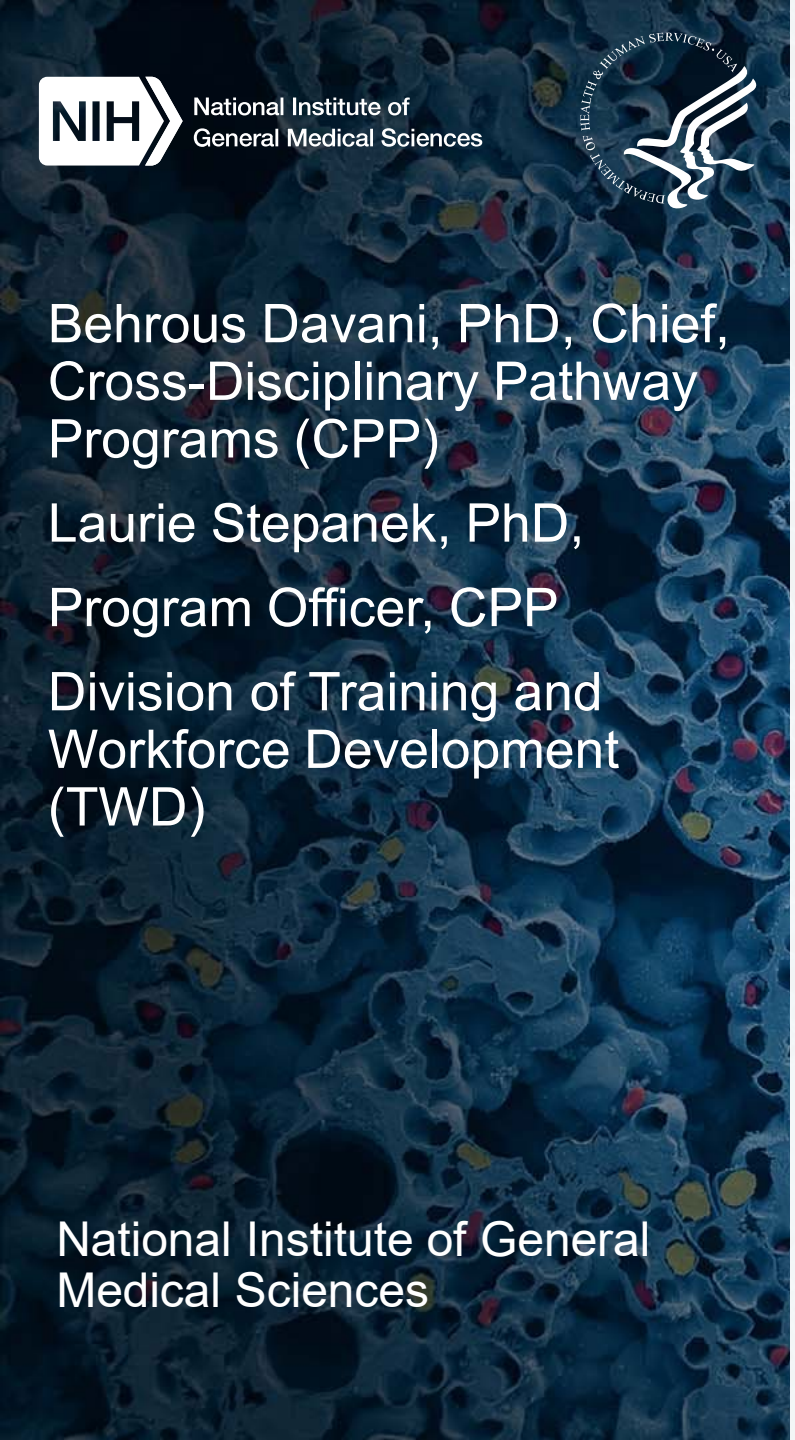


National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Behrous Davani, PhD, Chief, Cross-Disciplinary Pathway Programs (CPP)

Laurie Stepanek, PhD,

Program Officer, CPP

Division of Training and Workforce Development (TWD)

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

NIGMS Research Education Program (R25) - Research Experiences (PA-27-036)

