NICHD FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A Focus on Primarily Undergraduate Institutions & Emerging Research Institutions

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Overview

- Funding Strategies
- Biomedical-Biobehavioral Research Administration Development (BRAD) Program (G11)
- Academic/Community Partnership Conference Series (R13)
- Biomedical & Behavioral Research Innovations To Ensure Equity (BRITE) In Maternal and Child Health (R15)
- Research Supplements to Promote Diversity
- Tips for Success
Expanding the Perspective of the Karina Walters’ Story

To what funding opportunity announcement shall I apply?

Who are the turkeys and rabbits in this scenario?
Funding Strategies for PUls and ERIs

Select the most appropriate funding opportunity for the:

- Researcher/Faculty member & task
- Institution
Does Your Institution Qualify for Any Special Initiatives?

Is your institution on a Department of Education special categorical list?

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html

Does your institution qualify for a funding agency’s special program or thrust?
Heart of the Issue

If research is to be a significant part of the equation at your institution—

- **A infrastructure** must be in place to foster research.
- What are the **costs**—financially, personally, institutionally?
- Faculty members will need to make some **changes**…What?

*Lichter, RL, Research is Important But”…Academic Excellence: Role of Research in Primarily Undergraduate Institutions, Editor Michael P. Doyle.*
Select the Most Appropriate Funding Mechanism

- Research-Related Programs (S)
- Education Projects (R25)
- Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21)
- Small Research Grants (R03)
- Conferences (R13)
- Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) (R15)
- Exploratory Grants (Centers) (P20)
- Minority School Faculty Developmental Awards (K14)
- MARC (MRSA) Faculty Fellowships (F34)
- Academic/Teacher Award (K07)
- Extramural Associate Research Development Award (G11)

Understanding the “Activity Code” Alphabet Soup

Funding Opportunities and Notices

Biomedical/Biobehavioral Research Administration Development (BRAD) Program (G11)

Program Contact: Jean Flagg-Newton
Email: flaggnej@mail.nih.gov
Phone: (240) 281-3940
BRAD Program

Overall Goal—

Create (or enhance) research administrative support infrastructures at under-resourced primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs) and emerging research institutions (EMIs)

Priorities:
AREA-eligible institutions that educate students from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral science
- Disadvantaged backgrounds
- Underrepresented racial and ethnic groups
- Individuals with disabilities

Strategy:
- To contribute to a diverse research workforce
- To enable minority serving institutions to carry out the strategies and actions as identified for such institutions in the Health and Human Services Action Plan to Eliminate Disparities in Health
BRAD Program: Critical Needs Addressed

**Stimulate Research**
~ Disseminate funding opportunity announcements
~ Sponsor/coordinate faculty development
~ Provide technical assistance…research proposal development
~ Submit research proposals to funding agencies
~ Facilitate intra- and inter-institutional research collaborations

**Facilitate timely implementation of research**
~ Set up accounts
~ Facilitate personnel-related issues
~ Facilitate purchasing-related issues

**Reduce Administrative Burdens for faculty researchers**
~ Ensure timely reporting to funding agencies
~ Address regulatory compliance issues
BRAD Program Objectives

~ Encourage/support continuous professional development of directors of OSPs, research administrators, and grants managers at all levels.

~ Increase OSP effectiveness & productivity by promoting best practices in research administration, with a focus on:
  o Consistency of customer service;
  o Implementation of efficient pre-award processes that facilitate proposal development and submission;
  o Implementation of post-award processes that facilitate financial accountability; and
  o Development/implementation of processes that ensure compliance with Federal, state, and institutional regulations (e.g., human subject and animal care policies).

