Welcome to the

National Institute on Drug Abuse Diversity Scholars Network Pre-application Webinar

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November 4, 2025

Pre-application TA Webinar Agenda

- **About NIH and NIDA**
- Purpose and structure of the NDSN Program
- Application Information & Selection Process
- Are you ready to apply?
- NIH Funding Basics
- Q&A Session

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The mission of the NIH is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

-World's largest supporter of biomedical, behavioral, social science research & training

-Budget: nearly 47.3 billion dollars in 2024

-Over 80% funds extramural research

NIDA's Mission

To advance science on the causes and consequences of drug use and addiction and to apply that knowledge to improve individual and public health.

- Through strategically supporting and conducting **basic, clinical and epidemiological research** on drug use (including nicotine), its consequences, and the underlying neurobiological, behavioral, and social mechanisms involved.

- Ensuring the effective **translation**, **implementation**, and **dissemination** of scientific research findings to improve the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, reduce the harms associated with drug use, guide policies, enhance public awareness of addiction as a chronic but treatable medical illness and reduce stigma.

FY 2022-2026 NIDA Strategic Plan

Understanding Drugs, the Brain, and Behavior
- Neuroscience
- Neurocircuitry
- Behavior
- Social Determinants
- Epidemiology
- Genetics/Epigenetics
- Development
- Pharmacology

Innovative Health Applications
- Product Development
- Tools and Technologies
- Public-Private Partnerships

Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery
- Prevention
- Treatment
  - Medications
  - Biologicals
  - Neuromodulation
  - Behavioral Therapeutics
- Recovery
- Harm Reduction

Implementation Science
- Service Delivery
- Models of Care
- Access to Care
- Sustainability
- Implementation
- Policy
- Health Economics

Intersection of Substance Use and HIV
- Mechanisms of HIV and SUD
- HIV Prevention
- SUD and HIV Treatment
- Comorbidities

Research Training
Stigma
Sex & Gender Differences
Health Disparities
Comorbidities
Data Science
Personalized Interventions

Learn More about NIDA

- Organization, Strategic Plan, Budget info, and more
  https://nida.nih.gov/about-nida

- NIDA Research Programs and Activities
  https://nida.nih.gov/research/nida-research-programs-activities

- NIDA Office of Research Training, Diversity, and Disparities (ORTDD)
  https://nida.nih.gov/about-nida/organization/offices/office-nida-director-od/office-research-training-diversity-disparities-ortdd

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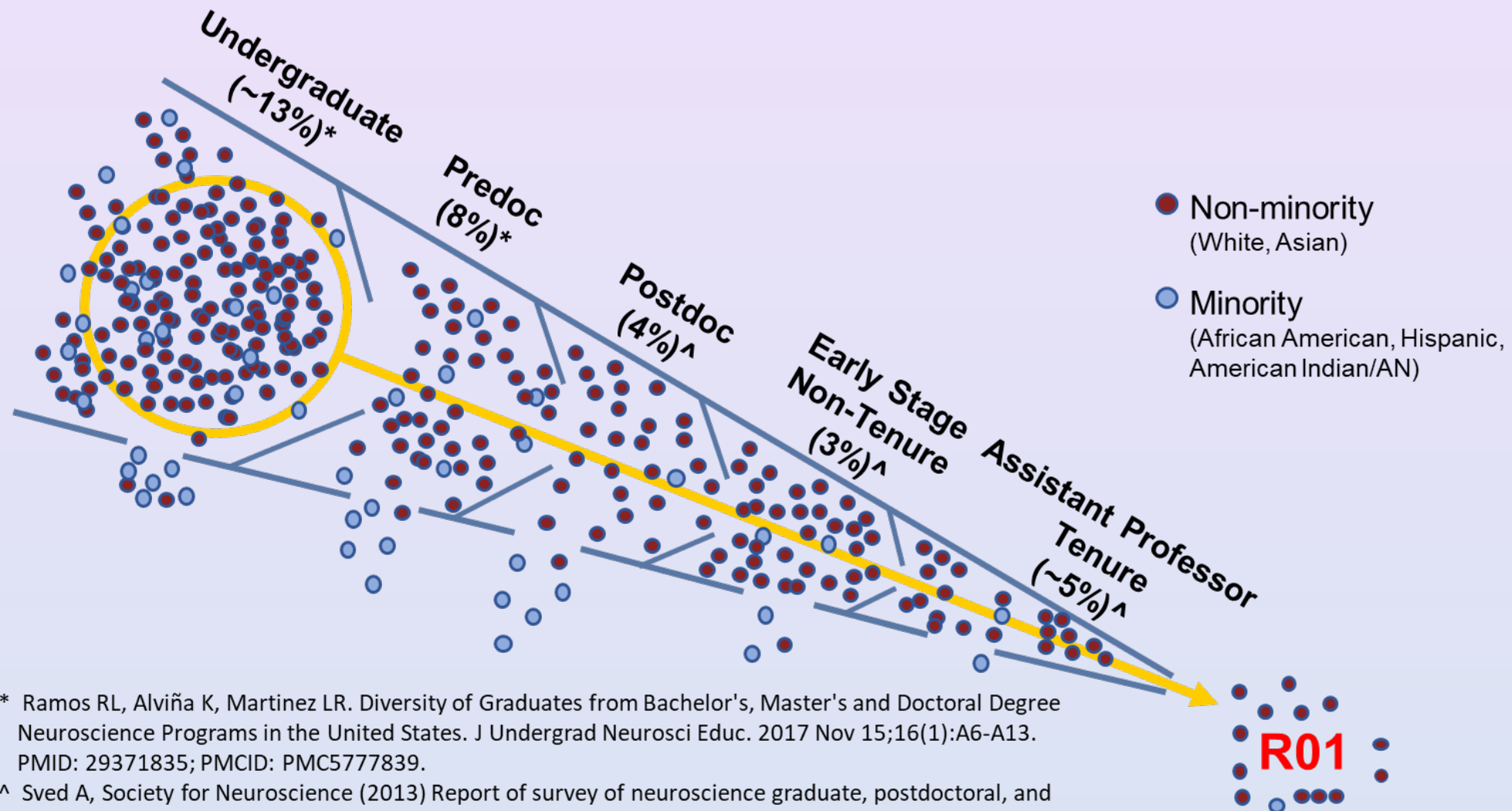- Are you ready to apply?
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NIDA Diversity Scholars Network