August 2026

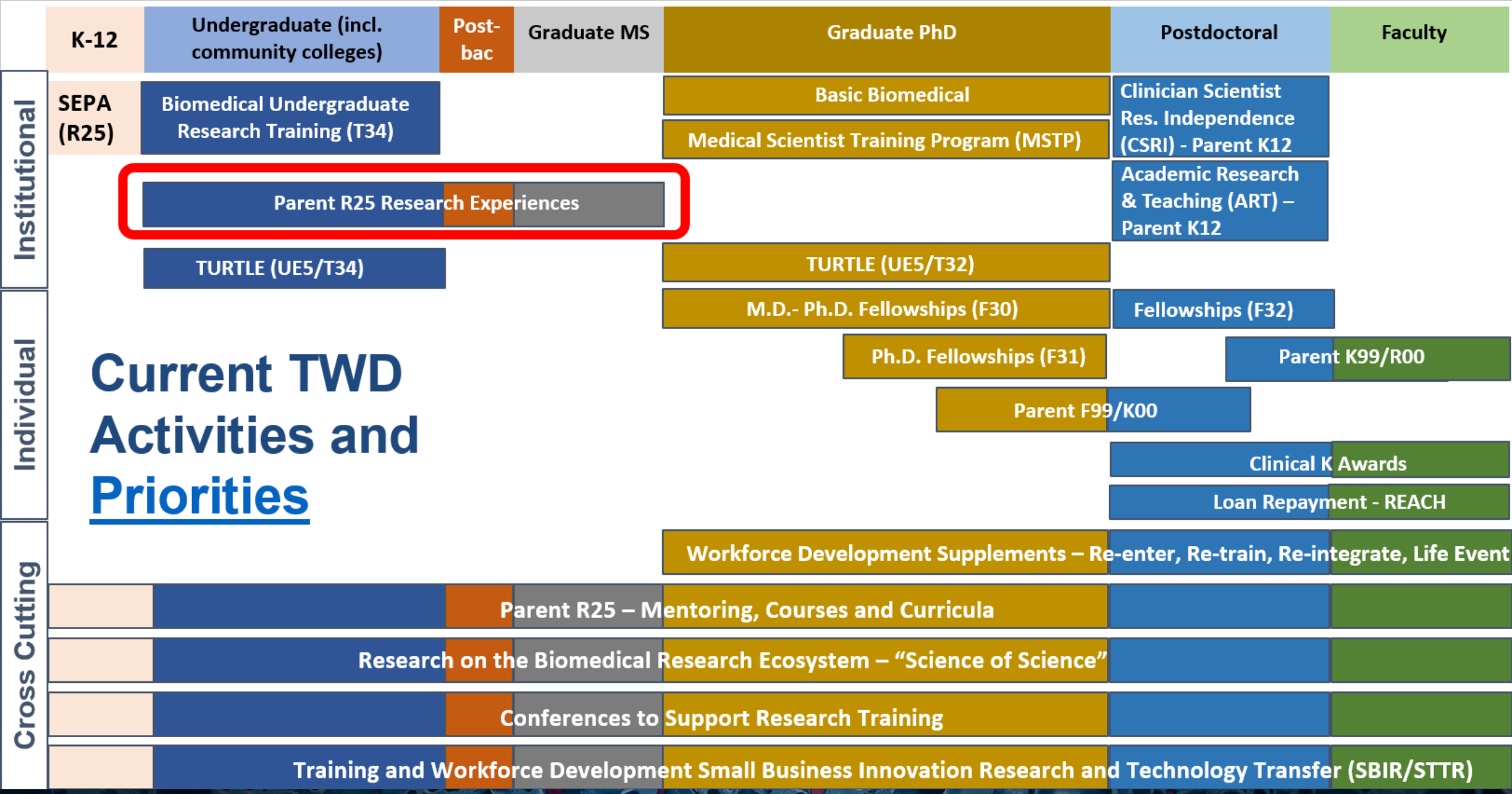
Disclaimer

- 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)