~ Enable OSP & research program sustainability by implementing:
  o Targeted, continuous faculty professional development, and
  o Best practices in establishing an institutional culture of research.
BRAD Program Grant Activities

- BRAD NIH Residency Workshop (3 weeks on NIH Campus)
- Implementation of Institutional Development Plan
- PD/PI/Extramural Associate Development
- Sustainability Projects
- Evaluation of Plan Implementation
BRAD Program Outcomes

- Certification in Research Administration (CRA) for Sponsored Program Director (and other staff, as applicable)
- Functioning Research and Sponsored Office/Activity with a focus on customer service
- Progress in increasing faculty participation in research
- Progress in the submission of meritorious research and research-related grant applications
- Demonstrated institutional commitment to research & progress in developing a research award portfolio

Refereed Publication
BRAD Award Information

~ **Base Award:**
$85,000/year (direct costs) for up to 5 years

~ **NIH Residency Training:**
$5,500 in year 1

~ **F&A Cost Rate:**
8 percent

~ **New & Resubmissions**

BRAD Grantees may re-apply for support at the 5th-year anniversary of the expiration of the previous grant award.
Academic-Community Partnership Conference Series (R13)

Program Contact:  Della Brown White, PhD
Email: whitede@mail.nih.gov
Phone: 301-435-2712
Purpose

• To bring together academic institutions and community organizations to identify opportunities for addressing health disparities through the use of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

• Expected these partnerships will lead to grant applications for the support of CBPR projects designed to meet identified community needs
Objectives

• Establish and/or enhance academic-community partnerships

• Identify community-driven research priorities

• Develop long-term collaborative CBPR research agendas (i.e., proposals)
Areas of Research Emphasis

• Preterm birth
• Infant mortality
• Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
• Maternal mortality
• Reproductive health
• Uterine fibroids
• Child, adolescent, and/or adult obesity
• Asthma
• Intellectual & developmental disabilities

• Perinatal HBV & HIV/AIDS prevention
• HIV/AIDS prevention
• Pediatric injury prevention
• Violence prevention
• Medical rehabilitation
Partnerships

• Partnerships with community organizations/leaders do not have to be in place to qualify an institution to apply for these awards

• Adequately describe the types of organizations to be engaged in these partnerships and also outline the process for identifying potential partners

• Academic institution or community organization may be the lead applicant

• Multiple-PI applications strongly encouraged

Note: All PI/PDs must have eRA Commons ID
Research Strategy (Conference Plan) 
Boilerplate R13 Elements

• Describe the format of activities, settings, types of speakers/presenters, including the principal topics to be covered etc…

• Plans for appropriate representation (attendees & speakers)

• Plans for the diversity in planning, and implementation (leadership)

• Plans for family care & publicizing the conference/meetings
Research Strategy (Conference Plan)
FOA Specific R13 Elements

• Describe the **process of identifying a seasoned CBPR partner** for the Academic-Community Partnership Series award.

  – If this information is not yet available, describe the type of seasoned CBPR partner that will be recruited and what their role will be in the proposed work.
Research Strategy (Conference Plan) 
FOA Specific R13 Elements

- Applicants must identify specific plans to organize an Advisory Board as a part of the activities to be performed under this award.
  - Purpose, function, and expectations
  - If members of the Board have not been identified at the time of application, applicants should identify the types of members that will be recruited for the Board.
Protection of Human Subjects

• Generally not applicable to the R13 Conference grant award.

• **Key objective of meetings** is to identify, document, and highlight local priority health disparity conditions and the community's view of its own health problems.

• Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval of human subjects should be obtained when deemed appropriate.

• Plans for Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children should be included when Human Subjects proposed.
Review Criteria Specific to this FOA

• Do these meeting plans promote an academic-community partnership around a relevant health problem?

• If the aims of the application are achieved, will the academic-community partnership be advanced?

• What will be the effect of these endeavors on the eventual conduct of CBPR in the community of interest?

• Do the meetings employ novel community partnership approaches or methods to fulfill the program’s purpose?
Review Criteria Specific to this FOA

• Is the format of these meetings appropriate for achieving successful community partnership?

• Will the Advisory Board and seasoned CBPR partner be selected appropriately?

• Are the meetings timely for the subject matter?

• Has the applicant identified a community in need of community partnership and ultimately CBPR?

• How appropriate are the meeting sites?
Review Criteria Specific to this FOA

- Does the applicant have the ability to contribute to the probability of success in partnering with organizations that represent the community of interest?

- Do the proposed meetings take advantage of unique features of the community or employ useful partnership arrangements?