Goal: enhance the funding success of early-stage investigators from diverse backgrounds, including investigators from underrepresented groups.

- The program provides workshops and supportive coaching as participants prepare a complete research or career development award application for NIDA funding consideration.

- The program culminates in a mock review of the participants' applications.

See: Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity
NOT-OD-20-031

Illustration of Attrition of Underrepresented Career Scientists

Undergraduate (~13%)*

Predoc (8%)*

Postdoc (4%)^

Early Stage Non-Tenure (3%)^

Assistant Professor Tenure (~5%)^

● Non-minority (White, Asian)

● Minority (African American, Hispanic, American Indian/AN)

R01

* Ramos RL, Alviña K, Martinez LR. Diversity of Graduates from Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degree Neuroscience Programs in the United States. J Undergrad Neurosci Educ. 2017 Nov 15;16(1):A6-A13. PMID: 29371835; PMCID: PMC5777839.
^ Sved A, Society for Neuroscience (2013) Report of survey of neuroscience graduate, postdoctoral, and undergraduate programs (Academic Year 2010-2011).

The Probability of Funding Success for NDSN Participants

Of 59 participants from 2016 through 2021, 53% received funding within the first two years after completing the program and 69% by four years.
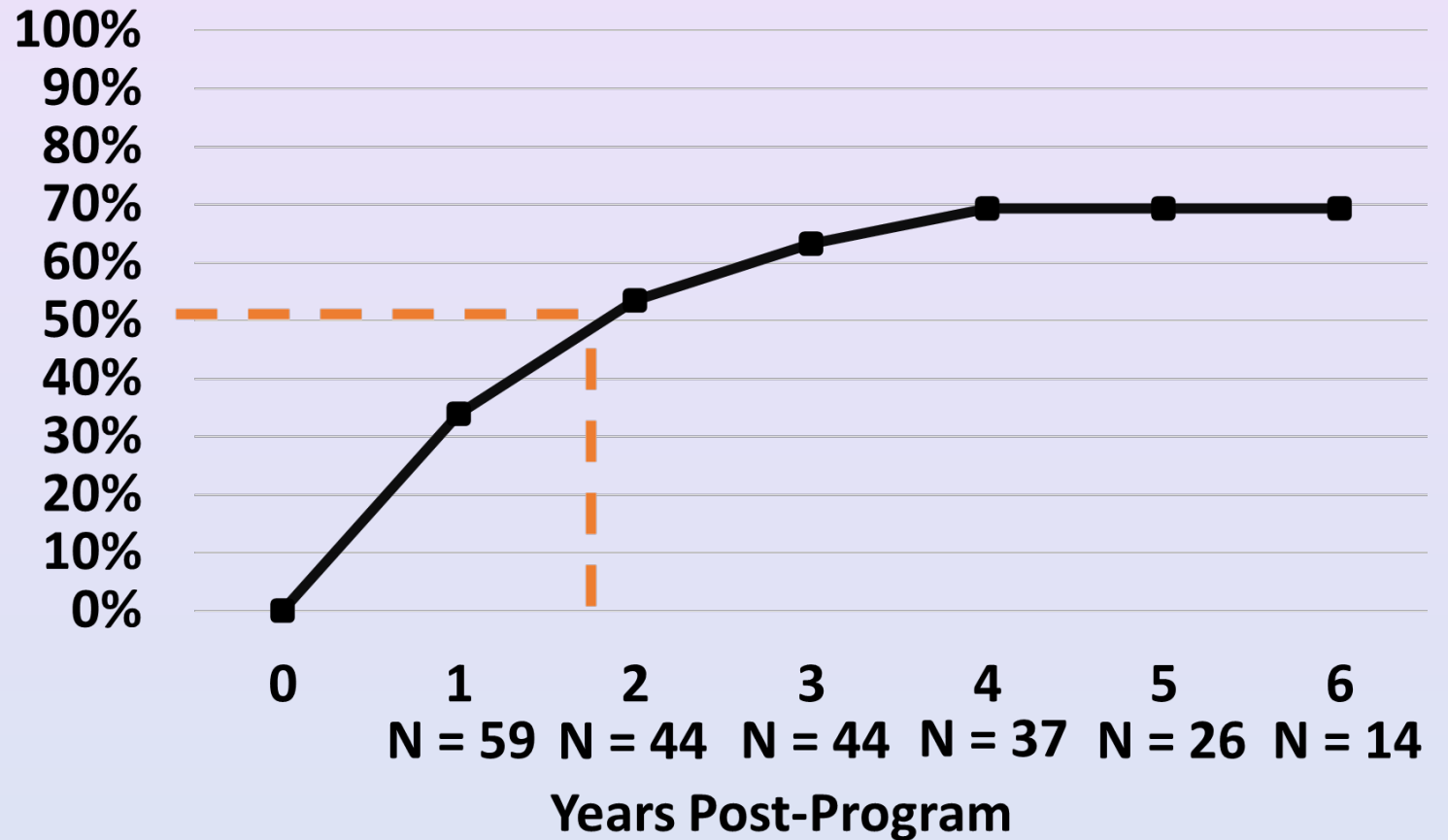
The NIDA Diversity Scholars Network Program Framework