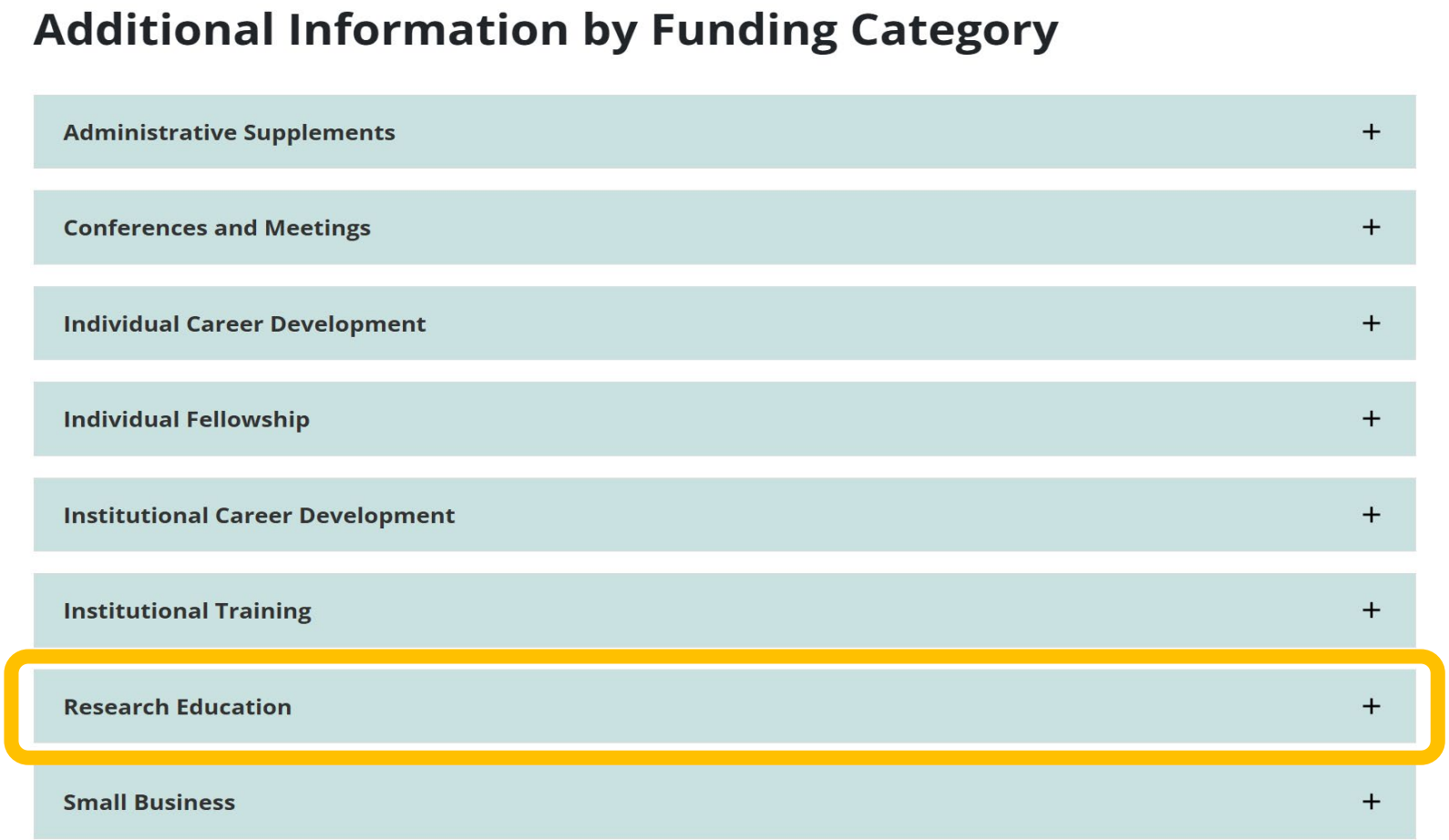
Each NOFO has unique requirements – please read and follow them closely, and reach out to NIGMS staff with questions

Outline

- Overview of TWD Programs
- Introduction to the Research Experiences Program
- Eligibility and Key Dates
- Highlights of the Application Components
- Budget Overview
- Peer Review Overview
- General Tips and Advice

