publications and research support in the proposed career development program.
- **Committed** to training, mentoring, and providing safe and supportive research training environments
- Have a **mentoring philosophy appropriately tailored** to the needs of potential scholars to have, or complete **formal mentoring training and refreshers** to enhance their mentoring skills



Programs are encouraged to recruit prospective preceptors/mentors with relevant experience and expertise to advance the program goals, including faculty at different career stages

Highlights of the Application Components

Follow the Application Guide, NOFO, and Notices

- Use the [How to Apply - Application Guide](#) Training (T) Instructions



Training
Instructions

Standard instructions that apply to all applications plus training instruction call-out boxes.

[PDF](#)

Activity Codes: Institutional Training (T), including International Training (D43, D71, U2R) and Institutional Career Development (K12, KL2, KM1)

- Follow the [page limits](#) for **Institutional Career Development (K12)** applications
- Instructions in the NOFO supersede the Application Guide.
- Check the NOFO for required items:
 - [Notices](#)
 - Attachments
 - Appendices

Related Notices

- Check for any recent [Notices of NIH Policy Changes](#) that may impact application requirements.

Institutional Career Development Award (K12): Application items

Section of Application	Page Limits* (Unless the funding opportunity specifies a different limit)
Project Summary/Abstract	30 lines of text
Project Narrative	Three sentences
Introduction to Resubmission Application (when applicable)	3 pages
Introduction to Revision Application (when applicable)	1 page
Program Plan (Attachment 2 on PHS 398 Research Training Program Plan form) For D43 , D71 , U2R , K12 , KL2 , and all Training(T) only	25 pages
Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research (Attachment 4 on PHS 398 Research Training Program Plan form) For D43 , D71 , U2R , K12 , KL2 , and all Training(T) only	3 pages
Plan for Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility (Attachment 5 on PHS 398 Research Training Program Plan form) For D43 , U2R , K12 , KL2 , and all Training(T) only	3 pages
Progress Report (for renewal applications) For D43 , D71 , U2R , K12 , KL2 , and all Training(T) only	5 pages for a program overview and 1 page for each appointee to the grant
Biographical Sketch (legacy)	5 pages
Biographical Sketch Common Form & Biographical Sketch Supplement	No hard limit; length controlled through SciENcv data entry format

Training Data Tables

- **K12 Applications** should follow the same training Data Tables instructions as for T32 [Institutional Training data tables](#) **for postdoctorates**
- **Key Changes:**
 - **Table 1, Part II:** Programs that are focused solely on postdoctoral research training must complete Part II (Postdoctorates). Do not include Part I (Predoctorates).
 - **Table 2:** Programs that are focused only on postdoctoral research training must complete items 10-12 and should omit information on predoctoral training outcomes
 - **Table 3:** Currently active, federal organizational training (e.g., NIH T32, T35, TL1, AHRQ T32), career development (e.g., K12 / KL2), and research education (e.g., NIH R25, RL5) awards
 - **Table 4:** Faculty participant research funding

Training Data Tables

- **K12 Applications** should follow the same training Data Tables instructions as for T32 [Institutional Training data tables](#)
- **Key Changes:**
 - **Table 5B:**
 - Reorganized with trainees in first column
 - May include interim research products (e.g., preprints) when final publication unavailable
 - **Table 6B:** List the following counts for each major degree type (i.e., PhDs, MDs, Dual Degree Holders, including individuals holding the MD/PhD, DDS/PhD, DVM/PhD, or other dual degrees, and Other Degree Holders) for each of the past 5 years
 - **Table 7: Renewals only**
 - **Table 8B:**
 - **Part I: Renewals**
 - **Part II: New** - list sequentially all postdoctorates completing a training experience in a field or program similar to the proposed program in the last five years who would have been eligible

Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other Support)

- NIH has adopted Common Forms for Biographical Sketch ([NOT-OD-26-018](#)).
 - Use the Commons Forms for Biographical Sketch and NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement ([NOT-OD-26-079](#)).
- ***Faculty preceptors are encouraged to use the NIH Biographical Sketch supplement to describe their commitment to training and mentoring.***
- Refer to the [Common Forms FAQ](#) with questions about NIH Common Form policies, requirements, or what information to include on the form; or contact the NIH OS/Biosketch inbox at nihosbiosketch@nih.gov
- Technical issues with SciENCv should be directed to the SciENCv Helpdesk at nlmsciencv@mail.nih.gov

Other Attachments

- Advisory Committee (1-page maximum)- Optional
 - Only pre-existing Advisory Committee members should be named in the application.
 - For new applications, potential Advisory Committee members should not be identified or contacted prior to receiving an award.

