

Funding Strategies for Fiscal Year 2018

The NICHD distributes its resources among many diverse programs and mechanisms. The institute is committed to funding the largest number of meritorious projects possible, while allowing flexibility to support selected program priorities and respond to emerging scientific opportunities.

When the President signed the NIH Appropriation (P.L. 115-141), funds for new and competing renewal research grant applications were allocated for this fiscal year. The Institute established general guidelines for funding based on this allocation, allowing for necessary adjustments throughout the year to reflect directives from Congress and the NIH, as well as emerging program priorities. The following information represents the NICHD guidelines and operating procedures for FY2018.

Next Generation Researchers

NICHD is committed to the goal of supporting Early Stage Investigators (ESI's) on grant awards as described in the NIH Policy Supporting the Next Generation Researchers Initiative <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-17-101.html>. Therefore, NICHD will include ESI investigator status as one of the program priorities when considering funding of eligible applicants.

Adjustments to Requested Budget Levels

In the interests of awarding as many grants as possible, adjustments to the requested budget may be necessary for some grant mechanisms, in part due to the following factors:

- A significant increase in the size of budget requests
- A large and growing commitment base for ongoing grants
- Limited growth in the NICHD budget to accommodate the first three factors.

Competing Grant Applications

Research Project (R01) Grants:

For all new competing R01 applications selected for funding, the NICHD will reduce applications (Type 1) on average by 17 percent below the peer review recommended level of support. The final reductions may vary depending on factors such as research scope, comments in the summary statement, availability of other support, and program priorities.

There is no fixed payline for R01 applications. NICHD will consider scientific merit, program priorities, portfolio balance, and availability of funds in making funding decisions.

Small Grants (R03) and Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21):

There is no fixed payline for R03/R21 applications. NICHD will consider scientific merit, program priorities, portfolio balance, and availability of funds in making funding decisions.

AREA (R15):

The 2018 payline for R15 applications is Priority Score 28.

STTR and SBIR (R41, R42, R43, and R44):

The 2018 payline for Phase I SBIR applications is Priority Score 35. The payline for Phase II SBIR applications is Priority Score 36. The 2018 payline for Phase I and Phase II STTR applications is Priority Score 29.

Career Development Awards (K01, K08, K23, K25, K99):

The 2018 payline for competing K applications is Priority Score 28 with a differential payline for K99 applications of Priority Score 34.

Conference/Workshop (R13/U13):

There is no fixed payline for R13/U13 applications. NICHD will consider scientific merit, program priorities, portfolio balance, and availability of funds in making funding decisions.

Individual Fellowships (F30, F31, and F32):

The 2018 payline for F30 applications is Priority Score 32. The payline for both parent and Diversity F31 applications is the 30th percentile. The 2018 payline for F32 Fellowship applications is the 35th percentile.

Institutional Training (T32):

There is no fixed payline for T32 applications. NICHD will consider scientific merit, program priorities, portfolio balance, and availability of funds in making funding decisions.

Other (R24, R25):

The 2018 payline for R24 and R25 applications is Priority Score 17.

Non-competing Continuation Grants (Type 5)

The non-competing FY 2018 level of support is presented on the FY 2017 award notice and generally reflects no cost of living/inflationary adjustments. The NICHD will support FY2018 awards at 100%.

Non-competing (Type 5) Fellowship (F) and Training (T) grants will reflect current FY stipend levels. Stipend levels may be adjusted as appropriate.

Other NICHD Funding Considerations

- The legislated salary limitation for grants applies to both competing and non-competing grants. The limitations currently in effect were published in July 2017 ([NOT-OD-17-087](#)).
- Future Year Commitments on FY2017 New and Competing Renewal Awards:
 - As in recent fiscal years (see [NOT-OD-13-064](#)) inflationary increases for future year commitments are no longer provided for all competing and non-competing research grant awards issued by the NICHD. However, adjustments for special needs (such as equipment and added personnel) continue to be accommodated whenever possible.
- Modular grants do not receive escalation in future years. Additional information on modular applications and awards is posted at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/modular/modular.htm>.