



National Institute of
General Medical Sciences



Erica Brown, Ph.D.

Acting Director

National Institute of
General Medical
Sciences

May 21, 2026

National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council

Director's Report

Council Updates



Outgoing Members

Jeffrey Sun, J.D., Ph.D.

Professor & Distinguished University Scholar
Gradie R. & Mary D. Rowntree Endowed Chair in
Educational Administration
University of Louisville



***Ad hoc* Participants**

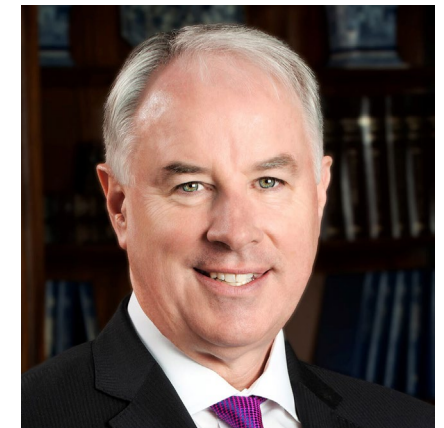
Kelly Lucas, Ph.D.

Vice President for Research
The University of Southern Mississippi



John Kirwan, Ph.D.

George A. Bray, Jr. Endowed Super Chair in Nutrition
Professor, Integrated Physiology and Molecular Medicine
Louisiana State University



***Ad hoc* Participants, cont.**

Douglas Sawyer, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Academic Officer
MaineHealth



Early Career Investigator *Ad hoc* Participants

Catherine Eichhorn, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry
University of Nebraska–Lincoln



Gary Mo, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology and
Regenerative Medicine
University of Illinois Chicago



NIGMS Staffing Updates



NIGMS Personnel Changes

Promotions

- **Justin Rosenzweig**, Chief, Grants Administration Branch, Division of Extramural Activities (previously Acting Chief)



Upcoming NIGMS Leadership Recruitments

Director, Division of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry (PPBC)

- Provides scientific and administrative leadership for a broad extramural research portfolio spanning pharmacology, physiology, biochemistry, and related disciplines central to the NIGMS mission.
- Requires strategic vision, sound stewardship of Institute resources, and close collaboration with other NIGMS divisions and NIH partners.

Upcoming NIGMS Leadership Recruitments

Director, Division of Extramural Activities (DEA)

- Provides strategic leadership and oversight for NIGMS advisory council operations, grants administration work, and a broad range of extramural policies and procedures.
- Advises the NIGMS director and other senior staff on policy matters and on the planning, development, and scientific administration of Institute research and training programs.

NIGMS Staff Recruitments

Current Recruitments

- Administrative Officers
- Grants Management Specialists
- Budget Analysts
- Program Officers

Upcoming Recruitments

- Data Scientists
- IT Project Manager
- IT Specialist

Follow along and apply at USAJobs!

NIH Policy Changes



NOT-OD-26-032: Basic Experimental Studies in Humans (BESH) No Longer Considered Clinical Trials

- Effective for applications submitted on or after May 25, 2026.
- Removes clinical trial requirements (e.g., ClinicalTrials.gov registration and results reporting).
- Applications must still comply with human subjects protections and the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy.
- BESH-specific NOFOs phased out; applicants use Clinical Trial Not Allowed or Optional.

NOT-OD-26-064: Update of NIH Late Application Submission Policy and End of Continuous Submission

- Continuous Submission ends August 10, 2026 (corresponds with June/July standard due dates)
- Updated Late Application Submission Policy effective for applications submitted on or after May 25, 2026.
 - NIH Review Service: Review or advisory group meeting participation within four calendar weeks before or after the original application due date is now accepted as a reason for late submission.
 - Extenuating Circumstances: Deadline is two weeks after the original due date.
 - No advance permission provided by NIH to submit late application.
 - Only applies to PDs/PIs; not others involved in the application
 - No late submissions allowed for Fellowships, Small Business, Collaborative International Research, and when indicated in NOFO