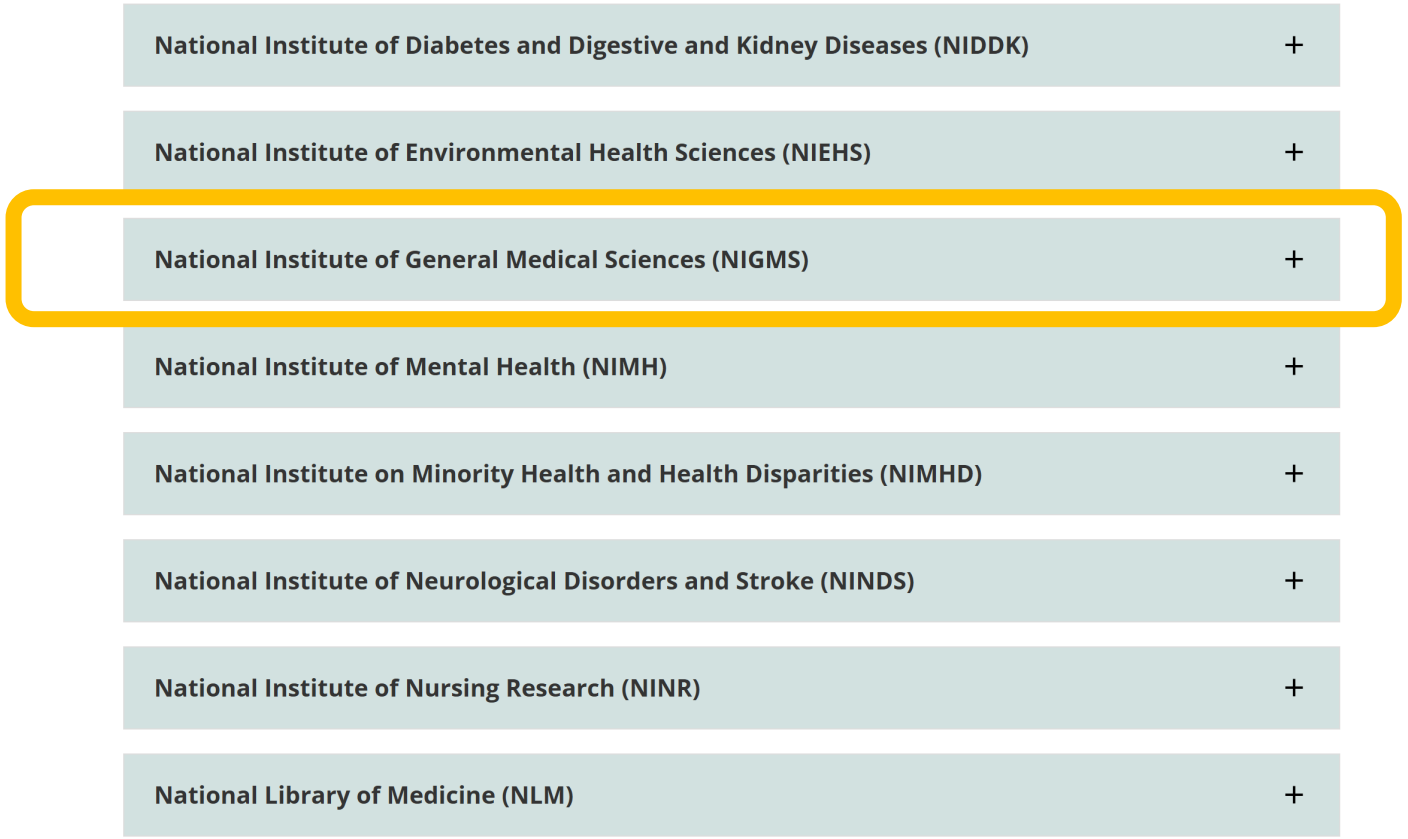

K-12
Undergraduate (incl. community colleges)
Post-bac
Graduate MS
Graduate PhD
Postdoctoral
Faculty
Institutional
SEPA (R25)
Biomedical Undergraduate Research Training (T34)
Basic Biomedical
Clinician Scientist Res. Independence (CSRI) - Parent K12
Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)
Parent R25 Research Experiences
Academic Research & Teaching (ART) – Parent K12
TURTLE (UE5/T34)
TURTLE (UE5/T32)
Individual
M.D.- Ph.D. Fellowships (F30)
Fellowships (F32)
Ph.D. Fellowships (F31)
Parent K99/R00
Parent F99/K00
Clinical K Awards
Loan Repayment - REACH
Current TWD Activities and Priorities
Workforce Development Supplements – Re-enter, Re-train, Re-integrate, Life Event
Cross Cutting
Parent R25 – Mentoring, Courses and Curricula
Research on the Biomedical Research Ecosystem – "Science of Science"
Conferences to Support Research Training
Training and Workforce Development Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR)

NIGMS Profile Page Shares NIGMS Priorities



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

Research Education Page Shares all Institute Priorities



https://grants.nih.gov/funding/funding-categories/research-training-and-career-development/research-education/ico-funding-considerations

Introduction to the Research Education Program

NIH Research Education Program Goals

- Support educational activities that complement and/or enhance training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs;
- Help recruit individuals with specific specialty or disciplinary backgrounds to research careers in biomedical, behavioral and clinical sciences; and
- Foster a better understanding of biomedical, behavioral and clinical research and its implications.

NIGMS Parent R25 Priorities

Research Experiences
PA-27-036

- Prepare cohorts of students to transition to Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.
  - Summer undergraduate
  - Yearlong postbaccalaureate
  - Research-based master's programs

NIGMSR25research@nih.gov

Mentoring Activities and Networks
PA-27-035

- Equip cohorts of NIGMS K awardees to move to research independence (UE5)
  - F99/K00
  - K99/R00
  - Clinical K
- Address critical workforce needs as part of a formal mentoring structure.

