A GREAT PLACE TO BEGIN!

Subscribe to the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts to stay abreast of new funding opportunities and policy changes that can impact your application:

TIPS FOR SCIENTISTS

1. Read and carefully follow all general application guide, NOFO, specific, and related NIH Guide notice instructions.
2. Do not attempt to skirt page limits by re-homogenizing information into non-limited sections. Your application could be withdrawn.
3. Consult with experienced colleagues, but do not consider another investigator’s application as a “written in stone” example of what to do, or not to do.
4. Use the Assisted Referral Tool (ART) or Matchmaker to match your abstract or specific aims to a study section, scientific review group, scientific review officer (SRO), and program officer (PO) (https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART/selection.jsf; https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker). You can also search study sections at the CSR website at https://public.csr.nih.gov.
5. Use the Assignment Request Form to make suggestions for study section assignment—requests cannot be guaranteed, however. Please do not suggest reviewers. (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-e/general/e-6400-who-assignment-request-form.htm).
6. Be sure the targeted NIH institute or center (IC) participates in the NOFO; reach out to the IC PO before applying. If you cannot assign a funding IC, your application will not move forward. The #1 reason for withdrawal is submitting under a NOFO that the targeted IC does not participate in.
7. Submit early to allow time to address unforeseen issues. Corrected submissions must be made by the deadline. The 2-day viewing window does not provide extra time beyond the deadline for corrections. CSR will not accept post-submission material to address errors or omissions.
9. You can use NIH RePORTER (https://reporter.nih.gov) to search for NIH-funded colleagues from your institution. Seek them out for advice.
10. Discuss your specific aims with the scientific/research contact named in the NOFO; check back in before submission, in case changes in the IC’s focus. When developing your application, consider seeking advice from faculty at your institution who have served as NIH peer reviewers. You may contact your grants office for this information. Do not contact current members of a study section to which your application is or might be assigned.

NIH SUBMISSION POLICIES


NEW!

ESI RESOURCES
Are You an Early Stage Investigator (ESI)?
You can extend your ESI status for certain life events, such as COVID, having a child, and health issues: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-stages/index.htm.

TALK TO US
Find submission help online at https://grants.nih.gov/support or contact CSR’s Division of Receipt and Referral (cards@mail.nih.gov) for submission and assignment questions.

Questions about review assignment or the review process: Contact your SRO (contact information on the study section webpage, or in eRA Commons following assignment).
Questions about the alignment between your grant application and an IC’s funding priorities, or guidance needed after reading your summary statement: Contact the PO noted on the NOFO.

Other questions? Contact the CSR Office of Communications and Outreach, at communications@csr.nih.gov.