NIH Policy Updates

- **NOT-OD-26-069:** NIH will continue select peer review practices (e.g., competitive not-discussed) implemented following the 2025 lapse in appropriations to address missed peer review meetings; modifications remain in place for the October 2026 Advisory Council.
- **NOT-OD-26-079:** NIH ended the Common Forms leniency period and will require Common Forms for Biographical Sketch, Current and Pending (Other) Support, and the NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement beginning May 8, 2026, for all application due dates and JIT, RPPR, and Prior Approval submissions.
- **NOT-OD-26-046:** NIH revised required elements of Data Management and Sharing Plans to reduce burden and improve efficiency; for due dates on or after May 25, 2026, applicants and recipients must use a new simplified format that NIH will pilot and evaluate over the next year.

NIGMS NOFO Updates

PAR-27-032: Maximizing Investigators Research Award (MIRA) for Early Stage Investigators (ESI)

- First Application Due Date: October 2, 2026
- No major content changes
- HHS *SimplerNOFO* – new look and feel!
 - A more logical, applicant-centered structure
 - Visual design elements such as headings, white space, and shorter paragraphs with greater use of bullets
 - Tools like checklists and explicit guidance to help applicants understand what is required and what steps to take next
 - Plain-language and reduced use of jargon
- Informational webinar – July 15, 2026

NOT-GM-26-005: Expiration of NOT-GM-26-005 Technology Development R21

Background

- Lack of responsiveness to the NOFO resulted in withdrawal of large fraction of submitted applications prior to review.
- Major reasons for withdrawal included inclusion of preliminary data and lack of fit to the NIGMS mission.

What's Next

- Develop a new strategy to support early-stage technology development projects.

NOT-GM-26-002: NIGMS Participation in Parent NOFO for Predoctoral Fellowship (F31)

- NIGMS is continuing its strong support for predoctoral training by participating in the Parent F31 NOFO
- We strongly encourage applications from IDeA-eligible states, HBCUs, TCUs, and resource-limited institutions
- We will consider all meritorious applications and prioritize candidates with limited access to other NIH research training resources

Highlighted Topics

- NIH has rolled out a new way for ICs to communicate research priority areas to the community: Highlighted Topics (HTs)
 - May or may not have dedicated funding.
 - Describe potentially timely, new, and/or emerging research priority areas for applicants to consider.
 - Topics automatically expire 2 years after release.
- Applications must be submitted to existing NOFOs
- Applicants are encouraged to consult with program staff early to discuss alignment of ideas with the HT.

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research/highlighted-topics>