NIGMSR25mentoring@nih.gov

Courses, Curriculum or Methods Development
PA-27-034

- Courses to equip participants with research or professional skills required for careers in the biomedical research workforce.
- Programs to develop and disseminate innovative curriculum or instructional approach to improve biomedical research education at multiple secondary or postsecondary organizations.

NIGMSR25courses@nih.gov

NIGMS Research Education Priorities

NIGMS prioritizes programs in a range of scientific fields relevant to its mission to strengthen the biomedical research workforce and support participants who will significantly benefit, including those:

- Without substantial previous research experience,
- From resource-limited institutions, or
- With circumstances that would otherwise prevent them from pursuing biomedical research. For example:
  - Financial hardship
  - Return from military service
  - Career delay or change
  - Family responsibilities

NIGMS Research Education Priorities (continued)

To promote broad geographic and organizational participation in rigorous research education 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, including those that do not have NIH institutional training programs.

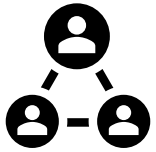
NIGMS Research Experience Interest Areas

- Research Experience programs focused on a **single career stage** that prepare cohorts of individuals to transition into and complete biomedical Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. programs.
  - Summer undergraduate research programs
  - Yearlong postbaccalaureate programs
  - Research-based master's programs with clear and strong transition plans, typically to distinct institutions
- Programs should include a **wide range of scientific fields relevant to the NIGMS mission**
- Programs should **recruit on a broad regional or national scale**

NIGMS will support only one research experience award per applicant organization per career stage.

General Considerations

Programs should provide participants with the following, appropriate to the educational stage of the participants:



Mentored Research Experiences



Foundational Research Skills



Scientific Writing and Presentation Skills



Career Development

Program Structure

- Programs should have clear goals and objectives appropriate for the educational level and needs of the audience to be reached.
- Programs can vary in structure and duration. For example:
  - Short-term (8 -12 week) summer research experiences for undergraduates
  - Full-time academic or calendar year for postbaccalaureates
  - Full-time over multiple years for master's students
- Proposed educational experiences should be distinct from those training and education programs currently receiving Federal support.

Eligibility and Key Dates

Eligibility Overview (See Section III of NOFO)

Organization	• Many types of organizations are eligible. • 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.
Participants	• Applicant organization selects and establishes qualifications, consistent with applicable law. • US Citizen or Permanent Resident.

Key Program Dates (2026 - 2027)

Application Due Date	Application Review	Advisory Council	Earliest Start Date*
September 25, 2026	March 2027	May 2027	July 2027
January 25, 2027	July 2027	August 2027	December 2027
May 25, 2027	November 2027	January 2028	April 2028
September 25, 2027	March 2028	May 2027	July 2028

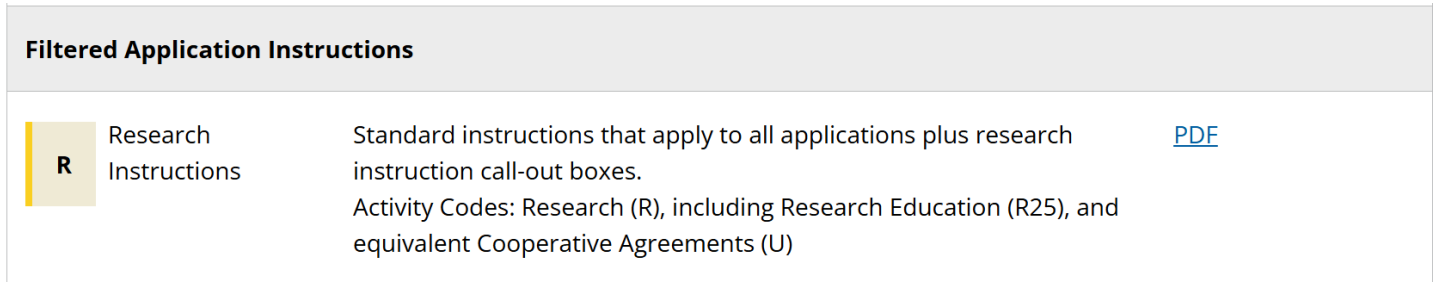
***NOFO expires May 26, 2029.**

- **For FY2027 (the September 2026 due date), NIGMS intends to make awards in summer 2027.**
- **For subsequent due dates, NIGMS will prioritize awards for the August Advisory council round (likely earliest start date December)**

Highlights of the Application Components

Follow the Application Guide, NOFO, and Notices

- Use the How to Apply - Application Guide **Research Instructions**



Filtered Application Instructions

R	Research Instructions	Standard instructions that apply to all applications plus research instruction call-out boxes. Activity Codes: Research (R), including Research Education (R25), and equivalent Cooperative Agreements (U)	PDF

- Follow the page limits for **Research Education (R25)** 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.