- Is there strong evidence of institutional/organizational support?
BIOMEDICAL & BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH INNOVATIONS TO ENSURE EQUITY (BRITE) IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (R15)

Program Contact: Della Brown White, PhD
Email: whitede@mail.nih.gov
Phone: 301-435-2712
Overall Goal

• **Stimulate** maternal and child health equity research within institutions eligible for the AREA R15 program

• **Priorities:**
  - AREA-eligible institutions that educate students from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral science
    • Disadvantaged backgrounds
    • Underrepresented racial and ethnic groups
    • Individuals with disabilities

• **Strategy to contribute to a diverse research workforce**
Critical Need Addressed

Broaden NICHD AREA grant portfolio to include:

- Greater representation of institutions with diverse student populations
- More focus on maternal and child health equity research
Objectives

• Provide **support for investigators** to conduct independent research pertinent to the NICHD mission;

• Encourage & enable the use of innovative ways to **strengthen the research environment and investigator record** of research accomplishments;

• **Expose students from diverse backgrounds** underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research to meritorious maternal and child health equity research
Grant Activities

Awards to be Supported

• Pilot research projects and feasibility studies

• Secondary analysis of available data sets

Student Exposure

• Not a training grant

• Annual structured activity to extend beyond normal classroom and lab
  – Journal club
  – Seminar series
Program Outcomes-Investigator

- Refereed articles
- Presentations at national meetings
- Active pursuit of extramural grants & contracts
Program Outcomes- Student Exposure

• **Characteristics of students** participating in BRITE activities (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, disability status, class level, major course of study)

• Extent to which participation in BRITE activities **increased interest in** NICHD mission-related research
Areas of Research Emphasis

- Preterm birth
- Infant mortality
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Maternal mortality
- Reproductive health
- Uterine fibroids
- Child, adolescent, and/or adult obesity
- Asthma
- Intellectual & developmental disabilities

- Perinatal HBV & HIV/AIDS prevention
- HIV/AIDS prevention
- Pediatric injury prevention
- Violence prevention
- Medical rehabilitation
Areas of Research Emphasis

• **Multiple areas:**
  - When scientifically appropriate
  - Health literacy
  - Outreach and information dissemination

• **Disparity/Equity focus in terms of populations**
Award Information

• New, resubmission & renewals

• $300,000 direct costs plus F&A

• Up to 3 years

• No more than $150,000 spent in a single year without prior NICHD approval
Eligibility

Must meet the Parent AREA R15 program eligibility requirements for institutions and PD(s)/PI(s)
Parent R15 Eligibility

**Institutional**

- Only domestic institutions of higher education are eligible.
- Must offer baccalaureate or advanced degrees in the health-related sciences.
- May not receive more than $6 million per year in NIH support in each of 4 of the last 7 years.

**Principal Investigator**

- Must have a primary faculty appointment at an AREA-eligible institution.
- May not be the PI of an active NIH research grant at the time of an AREA award.
- May not be awarded more than one AREA grant at a time.
PHS 398 Research Plan-Research Strategy

- Description of annual structured activities to extend beyond normal classroom and lab
- In addition to independent research evaluation plan
  - Describe how student exposure to BRITE activities will be measured

Extending the Reach
Other Costs

• Direct costs to support planning & evaluation of activities to increase student exposure to maternal & child health equity research

• Such as:
  – Administrative assistance to plan & coordinate annual structured activities
  – Purchase of software & supplies to be used for tracking & evaluating student participation (e.g. surveys, database)
Review Criteria Specific to this FOA

• Does the main theme of the application address an important area of maternal and child health equity research?

• Do the PD(s)/PI(s), collaborators and other researchers demonstrate adequate knowledge of the maternal and child health equity area of research emphasis targeted as part of the research proposal?

• Does the PD(s)/PI(s) demonstrate that all of the necessary techniques and methods can be performed based on his/her previous experience and/or letters of collaboration?
Review Criteria Specific to this FOA

• In the absence of preliminary data, does the PD(s)/PI(s) demonstrate that the proposed techniques are feasible, reliable, and yield interpretable data, based on his/her experience (i.e., published studies) or peer-reviewed studies published in the field?

