

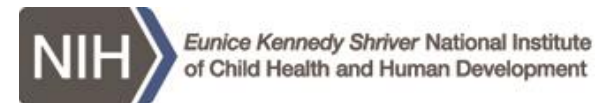
# CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARD (R35)



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# Today's Update



- Brief summary of earlier recommendations
- Report from the R35 Working Group meeting in February
- Next steps

# Working Group Members



- Gene Hayunga, Co-chair
- Caroline Signore, Co-chair
- Sarah Glavin
- Diana Bianchi
- Frances Jensen
- Gregory Kopf
- Ruth Lehmann
- Stephen Petrill
- George Saade

# Summary of Earlier Recommendations



- Length: Up to 8 years
- Budget: Up to \$750K/year (direct costs)
- PI effort: At least 50%
- Scientific topics: Should not be restricted to specific research areas -- any topic that is appropriate for NICHD should be eligible.
- Other considerations:
  - Should support the kind of PI who will generate new ideas.
  - Could promote high-risk or transformative research.
  - Mentorship, service, and collaboration are important.
  - Should encourage some kind of institutional commitment.

# Continued Discussion



## Unanswered questions:

- How many R35 awards should NICHD plan to make? What would they cost, and what would effect would that have on the RPG pay line?
- What is the most appropriate career stage for R35 investigators? (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> Type 2 renewal? PIs with longer track records? or with multiple Ro1 awards?)

## Modeling size of the potential applicant pool:

- Analysis done by OSPAC to identify how many PIs will be approaching renewal of their first R01 vs. those who are approaching their second R01 renewal.

# Continued Discussion



Need to clarify the purpose:

*(What is the problem we're trying to solve?)*

- Foster innovation and creativity?
- Reduce time spent writing applications?
- **Protect “vulnerable” PIs – i.e., so-called “Valley of Death”?**

Need to identify the type of PI to target:

- Consider two tiers: emerging scientific leaders vs. well-established investigators.
- Develop appropriate review criteria for each type of PI.

# Further Recommendations



## Some Next Steps:

- Continue Working Group discussions.
- Consider small scale piloting of the R35, with appropriate evaluation.
- Learn from the experience of other ICs.



# **Comments, Questions**