Selected Application Components and Page Limits

Application Components	Page Limit
Project Summary/Abstract	30 lines of text
Project Narrative	3 sentences
Introduction to Resubmission Applications (when applicable)	3 pages
Specific Aims	1 page
Research Education Program Plan	25 pages
Each Biosketch (use SciENcv format)	Length controlled by data entry

For Research Education Applications:

- **NIH Training Data Tables are NOT required or permitted as separate attachments**
- **When required, Plans for Instruction in RCR/Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility are part of the 25-page Research Education Program Plan and are NOT allowed as separate attachments.**

Suggested Application Title Format

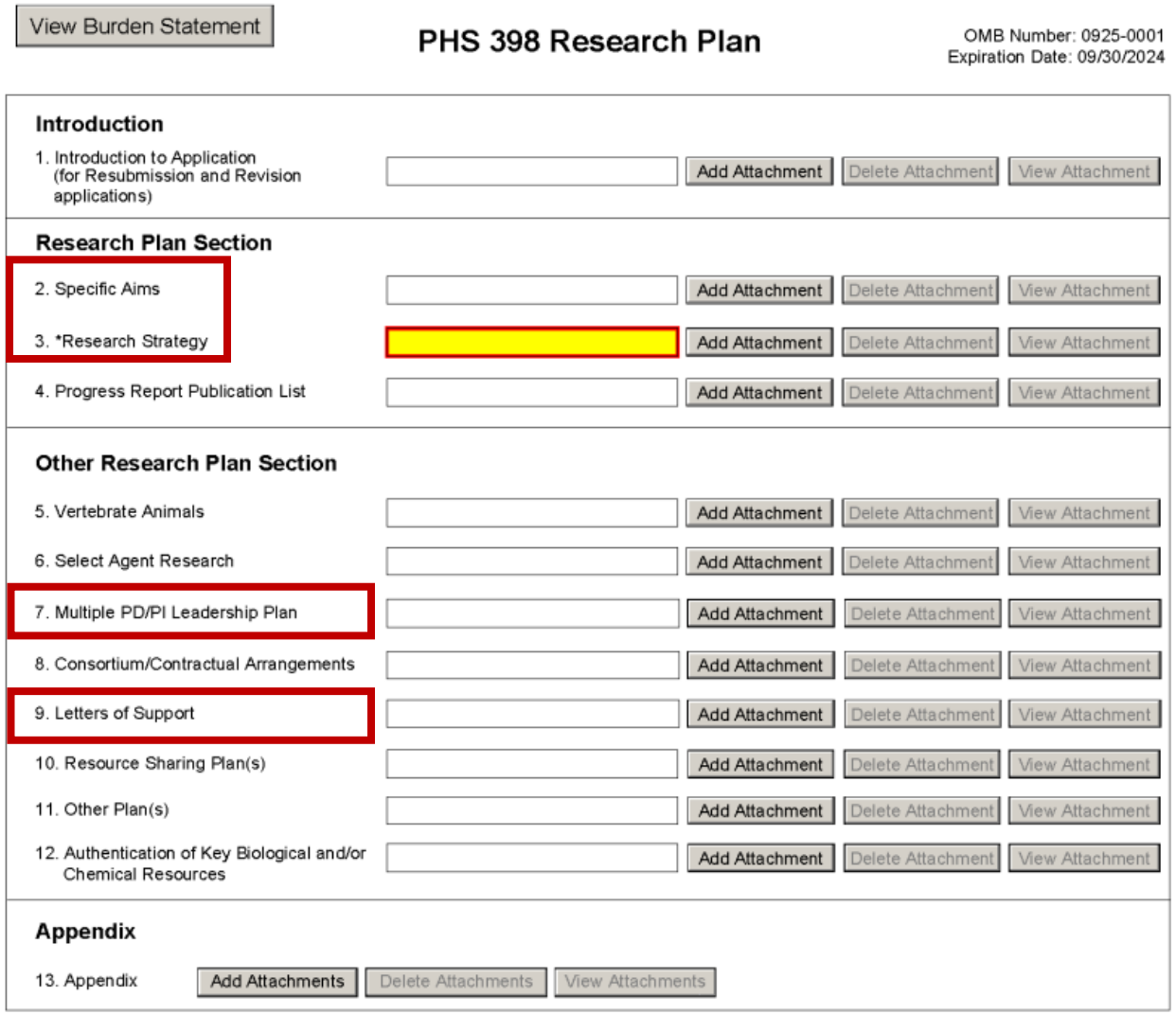
Use the format:

"[Educational stage] Research Experience
at [Name of applicant organization(s)]"

Examples:

- Summer Undergraduate Research Experience at Fantastic College
- Postbaccalaureate Research Experience at Amazing University
- Master's to Ph.D. Research Experience at Awesome State University

Research Plan Format



View Burden Statement

PHS 398 Research Plan

OMB Number: 0925-0001
Expiration Date: 09/30/2024

Introduction

1. Introduction to Application (for Resubmission and Revision applications)		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment

Research Plan Section

2. Specific Aims		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
3. *Research Strategy		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
4. Progress Report Publication List		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment

Other Research Plan Section

5. Vertebrate Animals		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
6. Select Agent Research		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
7. Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
8. Consortium/Contractual Arrangements		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
9. Letters of Support		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
10. Resource Sharing Plan(s)		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
11. Other Plan(s)		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
12. Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment

Appendix

13. Appendix	Add Attachments	Delete Attachments	View Attachments

Multiple Sections - FOLLOW THE NOFO!
See page limits here.

- Specific Aims
- Research Strategy – use headers in NOFO
- Progress Report Publication List – for renewals only

- Multi PD/PI Leadership Plan (if applicable)
- Consortium/Contractual Arrangements (if applicable)
- Letter of institutional commitment required

- Appendix: Not required. follow SF424 Application Guide

Research Education Program Plan

- Proposed Research Education Program
- Program Director/Principal Investigator
- Program Faculty
- Program Participants
- Institutional Environment and Commitment
- Plan for Instruction in Methods to Enhance Reproducibility
- Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Evaluation Plan
- Dissemination Plan

Proposed Research Education Program

- Provide the underlying rationale and evidence supporting the need for the program.
- Clearly state the goals and objectives of the proposed research experience program and how they address the priorities of NIGMS.
- Provide an overview of the research education program's structure and activities.
- Describe innovative aspects and explain the significance of the program.
- Describe how the research experiences will meet the specific needs of the intended participants, and how success of the participants will be monitored.

Progress Report/ Previous Outcomes

- For Renewal Applications *only*:
  - Include a detailed progress report, describing successes and challenges, need for continued support, lessons learned, and changes to the program.
- For New Applications:
  - Do not include a “Progress Report”
  - However, objectives, outcomes, and lessons learned from previous awards with related goals can still be described in the Research Education Program Plan.
  - If a previous award with related goals was supported by a different program, it is often helpful to submit a new application.

Program Faculty

- Describe how the participating faculty will promote the success of the participants and the research education program. Participating faculty should:
  - have research expertise and experience relevant to the proposed program.
  - demonstrate strong commitments to mentoring and providing safe and supportive research education environments.
- Brief bios of faculty mentors, including scientific and training/mentoring expertise, can be included in this section.
- Programs are encouraged to recruit prospective faculty from various career stages and a breadth of scientific disciplines relevant to the NIGMS mission.
- **Note that biosketches can only be included for Senior/Key Personnel.**

Plans for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) & in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility

- RCR
  - **RCR Policy** and **Updated Guidance**

- Rigor & Reproducibility Resources:
  - **NIH Website on Rigor and Reproducibility**

Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan
(if applicable)

- Provide strong justification that approach will benefit the program and participants.
- Include designated roles and responsibilities, governance and organizational structure consistent with the aims of the research education program.
- Highlight complementary expertise of the PD(s)/PI(s).
- Describe communication plans, decision-making processes, and conflict resolution procedures.
- Describe an appropriate succession plan for key administrative positions (for example, PD(s)/PI(s)).

Letters of Support

- **Required:** A letter of institutional commitment must be attached as part of Letters of Support.
  - Describe the activities and resources provided by the organization that will ensure the success of the planned research education program and its participants.
  - Do not duplicate information in the “Facilities & Other Resources” or “Institutional Environment and Commitment” section of the Research Education Program Plan.
- Additional Letters of Support are permitted.
- Combine all Letters of Support into a single PDF file.