• Is the proposed structured activity to address student research exposure adequate to stimulate interest and knowledge regarding maternal and child health equity research among students from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in research?
Review Criteria Specific to this FOA

• Will the evaluation plan for exposure to research adequately measure BRITE program participation among students from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in research?

• Does the application provide sufficient evidence that students have in the past or are likely to pursue careers in the biomedical or behavioral sciences?

• Does the application demonstrate the diversity of the student population?

• Will the environment be appropriate for stimulating interest in maternal and child health equity research among faculty and students at the institution?
RESEARCH SUPPLEMENTS TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY IN HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH

Regina Smith James, MD  
Director, Office of Health Equity  
Phone: 301-435-2692  
Email: rjames@mail.nih.gov

Link for Diversity Supplements:  
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-149.html
Diversity Supplements: Overall Goal

To increases the participation of individuals currently underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences…

- Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups;
- Individuals with disabilities; and
- Individuals from socially, culturally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, which inhibited their ability to pursue a career in health-related research.
Type Diversity Supplements Available

Supplements to eligible parent grants may be awarded at the following levels:

- High school and undergraduate;
- Post-baccalaureate, post-master, graduate;
- Post-doctoral, or investigator.
Type Diversity Supplements Available

There are two types of Investigator level Supplements:

- Short term –
- Long-term –
The Supplement Application

Three plans are required in the Diversity Supplement Application:

- **Research Plan** – should present evidence that the experience will significantly enhance the individual’s research potential, while furthering the scholar’s ability to pursue a research career;

- **Career Development Plan** – should describe how the experience will foster the research capabilities of the candidate; explain how the experience is related to the research goals and objectives of the parent grant; and include plans for transitioning to the next stage of the candidate’s career;

- **Mentoring Plan** – should describe how the candidate will be assisted in achieving the objectives and goals outlined in the supplement application.
Eligibility

Research Supplements are available to the following types of domestic grants:

- “R” Mechanisms (i.e., R01, R10, R18, R22, R24, R35, R37, R43, R44, R41, R42,);
- “P” Mechanisms (i.e., P01, P20, P30, P40, P41, P50, P51, P60)
- Other Mechanisms (i.e., U01, U10, U19, U41, U42, U54, or S06).

Active Small Grant Awards (R03), Academic Research Enhancement Awards (R15), or Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21) may be eligible, depending on the awarding component…Check with awarding NIH institute or center prior to submitting applications for supplements.
Eligibility

Generally, a parent grant:

- Must have at least 2 years remaining at the time of the supplement award—exceptions may be considered for small grants on a case-by-case basis;
- Can only support a single supplement at the post-baccalaureate, post master, graduate, post-doctoral, or investigator level.

A parent grant with only one year remaining will only be considered if the proposed application is for summer experience (up to 3 months) for high school, undergraduate, or predoctoral students or faculty members.
Application Deadlines & Submission Guidelines

- Supplement applications may be submitted at any time—there are no specific application receipt dates;
- NICHD strongly encourages electronic submission of the completed request, including all appropriate signatures and supported documents;
- Submit a single PDF document by email to NICHDDIVSupApplic@mail.nih.gov using the subject line—”NICHD DIVERSITY SUPPLEMENT APPLICATION PDF” in all caps.
Tips for Success
Understand Funding Priorities

• Strategic plans available online

• Types of conferences and seminars hosted

• Publications

• NIH RePORTER

• Contact Program Officer
  – Short concept 3 pages max
  – Describe specific aims, methods, investigators’ expertise
Plan, Plan, Plan

- Complete required registrations
- PIs should work with Office of Sponsored Programs
- Create a timeline
- Secure collaborators and key personnel
- Internal mock reviews
Building a Successful Team

- Who is needed to get the work done?
- Building reviewers’ confidence
- Subject matter experts
- Methodology expertise
- Statistician
- Community partners
Remember

• Be concise
• Follow application instructions
• Start early
• Build a team
• Contact Program Officer