Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) Program

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Participating NIGMS Staff

Dr. Irina Krasnova
Program Director,
Research Advancement Programs Branch
Division for Research Capacity Building

Dr. Ming Lei,
Director, Division for Research Capacity Building

Dr. Stephanie Constant,
Chief, Scientific Review Branch

Dr. Michele McGuirl
Chief, Research Advancement Programs Branch
Division for Research Capacity Building

Christy Leake,
Team Leader,
Grants Administration Branch
Score: Support for Research Excellence (SuRE)

Recommendations by NAGMS Council Based on SCORE Evaluation

- Revise expected outcomes: focus on sustainable research excellence, not “competitiveness”
- Revise and consolidate funding mechanisms
- Catalyze the development of research culture at eligible institutions
- Prioritize engaging students in funded research
- Broaden participation of eligible institutions

SCORE: increase the research competitiveness of the faculty, enhance the research base at eligible institutions. SC1, SC2, and SC3

SuRE: develop and sustain research excellence of faculty at eligible institutions SuRE R16, SuRE-First R16, and SuRE-Resource Center (U24 FOA to be published)
Outline of Today’s Webinar

- Goals of SuRE program
- Institutional Eligibility for R16s
- SuRE Award (R16)
- SuRE-First Award (R16)
- Review
- Allowable and Unallowable Costs
Goals of the SuRE Program

Purpose: to develop and sustain research excellence of faculty at institutions that award science degrees, receive limited NIH research support, and serve students from groups underrepresented in biomedical research

Goals:  
- Provide research grant support for faculty investigators  
- Provide students with research opportunities  
- Catalyze institutional research and enrich the research environment
Institutional Eligibility for R16s

• Award BA/BS and/or graduate degrees in biomedical sciences

• Have < $6 M/year (total costs) from NIH Research Project Grants (RPG) in past 2 years calculated using NIH RePORTER

• Enroll ≥ 25% undergraduate students supported by Pell grants using the IPEDS database as a reference; or medical/health professional school founded to educate students from underrepresented groups

• SuRE applications: no more than 20 total active SuRE, SC1, and SC3 awards

• SuRE-First applications: no limit
Supported Research Areas, Review, and Funding

- Proposed projects open to research areas of all NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs)
- Applications assigned to NIAID will be reviewed by NIAID;
  all other applications will be reviewed by NIGMS
- Meritorious applications in all research areas will be considered for funding
  by NIGMS and other participating NIH ICs
SuRE Award (R16)

- **PAR-21-169** Application due date: May 26, 2021
- $100,000 direct costs/year, up to 4 years, renewable

PI Eligibility:

- Must have a full-time tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty appointment (tenured faculty included)

- Cannot have an active NIH Research Project Grant (RPG) as a PI
  - RPG: R01, R35, U01, P01, R21, R03, R00, R15 grants
  - Grants in NCE are considered the same as active grants
  - SCORE, SuRE and SuRE-First awardees may apply in the last year of funding
Required Components of the SuRE R16 Application

• Research Strategy must include a Student Involvement Plan
  ○ Plan to recruit students, including those from underrepresented groups
  ○ Strategy to involve and train students in conducting research

• The application must include three attachments:
  ○ A) Institutional Letter – Strategic Plan for Building Research Capacity and Research Excellence
  ○ B) Institutional Letter - Support for the PD/PI’s Research Career Development
  ○ C) PI’s Current and Pending Support
SuRE-First Award (R16)

- PAR-21-173  Application due date: September 28, 2021
- $125,000 direct cost/year, up to 4 years, mentored, non-renewable

PI Eligibility:
- Must have a full-time tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty appointment (tenured faculty included)
- Have not been the PI of an externally-funded, peer-reviewed SCORE or research grant from any source
Required Components of the SuRE-First R16 Application

- PI must have a research advisor from a domestic institution
- PI must devote a minimum of 6 calendar months per year to the project
- Research Strategy must include a Student Involvement Plan
- The application must include four attachments:
  - A) Institutional Letter – Strategic Plan for Building Research Capacity and Research Excellence
  - B) Institutional Letter - Support for the PD/PI’s Research Career Development
  - C) PD/PI's Research Enhancement Plan
  - D) PD/PI’s Prior, Current and Pending Support
- Preliminary data not required but if provided will be reviewed
Administrative and Scientific Reviews

Administrative Review

• Eligibility and compliance are evaluated by Program Officers and Scientific Review Officers

• Ineligible or non-compliant applications are withdrawn. To avoid this:
  o Read the FOA carefully and pay close attention to eligibility criteria and required components
  o Submit a few days prior to a due date, then check your application and edit it if needed

Scientific Review

• Applications are clustered by research area into Special Emphasis Panels

• Three reviewers are assigned to each application and provide preliminary scores

• Panel discusses those in the top half of scoring and all panelists vote

• Each applicant gets a Summary Statement (with resumé of discussion, if in the top half)
Allowable and Unallowable Costs

✓ Costs essential to the conduct of the research project, such as salaries of PI, students, technicians, equipment, supplies, fees-for-service

✓ Travel costs

✓ Collaborators may be paid a salary or compensation appropriate to their roles

✓ Consultants may be paid a reasonable honorarium commensurate with their roles

✗ Support for foreign institutions, foreign research services, foreign collaborators, consultants, or foreign components/consortia, is not allowed (except as fee-for-service)
Thank You

Questions?