Current NIGMS HTs

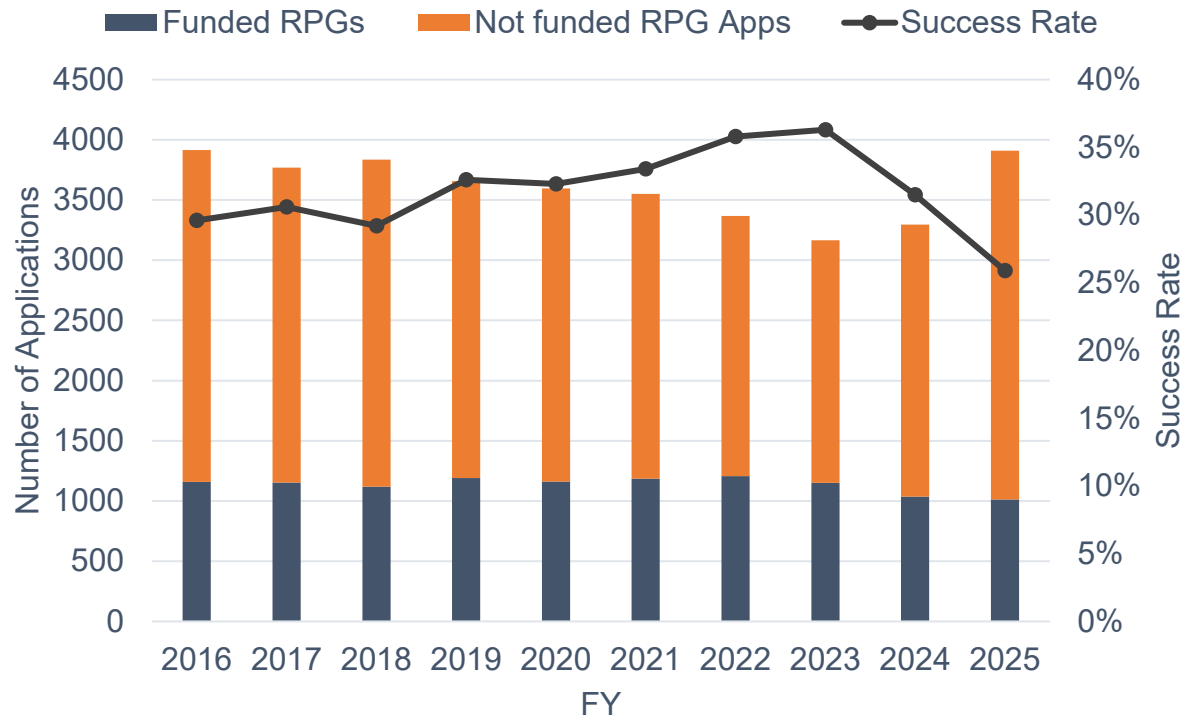
- NIGMS-led:
 - Advancing “Science of Science” Research to Understand and Strengthen the Biomedical Research Ecosystem
- NIGMS-participating:
 - Quantum Information Science & Technologies for Biomedical Applications
 - Enhancing Scientific Rigor, Transparency and Replicability
- Subscribe for email alerts about new topics

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 NIGMS Funding Trends



Competing RPG Applications, Funded RPGs, and Success Rates

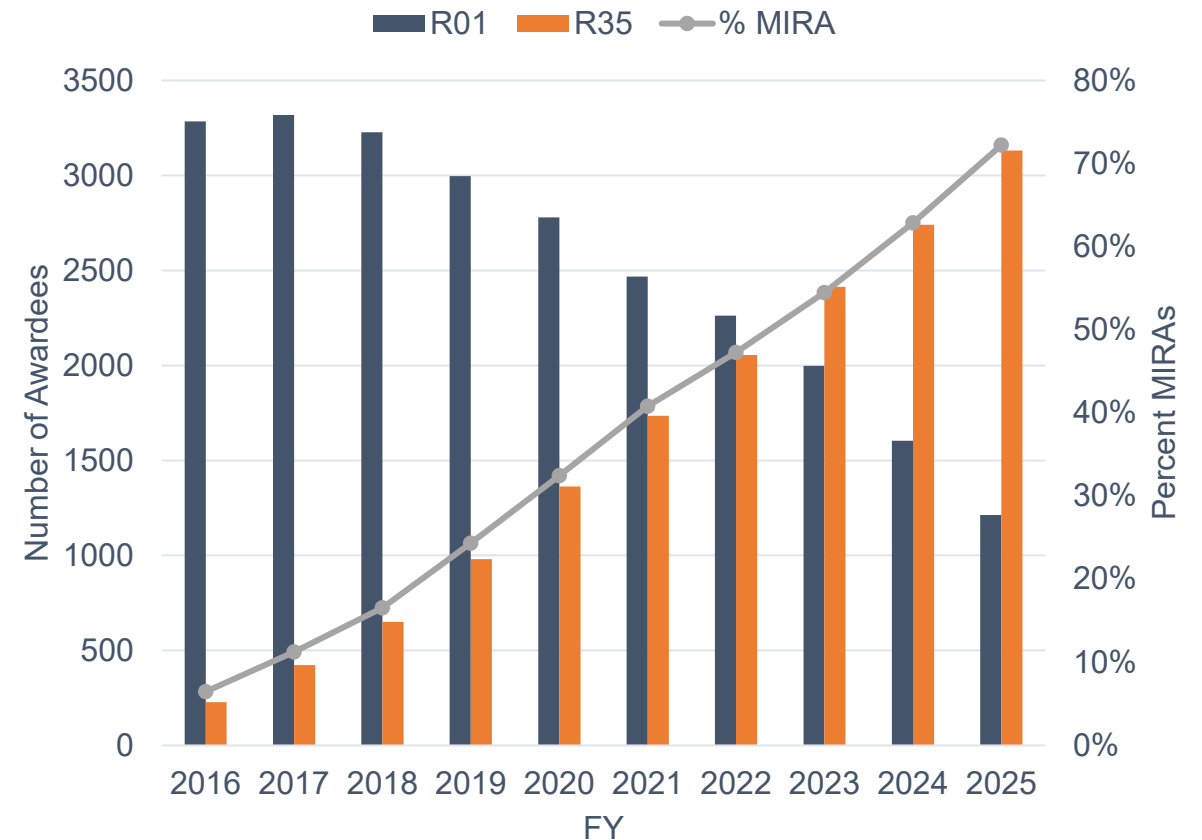
NIGMS Competing RPG Applications, Funded RPGs, and Success Rates