Note that Letters of Support will no longer be permitted in Forms J (see NOT-OD-26-094)

Assignment Request Form

- **Use this form if you wish to request specific awarding component assignments (e.g., NIGMS).**
- The Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR), Center for Scientific Review (CSR) is responsible for making assignments.
- All assignment suggestions will be considered; however, not all assignment suggestions can be honored. Applications are assigned based on relevance of your application to an individual awarding component mission and scientific interests in addition to administrative requirements.
- You do not need to make entries in all three boxes of the “Awarding Component Assignment Suggestions” section.

Resources

- NIGMS Research Experiences Webpage
- Research Experiences NOFO (PAR-27-036)
- NIGMS Profile Page
  - Research Education Funding Considerations and Contacts page
- Notices of NIH Policy Changes and NIH Guide for IC-specific Notices (you can subscribe!)

We strongly encourage you to consult with program officers via the NIGMSR25research@nih.gov mailbox before submission.

Budget Overview

Research Education Budget Considerations:

NIGMS may limit budgets for specific education activities, as follows:

- Up to $500,000 direct costs per year for:
  - Research experiences for postbaccalaureate or master's students
- Up to $250,000 direct costs per year:
  - Research experiences for summer undergraduate students

- Award budgets must reflect the actual costs of the proposed project
  - Limited program evaluation costs are allowed 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.

Personnel Costs

- Individuals designing, directing, and implementing the research education program may request salary and fringe benefits appropriate for the person months devoted to the program.
- Depending on the number of participants in the program and the person-months devoted to administration of the program, NIGMS may limit salary support:
  - Total PD(s)/PI(s) (including a combination of multiple PD(s)/PI(s)) is limited to up to a total of 2.0 person-months effort per year.
  - Total salary support for other administrative staff (for example, a program coordinator to assist the PD(s)/PI(s)) is limited to up to 6 person-months.

Participant Costs

- Participants may only receive funding for the period they participate in the program. Remuneration is through salary and wages. There must be an employee-employer relationship between the participant and the institution.
- Per the cost principles, participant salary must be consistent with institutional salary policies for individuals in similar circumstances regardless of the source of support for the activity.
- Additionally, for postbaccalaureate and research-based master's participants:
  - Salary, fringe benefits, tuition and fees up to the maximum NIH-permitted annual graduate student support (NRSA level 0 for postdoctoral trainees) are allowable.

Program - Related Expenses

- Consultant costs, equipment, supplies, travel for key persons, and other program-related expenses may be included in the proposed budget.
- Expenses must be justified as specifically required by the proposed program and must not duplicate items generally available at the applicant organization.
- For research-based master's participants, institutions may request up to a maximum of $12,500/student participant for Other Program-Related Expenses.

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 Criteria

- **Goal** is to support activities that provide research experiences to participants as part of a comprehensive program based on sound educational practices designed to stimulate the interest, skills and knowledge base of participants.
- Programs should have **clear goals and objectives** as well as describe **appropriate structured activities** to achieve those goals.
- NIH recognizes that rigorous, well-designed research education programs can take place in various organizational environments and with program faculty 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)

- Significance
- Investigators
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

Additional Review Criteria

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

- **Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility**
- **Resubmissions (if applicable)**
- **Renewals (if applicable)**
- *Criteria generally not applicable:*
  - Revisions
  - Protection of Human Subject
  - Inclusion of Human Subjects Policies
  - Vertebrate Animals
  - Biohazards

Review Process:
Usual Timeline From Submission

Timeframe	Activity
1 - 2 months	Referral
2 - 6 months	Review Panel
6 - 7 months	Summary Statement Available
7 - 8 months	Advisory Council
8 - 9 months	Funding Decisions
10 - 12 months	Earliest Start Date

During Review Phase - Reach out to your SRO with review questions
Post review - Reach out to your PO for next steps

General Tips and Advice

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.
- 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)

Tips for Writing Your Application

- 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.
  - Note tables are optional, and if applicants use tables they must be included in the Research Education Program Plan.
- Present outcomes data in a straightforward manner.
  - Avoid exaggeration.
  - Avoid hiding data (reviewers will “do the math”).

Avoid Administrative Withdrawal

Applications will be withdrawn prior to peer review if improper Appendix or Hyperlinks are used, if unallowed materials are included, or if any required attachments and content are missing.

- Note that not all failures to comply are caught by the automated notification.
- We cannot accept any missing items after the receipt deadline.

Appendix: Do not use the Appendix to circumvent page limits. Follow all instructions for the Appendix as described in the How to Apply - Application Guide.

Hyperlinks and URLs

- Are not permitted in the Research Plan/Approach
- 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

Questions and Contacts

Scientific/Research Contacts

NIGMS R25 Research Experiences
Email: NIGMSR25research@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

Thank you and Good Luck on the Application!