Research Training Program Plan components

- Training Program
- Faculty, Trainees, and Training Record
- Other Training Program Sections
- Appendix- Note that the Appendix should only be used in circumstances covered in the NIH policy on appendix materials

Research Career Development Program Plan (*Training Program*)

Program
Administration

Program Faculty

Proposed
Training

Training Program
Evaluation

Scholar
Candidates and
Retention Plans

Institutional
Environment and
Commitment to
Training

Training
Outcomes

- Each area should be discussed in detail within the 25-page Program Plan
- *Follow the directions within the NOFO while remembering to tailor the program you are developing for either **CSRI** or **ART***

Suggested Application Title Format

Use the format:

“[Program] K12 Career Development Program
at [Name of applicant organization]”

Examples:

- “Clinical Pharmacology K12 Career Development Program at Outstanding Tech.
- “Academic Research and Teaching K12 Career Development Program at Amazing State University”

Clinician Scientist Research Independence (CSRI)

Clinician Scientist Research Independence (CSRI)

- Program supports research training for **clinician-scientists** for independent, research careers in NIGMS-mission relevant clinical areas
 - **Anesthesiology**
 - **Clinical Pharmacology**
 - **Injury and Critical Illness**
- NIGMS anticipates that CSRI programs will recruit 2-3 new scholars annually and support them for two years for a maximum program size of 6 scholars.
- At the conclusion of the program, scholars are expected to be able to progress toward research independence, such as successfully competing for mentored career development or independent research awards.

CSRI Scholars

- Should prioritize recruitment of individuals with clinical degrees (such as M.D., D.O., Pharm.D.)
 - If Ph.D. postdoctoral scientists are considered, career development should focus on advanced and specialized areas and offer appropriate opportunities to study problems of clinical relevance
- Grantees are encouraged to recruit participants who have not had substantial previous research experience, but who have the promise to be significant contributors to the biomedical research workforce.
- Should be used to support **postdoctoral scholars** (not early-stage faculty)

Academic Research and Teaching (ART)

Academic Research and Teaching (ART)

- Prepares early career postdoctoral scholars for academic careers that combine rigorous research and state-of-the art teaching approaches.
 - Programs are expected to combine mentored postdoctoral research experiences with mentored teaching and professional skills development opportunities at distinct primarily undergraduate teaching partner institutions.
 - At the conclusion of the experience, scholars are expected to be able to successfully transition to faculty careers at a range of institution types and compete for independent research support.
- In general, each postdoctoral scholar should commit at least 75% of their full-time professional effort to mentored research and teaching experiences.

ART: Mentored Research

Research Experience

- NIGMS encourages mentored research experiences relevant to its mission areas.
- Faculty mentors should have active, externally-funded research projects relevant to the NIGMS mission.
- The mentored research experience should provide scholars with the skills to conduct rigorous biomedical research.

ART: Mentored Teaching

Teaching Experience

- Programs should aim to provide opportunities to scholars to develop critical teaching skills that will allow them to pursue independent academic teaching and research careers.
- Experiences should be integrated throughout the three years scholars are supported.
- The timing of the teaching and skills development may be flexible over the academic year and should be interspersed with mentored research.
- Scholar should devote 25% of their total effort towards teaching every year.

ART: Partner Institutions

- Teaching development is expected to happen at a distinct, primarily undergraduate teaching institution.
- The partner institution(s) should benefit from the partnership.
 - For example: early career teachers, mentors for students, providing enhanced science educational offerings.
- NIGMS encourages partnerships with:
 - HBCUs
 - Tribal College and University (TCU), as defined under 25 U.S.C. 1603 (24)
 - Resource-limited institutions

Budget Overview:

Application budgets are not limited but should reflect the actual needs of the proposed project.

Number of Scholars to be Supported

CSRI

- Two years of support per scholar.
- 2-3 new scholars annually (max program size of 6 scholars).

ART

- Three years of support per scholar.
- 3-4 new scholars annually (max program size of 12 scholars).

Scholar Salary and Fringe benefits

CSRI

- Salary support up to \$100,000
 - A minimum of 9 person-months (75% of full-time professional effort) to the award.
 - Surgeon-scientists with surgical duties may request a minimum of 6 person-months (50% full-time professional effort) to the award.

ART

- Salary support up to \$75,000
 - A minimum of 9 person-months (75% full-time professional effort) to the award.
 - Generally, scholars should commit at least 75% of their full-time professional effort to mentored research and teaching experiences.

Other Program Related Expenses

CSRI

- Up to \$10,000 research support per scholar per year.
- Up to \$1,500 for conference travel per scholar per year.

ART

- Up to \$10,000 for academic skill development workshops per year.
- Up to \$2,500 for teaching supplies per scholar per year.
- Up to \$1,500 for conference travel per scholar per year.

Consultant costs, equipment, supplies, travel for key persons, and other program-related expenses (including expenses for mentor training activities) 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.