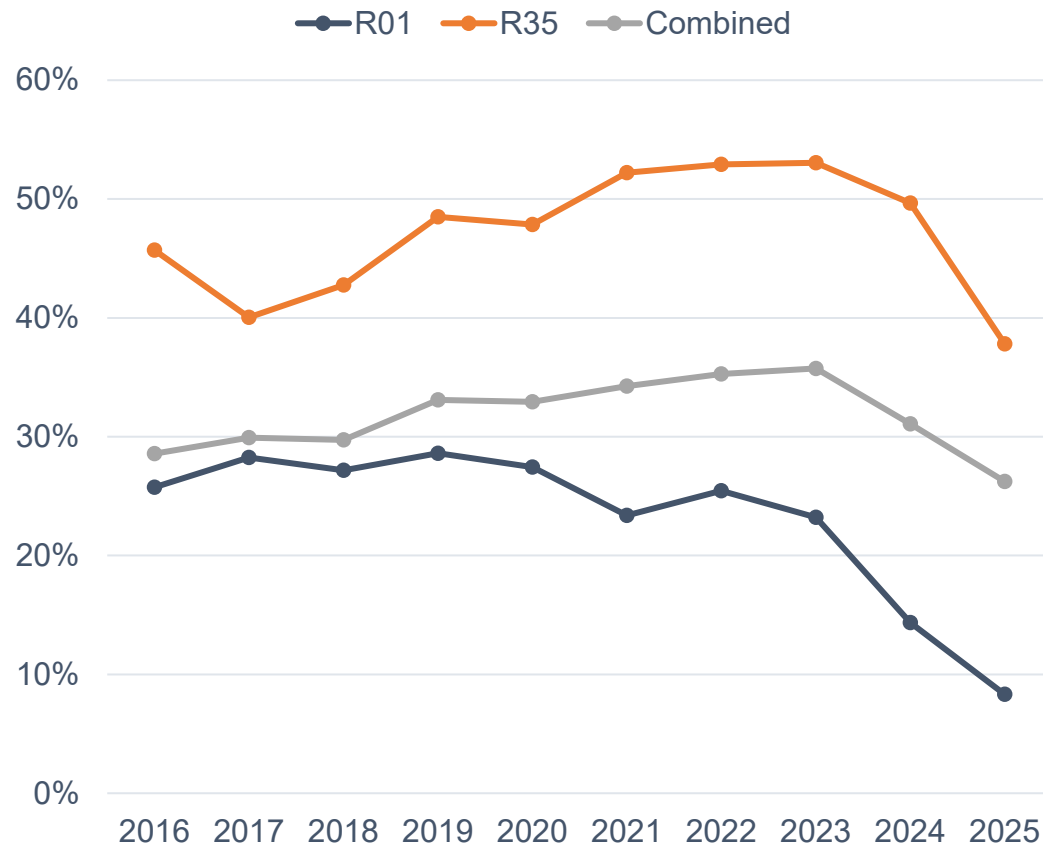
- RPG applications increased from 3,295 (FY 24) to 3,909 (FY25)
- RPG Success Rate declined
 - 36.3% (FY23), 31.5% (FY24), 25.9% (FY25)
 - Increase in number of applications is largest contributor

