Applying for U.S. NIH Grants: Navigating NIH Public Resources

What We Do and Grants Process Overview

- What We Do: https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/what-we-do/nih%E2%80%A6turning-discovery-into-health%C2%AE
- Grants Process Overview: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/grants_process.htm

Where Do I Start if I Want to Apply?

- Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT) provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities: https://report.nih.gov/
- RePORTER Matchmaker: https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker. Enter scientific text like a project abstract and choose:
  - Similar Projects: Use the resulting list of projects to identify which Institute/Center to target or the names of others in the field to connect with
    - Explore what types of projects NIH is funding/has funded in your area of science
    - Identify the appropriate Institute/Center by searching for the Institute/Center that is funding projects like yours
  - Similar Program Officials: Identify Program Officials to contact who are associated with similarly funded projects
    - Provides a graph of relevant Institutes/Centers as well as a table of NIH Program Officials ranked by the number of relevant projects in their portfolios
    - Click the number in the projects column to see the list of awards

What Do I Need to Consider Before Applying?

- Information for Foreign Grants: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/foreign/index.htm
- International Applications – additional resources from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID): https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/international-applications
- NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS) (rev 12/2022) Chapter 16.3 Application Review, including extra review criteria for foreign applications: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_16/16.3_application_review.htm
- NIH GPS Chapter 16.6 Allowable and Unallowable Costs, including limited Facilities and Administrative costs 8% of total direct costs, less equipment for foreign awards: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_16/16.6_allowable_and_unallowable_costs.htm
- Plan Your Application: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/planning_application.htm#additional
- Standard Submission Deadlines and Funding: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/due-dates.htm

How Do I Apply?

- Available Funding Programs: https://grants.nih.gov/funding/index.htm
- How to Search for Grant Programs https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html#/
- Types of Research Grants: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm
- Institutes/Centers publish specific funding opportunities on their websites: https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/list-nih-institutes-centers-offices

Do I Choose a Parent Announcement or a Solicitation?

- Understanding Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs): https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/prepare-to-apply-and-register/understand-funding-opportunities.htm

What Do Peer Reviewers Look for in an Application?

- NIAID Sample Applications: https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications
- What to Know Before You Start Writing, including What Peer Reviewers Look For: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm
- Definitions of Criteria and Considerations for Research Project Grant (RPG/R01/R03/R15/R21/R34) Critiques: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm

How Do I Submit My Application?

- How to Apply Application Guide: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html
- Tips for International Applicants (rev 09/2016): https://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/files/Tips_for_International_Applicants.pdf
- Applying Electronically Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Foreign Organizations: https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/applying-electronically.htm?anchor=alphaHeader3832

What Else to Consider When Submitting Your Application?

- Center for Scientific Review: https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants
- Information About How/Why to Request a Study Section and Institute/Center: https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/SubmissionAndAssignment/RequestScientificReviewGroup
- Assisted Referral Tool (ART): https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART/index.jsp?tabID=7004919A4F4D26AD897E1C4AE0FFF2EA16716100

After Submitting – Track What Happens with Your Application

- eRA for Applicants: https://era.nih.gov/applicants

Not Ready to Submit Your Own Application? Can You Collaborate with a U.S. Researcher on Their Application?

- To learn more about policy and administrative requirements, please reference the NIH GPS: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/nihgps/index.htm
- Utilize RePORTER https://reporter.nih.gov/ to search a repository of NIH-funded research projects and to access publications – this can help to identify potential future collaborators. Search by keyword or sentence https://reporter.nih.gov/ or use the Matchmaker interface https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker (see also above)
  - Find collaborators who are experienced NIH grantees or who have skills that complement your own to improve the strength of your proposal

What Else Should You be Aware of?

- NIH GPS Chapter 2.5.1 Just-in-Time Procedures includes information on disclosing all other funding: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_2/2.5.1_just-in-time_procedures.htm
- NIH GPS Chapter 8.2 Availability of Research Results: Publications, Intellectual Property Rights, and Sharing Research Resources, including making research findings public and free, policy for data management and sharing, and open sharing of research samples: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_8/8.2_availability_of_research_results_publications__intellectual_property_rights__and_sharing_research_resources.htm
- NIH GPS Chapter 16.4 Public Policy Requirements and Objectives, including applicable public policy requirements that must be followed, such as those for human subjects and animal welfare: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_16/16.4_public_policy_requirements_and_objectives.htm
- NIH GPS Chapter 16.5 Funding and Payment, including requirements to state budget in U.S. dollars: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_16/16.5_funding_and_payment.htm
- NIH GPS Chapter 16.7 Administrative Requirements, including auditing and reporting requirements: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_16/16.7_administrative_requirements.htm

Free, Recorded 2023 NIH Grants Conference and PreConference and 2021 NIH Virtual Seminar:

- NIH Grants Conference (02/2023): https://grants.nih.gov/learning-center/conference
- PreConference Event International Collaborations: Policies, Processes & Partnerships (11/2022): https://grants.nih.gov/learning-center/conference/precon-events/international-collaborations
- NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration (11/2021): https://grants.nih.gov/virtual-seminar-2021/presentations.html

Additional Resources

- To see a list of current international collaborations on U.S. NIH grants, please utilize NIH's World RePORT (WR). WR showcases multiple funders' international portfolios as well as NIH's international collaborations up to Fiscal Year (FY) 2021: https://worldreport.nih.gov/app/#!/. Please make sure to review "About World RePORT." Global data are available from FY2016 onward
- RePORT Awards by Location & Organization (FY1992 – FY2023) provides direct awards to foreign institutions: https://report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm
- Foreign Interference: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/foreign-interference.htm
- Glossary and Acronym List: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#F32
- Deciphering NIH Grant Numbers: https://era.nih.gov/files/Deciphering_NIH_Application.pdf