Planning New Initiatives

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Outline

• Overall idea to award timeline
• NICHD Operational Planning process
• Post-planning process steps
History of a 2021 Initiative

An RFA for Research Project Grants (R01s) awarded in FY21
Typical Initiative Timeline: 2018 - 2021

**Program Staff Activities**
- (Workshop April 2018)

**January 2020:** Concept Presentation at Council

**March 2020:** RFA Publication

**November 2020:** Peer Review

**April 2021:** Award

**June-August 2019:** Operational Planning Process

**January – March 2020:** RFA Development and Review

**July 2020:** Application Submission

**January 2021:** Council Review
Initiative Origin: Program Staff
Operational Planning Process
Developing concepts for presentation to Council:

Basic Elements of an “Op Planning” Initiative

Prepared by Program Staff

Written Document and Oral Presentation

• Brief scientific background and related activities
• What evidence gap is being addressed?
• What is the purpose or goal?
• If recurring:
  ▪ What were the outcome(s) from previous years?
  ▪ Why do we need to continue to stimulate the field?
• Why NICHD?
• How does the initiative align with our Strategic Plan and scientific branch priorities?
• What is the recommended budget?
Developing concepts for presentation to Council:

Annual* Op Planning Meetings – Set-aside

• Typically ~20-30 new and recurring initiatives are presented by individual program staff
  • RFAs/RFPs: Set-aside funds
• All staff and leadership attend, ask questions, offer suggestions

*Ad Hoc meetings are held occasionally
Developing concepts for presentation to Council:

Quarterly Op Planning Meetings
[No Set-aside]

- Typically ~10-15 new and recurring initiative proposals are written by individual program staff
  - PAR/NOSI
- DER and OD staff panel members evaluate each proposal
After staff present initiatives, Leadership evaluates the proposals based on:

- Clarity of goals and objectives
- Extent to which the initiative addresses an important gap or opportunity
- Extent to which it aligns with the NICHD Strategic Plan, aspirational goals, and program priorities
- Recommended budget
- Funds available
Determining Funds Available for New Initiatives

Brief Overview
Determining Funds Available for New Initiatives
Hypothetical Example for Funding in 2021

• Annual appropriation/Continuing resolution
  ▪ In 2021: Extramural (81%); Intramural (14%); Research Management and Support (RMS, 5%)

• Funds are needed for the Intramural Program and for NICHD operations (salaries, etc.)

• Identify available funds for new extramural awards
  ▪ Most funds are already tied up as existing non-competing commitments in 2019
  ▪ Conservatively predict new non-competing commitments (FY19 and 20)

• Remaining funds can be used to pay for new awards
  ▪ Investigator-initiated grants, SBIR/STTR, training, ESIs, HIV/AIDS
  ▪ Recompeting RFAs/RFPs
  ▪ New initiatives
Amount available for all new awards
Estimating Funds Available for New Initiatives (with set-asides), 2021

Appropriation
(minus) Intramural Program
(minus) Operations (RMS)
(minus) R & D
(minus) Non-competing
(minus) New Investigator-Initiated
(minus) SBIR/STTR
(minus) NRSA Training
(minus) AIDS
(minus) Recompeting RFAs/RFPs

Estimated amount available for new RFA/RFP
Next Steps

- **Program Staff Activities (Workshop April 2018)**
- **June-August 2019: Op Planning Process**
- **January 2020: Concept Presentation at Council**
- **March 2020: RFA Publication**
- **November 2020: Peer Review**
- **April 2021: Award**
- **January 2021: Council Review**
- **July 2020: Application Submission**
- **January – March 2020: RFA development and Review**
- **We are Here**
Thank You!

Comments and suggestions are welcome