



NIH R01 Cheat Sheet

Applicants should use the MOST RECENT funding announcement. Please check the “Release/Posted Date” in the “Key Dates” section of the RFA/PA to ensure that it is up to date.

NOTE: Individual FOAs may contain specific instructions about content, format, or length that differ from the general instructions provided by the NIH on its website and in the SF424 (R&R). In these instances, individual FOA instructions take precedence.

Links to NIH Research Project Grant (R01) Parent Announcements:

- Clinical Trial Not Allowed: PA-20-185
- Clinical Trial Required: PA-20-183
- Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required: PA-20-184

Check the actual funding announcement to which you are responding to see if standard due dates apply (sometimes dates vary).

R01 Standard Due Dates:

- Cycle 1: February 5 (AIDS/ AIDS Related: May 7)
- Cycle 2: June 5 (AIDS/ AIDS Related: September 7)
- Cycle 3: October 5 (AIDS/ AIDS Related: January 7)

Other Important Dates:

Scientific Merit Review Dates

- Cycle 1: June - July
- Cycle 2: October - November
- Cycle 3: February – March

Advisory Council Review Dates

- Cycle 1: August or October
- Cycle 2: January - February
- Cycle 3: May – June

Earliest Project Start Date

- Cycle 1: September or December
- Cycle 2: April
- Cycle 3: July

Check your announcement to see if single or multiple Principal Investigators (PIs) are allowed. For applications designating multiple PDs/PIs, a Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan must be included. For more information about Multiple PD/PIs, please go to http://grants.nih.gov/grants/multi_pi/faq.htm.

Purpose: The Research Project (R01) grant is an award made to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project to be performed by the named investigator(s) in an area representing the investigator's specific interest and competencies, based on the mission of the NIH.

Budget Information: Costs appropriate for the project and a project duration of up to five years may be requested. The size and duration of each award will vary. R01s can be limited in a specific FOA, so it is important that applicants note any budgetary limits indicated in Part 2. Section 2. Award Budget of the FOA.

Applicants requesting \$500,000 or more in direct costs in any year (excluding consortium F&A) must contact NIH program staff at least 6 weeks before submitting the application and follow the Policy on the Acceptance for Review of Unsolicited Applications that Request \$500,000 or More in Direct Costs as described in the SF 424 (R&R) Application Guide and the NIH Grants Policy Statement. Individual FOAs may require additional budget information. Review the Application and Submission Information section of the FOA for detailed instructions.

Title: Limited to 200 characters (includes spaces and punctuation marks).

Project Summary (Abstract):

- No longer than 30 lines of text.
- Succinct and accurate description of the proposed work, able to stand on its own (separate from the application). Should be informative to other people working in the same or related fields and understandable to a scientifically literate reader. Avoid both descriptions of past accomplishments and the use of the first person.
- State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, making reference to the health relatedness of the project (i.e., relevance to the mission of the agency). Describe the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. Be sure that the project summary reflects the key focus of the proposed project so that the application can be appropriately categorized. Do not include proprietary, confidential information or trade secrets in the project summary. If the application is funded, the project summary will be entered into an NIH database and made available on the NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool (RePORT) and will become public information. Note that the "Project Summary/Abstract" attachment is not same as the "Research Strategy" attachment.

Project Narrative:

- No more than 3 sentences.
- Describe the relevance to public health: how, in the short or long term, the research would contribute to fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and/or the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. If the application is funded, this public health relevance statement will be combined with the project summary (above) and will become public information.

Biographical Sketch:

Use the sample format on the Biographical Sketch Format Page to prepare this section:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.

- Each biosketch is limited to 5 pages, including the table at the top of the first page.
- Education: begin with baccalaureate information.
- "Personal Statement:" Briefly describe why your experience and qualifications make you particularly well-suited for your role on this project.
- You may cite up to four publications or research products. You may cite interim research products, which have specific citation requirements. See related Frequently Asked Questions for more information. (NOT including publications that have been submitted or are in preparation).
- If you are citing NIH-funded studies in your publications section of your biosketch, and if these publications fall under the NIH Public Access Policy (<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>), provide the NIH Manuscript Submission reference number (e.g., NIHMS97531) or Pubmed Central reference number or PMCID (e.g., PMCID234567). More information can be found here: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/so08/so08_skill_kit_pmcid.html.
- The NIH Public Access Policy applies to all peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008 and onward. See <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/> for more details.
- If the PMCID is not yet available because it is in process, then state "PMC Journal – In Process." A list of the journals can be found here: http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm.
- You may provide a URL to a full list of your published work. URL must be to a .gov website. NIH recommends using My Bibliography. Providing a URL to a list of published work is not required.
- Research Support: List selected ongoing and completed (during the last three years) research projects (Federal or non-Federal support). Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in this application. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and your overall responsibilities. Do not include number of person months or direct costs.

Specific Aims:

- 1-page limit. The Specific Aims do NOT count toward your Research Strategy, which has a 12-page limit.
- Concisely state the goals of the proposed research.
- Summarize the expected outcomes, including impact of research on fields involved.
- Succinctly list objectives of proposed research (e.g., to test a hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, etc.).

Research Strategy:

- Cannot exceed 12 pages (for R01s; page limits for other grant types will vary. Please see the NIH Table of Page Limits for other grant mechanisms.)
 - This section includes three headings: Significance, Innovation, and Approach.
- A. Significance:
- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
 - Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
 - Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

B. Innovation:

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or intervention(s).
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

C. Approach:

- Include Preliminary Studies/Progress Reporting “Approach” Section.
- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted and any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

Other Sections:

- Cover Letter: NIH suggests that you request a specific Institute/Center and a specific review committee. Check with the project officer listed on the funding announcement for advice on this.
- Facilities and Other Resources: PIs must identify facilities used, their capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity, and extent of availability to the project. Describe how the scientific environment in which the research will be conducted contributes to the probability of success.
- For Early-Stage Investigators, describe institutional investment in the success of the investigator. See NIH’s Early-Stage Investigator Policies.
- Bibliography/References Cited- this section does not count toward your page limit.
- Inclusion Enrollment Report
- Human Subjects Sections:
 - Protection of Human Subjects
 - Inclusion of Women and Minorities
 - Inclusion of Children
 - Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table
- Vertebrate Animals
- Select Agent Research. A full discussion on the use of Select Agents should appear in this section. PIs must describe the biocontainment resources available at all performance sites.
- Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan (if applicable)
- Consortium/Contractual Arrangements (if applicable)
- Letters of Support
- Resource Sharing Plan(s)