

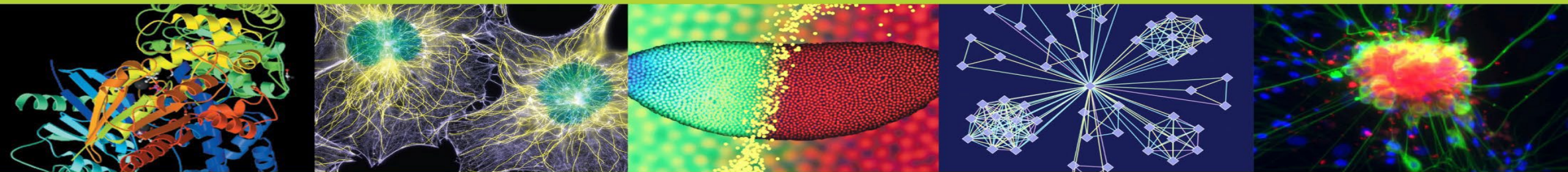


National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences



# Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA, R35) for Non-ESIs, PAR-22-180

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Updated March 2025

# MIRA Award Rates as Compared with R01

Cohort	Renewal/ Conversion Rates	Funding Change Median %					
	Cohort-Wide	Cohort-Wide	Career Stage		Prior Funding		
			ex-ESI	EI	<\$200k	>= \$200k, <\$400k	>= \$400k
R01 Renewal	45.3%	3.0	6.5	3.0	6.5	3.0	-0.8
R35 Renewal	86.0%	3.0	8.3	3.0	27.6	4.7	3.0
R01/R35 Conversion	52.0%	14.1	19.3	11.1	28.2	11.1	-10.7

<https://loop.nigms.nih.gov/2022/02/mira-renewals-award-rates-and-budget-changes/>

# Key Elements of the MIRA Concept

- A single NIGMS grant per PD/PI to provide support for the NIGMS-related research in an investigator's lab, reduced administrative burden
- Five-year funding, flexibility in future research directions, higher stability
- PI relinquishes other NIGMS support with some exceptions, e.g., resource, training, small business grants
- Award levels based on current support
- Renewals – lower application numbers, higher success rates, flexible funding levels

# Eligibility for MIRA Application

## **New applications converted from a qualifying award**

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

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

- A PD/PI working in GM mission
- Not a project leader on a multi-component award from NIH (except for NIGMS COBRE, IDeA-CTR, and NARCH)
- ESIs should apply through the ESI MIRA FOA (PAR 20-117 will be reissued). If you are an ESI, this webinar is not for you.

## **Renewal applications**

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

# Distinct Features of MIRA Applications

## Features of MIRA Applications

- No specific aims: flexible to follow new research directions
- Scientific topics: within the scientific mission of NIGMS  
(<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/about-nigms/who-we-are/overview>)
- Research strategy: 6 pages (background, recent progress, future research)
- Biosketch: tailored
- Budget request: A single line of budget for each year, no detailed budget

# Receipt and Review Dates for MIRA Applications

<b>Receipt date</b>	Jan 17, 2023	May 16, 2023	Jan 16, 2024	May 16, 2024	Jan 16, 2025	May 16, 2025
<b>Scientific review</b>	July 2023	Nov 2023	July 2024	Nov 2024	July 2025	Nov 2025
<b>Council</b>	Oct 2023	Jan 2024	Oct 2024	Jan 2025	Oct 2025	Jan 2026
<b>Start date</b>	Dec 2023	April 2024	Dec 2024	April 2025	Dec 2025	April 2026

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

## **Background and key knowledge gaps**

- One to one and half pages

## **Recent progress by the PD/PI**

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

## **Overview of future research**

- Three to four pages

Note that this is different than your R01 components: significance, innovation, approach

# Biosketches

## Personal Statement

- Tailored to the unique attributes and requirement of MIRA
- Service to the scientific community (beyond your institutional duties)
- When applicable, describe factors that may have reduced productivity

## Contributions to Science

- Focus on the past five years (but is not “limited to”)
- Within the NIGMS mission (emphasized in the NOFO)
- Supported by NIGMS (emphasized in the NOFO)
- List grant citations as acknowledged in the publications (emphasized in the NOFO)

## Hypertext (Hyperlinks and URLs)

- Do not use hypertext other than for the PD’s/PI’s my NCBI page

## New requirement about biosketch and other support

- An independent attachment of current and pending support required
- Section D eliminated