Other Program Related Expenses: Personnel Costs

- Salary support: Depending on the number of scholars in the program and the person-months devoted to administration of the program, NIGMS typically supports:
 - Total PD(s)/PI(s) (including a combination of multiple PD(s)/PI(s)) up to a total of 2.0 person-months per year.
 - Total salary support for other administrative staff (for example, a program coordinator to assist the PD(s)/PI(s)) up to 6 person-months per year.
- Additionally, for ART partner institution(s), total salary support per partner organization typically is:
 - 0.6 person months for administrative personnel.
 - 2.4 person months for the teaching mentor(s).

Institutional Career Development Other Program Related Expenses: Program evaluation

NIGMS typically supports limited program evaluation costs up to a maximum of 5% of direct costs per year for the 5-year project period.
This includes salaries for evaluation consultants, if any.

Budget Justification

- State the number of requested funded scholar slots per year. Provide a justification for the number of requested funded scholars per year in the context of the following:
 - Number of eligible scholar candidates provided across all participating departments.
 - Number of participating faculty.
 - Other awards at the organization that relate to the goals of this training program.
- 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 Overview

Review

- All applications will be reviewed at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR).
- Questions about review should be directed to the Scientific Review Officer (SRO) assigned to your application.

Review of Applications

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

NOFO-Specific Review Criteria

- **Goal:** to produce scholars with the skills and experience necessary to conduct rigorous and reproducible research, and to transition into independent research careers in the biomedical research workforce.
- These programs should provide a **supportive environment** for appointed scholars from a **range of educational backgrounds** with the ability to participate and succeed in the research career development program (for example, through recruitment efforts and mentor training activities).
- NIH recognizes that rigorous, well-designed career development programs that further the goal of this NOFO can take place **in various organizational environments and with mentors who have varying levels of NIH research project grant support**. Reviewers will evaluate proposed programs considering stated goals and objectives, organizational context, available resources, and the capacity of those resources to meet the stated goals and objectives.

Scored Review Criteria

(Section V of NOFO)

- Career Development Program and Environment
- Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s)
(PD(s)/PI(s))
- Mentors
- Scholars
- Training Record

Additional Review Criteria

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

- Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility
- Instructions in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
- Resubmissions (as applicable)
- Renewals (as applicable)
- Revisions (as applicable)
- Criteria generally not applicable:
 - Protection of Human Subjects
 - Inclusion of Human Subjects Policies
 - Vertebrate Animals
 - Biohazards

Additional Review Considerations

- Not given individual scores and not considered in the overall impact score.
- Will require resolution prior to funding
 - Budget and Period of Support
 - Select Agent Research

General Tips and Advice

Advice for Applying

- **Submit early**—at least two days before the deadline.
- 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!

Always refer to the NIH grants application guide

Application Preparation - Tips

- Directly and clearly state the most important information. Reviewers should not be expected “read between the lines”.
- Include clear, measurable and attainable program goals.
- Ensure biosketches are up-to-date and relevant for research education programs (personal statement).
- Data in figures and text should match.
- Present outcomes data in a straightforward manner.
 - Avoid exaggeration.
 - Avoid hiding data (reviewers will “do the math”).

Avoid Administrative Withdrawal

NOTE: Application will be withdrawn prior to peer review if improper Appendix or Hyperlinks are used, or if any required attachments and content are missing.

APPENDIX: Do not use the Appendix to circumvent page limits. Follow all instructions for the Appendix as described in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

Hyperlinks and URLs

- Are not permitted in the Research Plan/Approach
- They may be used in citing relevant publications in biosketches and publication lists.
- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-attachments>

Tips for Preparing Your Application

Submit
early!

- Always **read and study the entire Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** – purpose, guide notices, review criteria, etc., and follow all instructions.
- Follow the instructions outlined in the NOFO
 - Have clear goals and feasible plans related to the NOFO.
 - Tailor materials to the application – for example, biosketch, letter of reference.
- Program Officers and Scientific Review Officers are a resource to applicants
 - Contact PO **early** in the process - send **biosketch** and **specific aims** page.
 - Helpful to determine **eligibility** and **responsiveness** of proposal to the Institute or Center's (IC's) mission and priorities
 - Reach out **after summary statement** is released to discuss next steps
 - Contact SRO for compliance questions
- Go for it – don't self-eliminate (and resubmit if needed)

For Questions Contact

Scientific/Research Contacts

NIGMS Clinician Scientist Research Independence (CSRI): NIGMSK12_CSRI@nih.gov

NIGMS Academic Research and Training (ART): NIGMSK12_ART@mail.nih.gov

Financial/Grants Management Contacts

NIGMS Grants Administration Branch
Email: NIGMSTWDGABNOFO@nih.gov

Peer Review Contact(s)

Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

Check your eRA Commons account for review assignment and contact information