Trends in R01 / MIRA R35 Awardees

- MIRA continues to be the predominant RPG at NIGMS.
- MIRA has higher award rates than comparators for both EIs and ESIs.
- MIRA applications have a higher success rate than comparable R01 applications.



NIGMS Competing R01 and R35 Success Rates



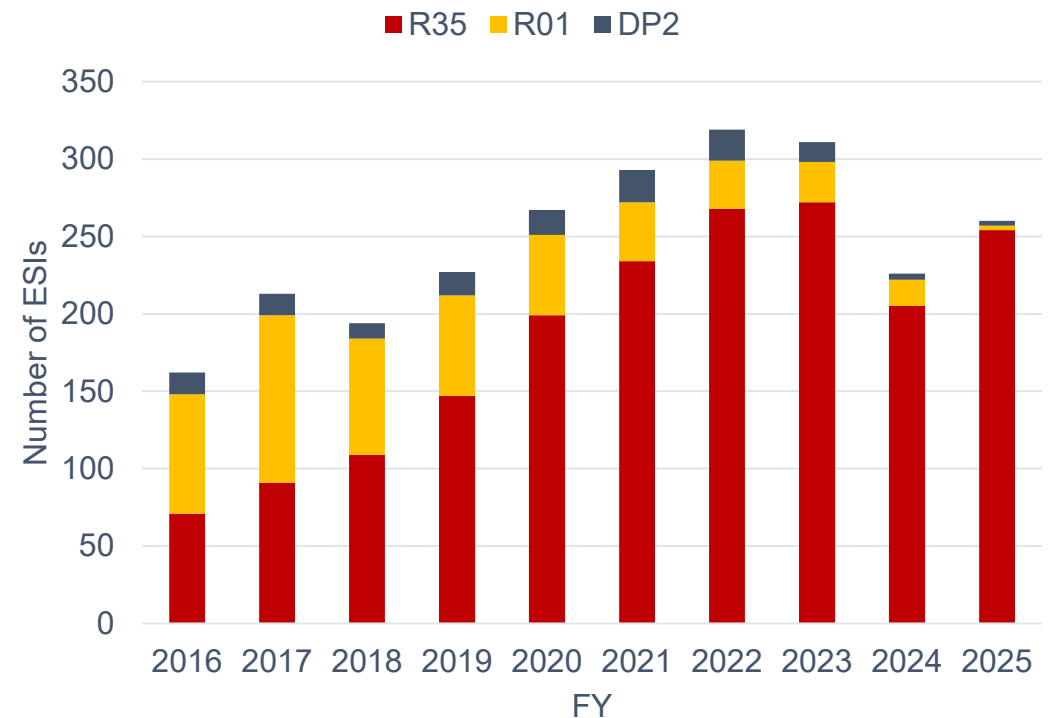
- Competing Success Rates for R01s and R35s have declined since FY23

- R35: 53.1% (FY23), 49.7% (FY24), 37.8%(FY25)
- R01: 23.2% (FY23), 14.4% (FY24), 8.3% (FY25)
- Increase in number of applications is largest contributor

