Clinician-Scientist Career Development (CSCD)

of the
National Advisory Child Health and Human Development (NACHHD) Council

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Overview

- Background
- Working Group Charge & Process
- Discussion

Background

Background

2016

- NICHD evaluation of the extramural career development & training programs.
- Resultant changes:
  - Reduced support for institutional awards
  - Increased support of individual awards

2020

- NICHD Strategic Plan affirms commitment to addressing extramural workforce diversity

2023

- NICHD working group identifies opportunities in training programs to prepare the future research workforce to address NICHD's mission

2026 Presentation to the NACHHD about an evaluation of NICHD's K12 programs

Major findings

As compared to individual K awards, K12 programs:

- Are better at community-building
- Have equivalent or lower trainee success rates
- Are available to fewer potential trainees and have less award turnover
- Provide less direct funding to trainees
- Some differences were noted between outcomes for Pediatrics, OB/GYN, and Rehabilitation Medicine

Goals of NICHD K12s

NICHD supports K12 programs to:

- Maintain the pipeline of skilled investigators
- Draw clinicians into research careers
- Create community among trainees and established investigators
- Signal NICHD’s ongoing commitment to certain fields

2026: Major changes to NIH clinical trial training

- **NOT-OD-26-095: Request for Information**
  Input on potential NIH funding approaches to support development of future clinical trial investigators
  - Issued August 2026 by NIH
  - Revised policy:
    - NIH will no longer support "Independent Clinical Trial Required" K award NOFOs
    - K award funds may not be used to support or offset the costs of conducting a clinical trial, clinical feasibility study, or a separate ancillary study to an existing clinical trial.
    - K award recipients who wish to lead a clinical trial as PI must secure separate funding (e.g., institutional, philanthropic, or other research grant support) to support those activities.
  - Goal: Input on 3 potential funding models to allow mentor K award recipients to lead clinical trials

2026: Major changes to NIH K Award Programs

- **NOT-OD-26-098**
  Notice of NIH Updates to Career Development (K) Award Programs
  - Issued August 2026 by Office of NIH Director
  - Key updates:
    - Consolidating individual K notice of funding opportunities (NOFOs).
    - Eliminating the requirement for data management and sharing (DMS) plans on Ks.
    - Clarifying allowable uses of K award funds for clinical trial research activities.
  - Goal: Improve consistency, reduce administrative burden, align policies across K award programs

Formation of a Council
Clinician-Scientist Career Development WG

In response to the presentation evaluating the K12 program and in light of changes to K award programs NIH-wide, in July 2026, the NACCHD voted to establish a Clinician-Scientist Career Development Working Group.

2026 Clinician-Scientist Career Development Working Group

Charge:

Clinician-Scientist Career Development WG

- Collect information about **institutional expectations** and **career-development pathways** for early-career independent clinician scientists.
- Identify and analyze **issues specific to the development** of early-career independent clinician scientists.
- **Develop recommendations** for how NICHD can support the training and career development of these investigators.

Membership & Activities:
Clinician-Scientist Career Development WG

- Up to 12 members
  - Current Council members
  - Current, recent trainees and PIs of K12 awards
  - Multidisciplinary, diversity of perspectives
  - NICHD Division of Extramural Research staff

- Activities
  - Review status and relevance of 2024 recommendations
  - Review recent NICHD portfolio analyses
    - Comparisons of programs by clinical speciality
  - Collect information from cross section of partners, institutes, applicants, recipients
    - Trainee recruitment
    - Metrics of success (various)
    - Institutional expectations
  - Draft recommendations, present findings to Council

Discussion