

Funder Research: National Institutes of Health

PREPARED BY: SHY LUCAS GRIFFIN

AT A GLANCE

The NIH is a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting medical research. Helping to lead the way toward significant medical discoveries that improve health and save lives, NIH scientists examine ways to prevent disease as well as the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. The NIH offers leadership and financial support to researchers in every state and throughout the world.

NIH MISSION:

“Science in pursuit of fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability.”

ELIGIBILITY

Each type of NIH grant program has its own set of eligibility requirements. Applicants can find eligibility information in section III of each funding opportunity announcement (FOA). The NIH limits its funding efforts to medical and health science research. Some grants call for researching a specific medical condition or health issue.

Individual Eligibility:

NIH assists scientists at various stages in their careers, from pre-doctoral students on research training grants to investigators with extensive experience and run substantial research centers. NIH is committed to supporting early stage investigators (ESI).

Reviewers give early stage investigators special consideration, and NIH has programs targeted specifically for these populations.

Institutional Eligibility:

In general, domestic or foreign, public or private, and non-profit or for-profit organizations are eligible to receive NIH grants. NIH may limit eligibility for certain types of programs, such as restrictions on the involvement of foreign entities or programs where only small businesses are eligible.

TYPES OF GRANTS

Parent Announcement:

Non-specific, investigator-initiated. May submit any topic within the breadth of the NIH mission.

Institution/Center (dept.) – specific Program Announcements (PA):

Often broadly defined or a reminder of a scientific need; unsolicited research

Request for Applications (RFA):

Well-defined scientific area

APPLICATION PROCESS

The NIH website contains information about the application process. It also has a searchable database of the hundreds of active funding opportunities available along with a glossary of frequently used grant terms and abbreviations.

RECOMMENDATION

I would recommend the NIH as a funding source if your team's concentration is medical research. Their funding opportunities seem mostly focused on research studies in the health and medical field. I would not recommend the NIH as a funding source for projects other than these.