Investigator-Level Trends for ESIs Research Grants

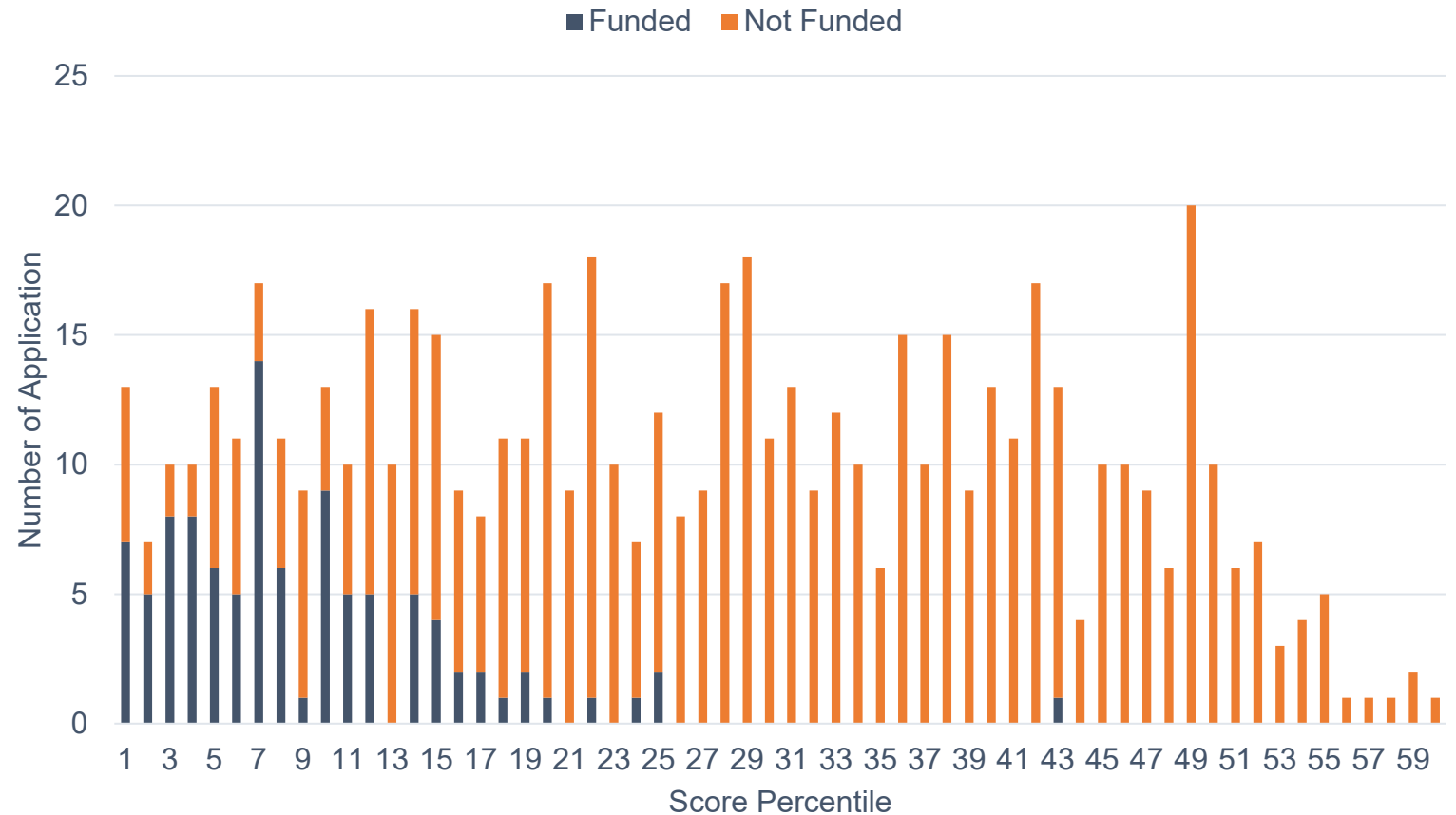
- In FY25, NIGMS awarded R01-equivalent grants to a total of 260 ESIs.
 - Up from 226 in FY24
- 254 ESIs received R35 (MIRA) awards.
- 1 ESI received an R01 award.
- 3 ESIs received DP2 awards (NIH Director's New Innovator Awards).