# MIRA Budget Request and Award Level

## Budget request

- Follow budget instructions outlined in the NOFO
- No detailed budget (only DC, F&A, Total Costs for each year)
- **No inflationary escalations (per NIH policy)**
- Indirect costs should be requested
- Equipment purchase with the \$750,000 budget limit
- No prior approval required if annual DC over \$500K

## New MIRA award levels generally adjusted based on current GM support

- >400K: 12% reduction in general
- \$250K - \$400K: same, reduced, or slightly increased
- <\$250K: increase to \$250K in most cases
- Budget for New Investigators will be generally \$250K

# PD/PI Minimum Effort Requirement

- PD/PI is required to devote at least 45% of the PD/PI's total research effort to MIRA
- Total research effort should include the PD/PI's combined research effort at all institutions where the PD/PI holds an appointment
- Express effort in person-months
- NIGMS staff will verify the MIRA research effort requirement met by using the other support documentation and will exclude support for which the purpose is education and training

# Review Information

Applications are reviewed at Study Sections organized by CSR

- MRAA (<https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/MGG/MRAA>)
- MRAB (<https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/MBBC/MRAB>)
- MRAC (<https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/CDB/MRAC>)
- MRAD (<https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/CDB/MRAD>)
- MRAE (<https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/MBBC/MRAE>)
- MRAF (<https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/MGG/MRAF>)
- SEPs as needed

Panels review only MIRA applications

Majority of applications are discussed

Applications are reviewed relative to the PI's career stage, (e.g., applications from ex-ESIs are clustered together)

An overall impact score provided, no individual criterion scores

# Review Criteria

<b>Scorable Review Criteria</b>	Significance Investigator(s) Innovation Approach Environment
<b>Additional Scorable Review Criteria</b>	Study Timeline for Clinical Trials Protections and Inclusion Plans for Human Subjects Vertebrate Animals Biohazards
<b>Non-scorable Review Considerations</b>	Authentication of Key Resources Budget and Period of Support Resource Sharing Plans

# Specific Considerations for MIRA Review

- Is the research program substantive and appropriate for long-term pursuit?
- Has the PD/PI been conducting and reporting rigorous, reproducible, transparent, and cost-effective research?
- Does the PD/PI have a record of significant service to the scientific community?
- Are the PD's/PI's productivity and impact commensurate with their level of funding and career stage?
- Is there evidence that the freedom and flexibility of the MIRA will lead to innovation?
- Is there a logical plan for sustained progress of this research program?
- Is there evidence that the research program will evolve appropriately?

# Specific Considerations for MIRA Review (Cont'd)

## Renewals

- For ex-ESI MIRAs, has the PD/PI established a research program with the potential for continued growth and enhanced scientific impact?
- For Established Investigator MIRAs, has the PD/PI maintained a productive research program with strong evidence of impactful contribution to the field and recognition of new opportunities and directions?

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Am I eligible if all my NIGMS research funding comes from several MPI R01s?**

No. The qualifying award must be a single-PD/PI R01 or equivalent.

**Why are letters from collaborators not encouraged?**

Flexibility of MIRA research (specific techniques, reagents).

Consortium/Subaward will be rare and extremely well justified.

**Can I submit again if my application does not review well?**

Yes, if eligible. Subsequent applications will be A0s.

**Why are A1s NOT accepted?**

The review should focus on the scientific merit instead of responsiveness to the previous review.

# Frequently Asked Questions (page 2)

## What should I do if my T2A0 doesn't score well?

### Don'ts

- Do not submit an T2A1 application. It must be a New/T1A0.
- Do not talk about the previous review in your new application.
- Do not include an introduction page.
- Do not include a progress report publication list.

### Dos

- Cite publications in Biosketch under contributions to science (5 areas with 4 papers under each, with grant numbers).
- Report progress in section II under Research Strategy: “recent progress by the PD/PI which focuses on the past 5 years.”



# Frequently Asked Questions (page 3)

## What are the common reasons for applications to be returned without review?

- Proposing research outside the scientific mission of NIGMS
- Missing the required attachment of “Current and Pending Support”
- Unallowable hypertext (Hyperlinks and URLs) in application
- Overstuffing: unallowable information in non-page limited sections
- Ineligible Status
  - Conversion of R01-equivalent GM award(s) to MIRA: 1 FY beyond expiration
  - Renewal of MIRA: 2 FYs beyond expiration