NIGMS ESI Awarded R01-Equivalent Grants



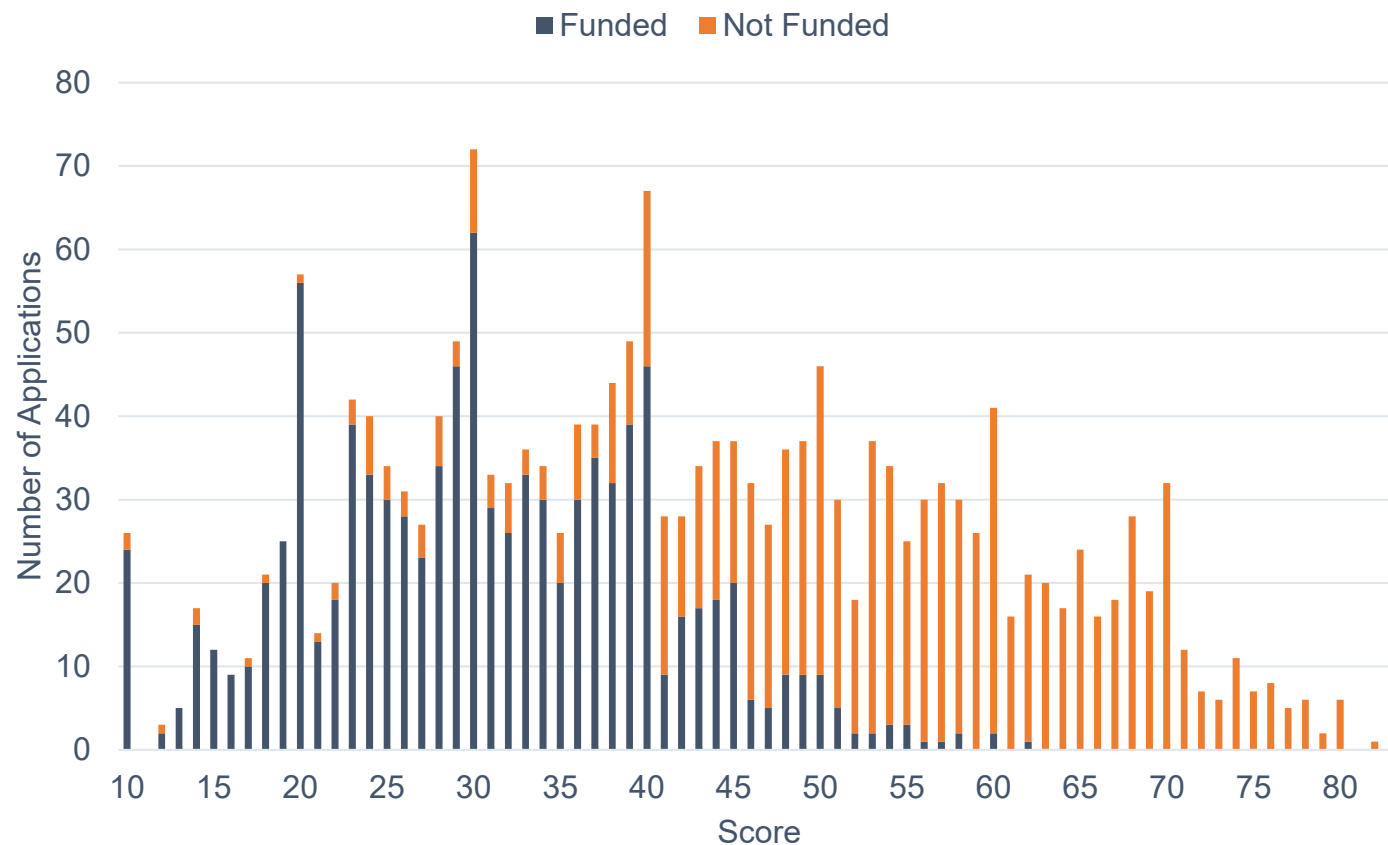
NIGMS Competing R01 Funding Distribution by Percentile, FY25

- Rather than using a percentile cutoff to make funding decisions, other factors in addition to the review scores, reviewer comments, and the summary of the review discussion are considered in accordance with NIGMS funding policies.



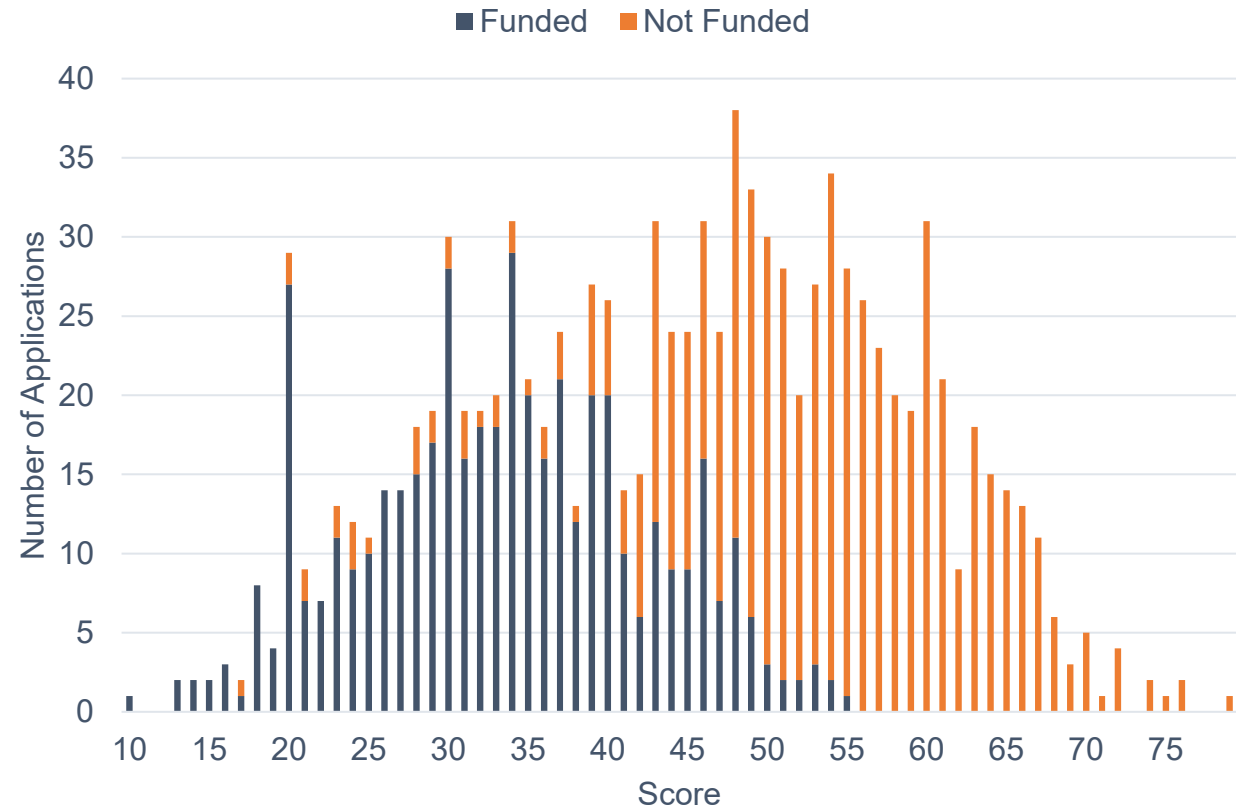
EI MIRA Apps FY24-25

- Most EI MIRA applications with an overall impact score at or below 40 were funded.



ESI MIRA Apps FY24-25

- Most ESI MIRA applications with an overall impact score at or below 42 were funded.
- To ensure that each group is evaluated according to their career stage, ESI and EI MIRA applications are reviewed separately.



**Questions?
Comments?**