Part I: demystifying the NIH grants process, grant writing fundamentals, engagement with POs and coaches

Part II: grant writing resources, expert advice on starting a research career, understanding peer review

Part III: mock review of scholars' grant applications, building resilience

Application **Due** (January 31, 2025)

Selected Participants Notified (by late February 2025)

Session 1 (March 21, 2025)

Interim Draft Application Submitted to NIDA (April 28, 2025)

Session 2 (June 6, 2025)

Complete Application Submitted to NIDA

(July 28, 2025)

Session 3 (September 4-5, 2025)

2025 Program Timeline

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Application Information: Eligibility

- Doctoral-level investigators (including postdoctoral fellows)
- Minimum of two full years of research experience after the terminal degree (at the time of application)
- Minimum of two, published or in-press, first-author papers in the prior three years
- No prior successful NIH research or career development awards (fellowships awardees are eligible)

- Planning to submit a research or career development award application to NIDA in the next 12-18 months
- U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Within 10 years of receiving a terminal degree*

    *please consult with us (NDSN@nih.gov) regarding limited exceptions

Application Information

- To apply, visit the [NDSN website](#)

- Complete and submit the online program application.

- Requirements:
  - Candidate statement (2 pages maximum)
  - Specific aims page (1 page maximum)
  - Abbreviated research strategy (6 pages maximum, excluding references)
  - CV (no page limit)
  - Applicant [ORCHID ID](#)

- Receipt deadline: **11:59pm PT on January 31, 2025.**

- Applications must be received by the deadline to be considered.

What to Include in the Candidate Statement

The Candidate Statement (maximum of 2 pages) should include…

- Your background*

- Your expertise and training (formal and informal)

- Your career plans

- Why you are applying to be an NDSN scholar (i.e., what do you hope to gain from participation?)

- How your research relates to NIDA's strategic plan

*include citizenship status

Consider integrating the following into your candidate statement, as relevant:

- previous research and scholarship achievements

- your specific contributions to science

- your DEIA-related activities and leadership

- factors that affected your past productivity

- how your research goals and background align with NIH's Interest in Diversity

Selection Process

An internal committee will select 12 scholars to participate in the program

Selection Criteria:

- Strength of the candidate statement

- Candidate well positioned to submit competitive research application

- Priority of research project for NIDA

NOTE: NIDA seeks to select a diverse group of scholars from a variety of disciplines, institution types, and geographic locations. Selected scholars will be notified by email by late February 2025.

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Are you ready to apply?

- Scholars should have an institutional affiliation that will allow for grant application submission
- Scholars should have adequate time to commit to developing a complete grant application to be assessed during the mock review
- Scholars are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the program

- Scholars should feel confident committing to the proposed research topic
- Scholars should have identified at least one possible research or career development funding announcement for their application

IMPORTANT: Applicants should reach out to a NIDA PO and share a concept paper or specific aims page prior to submitting an NDSN application

Contacting a NIDA PO

Prior to submitting your application for NDSN, we strongly recommend that you share a specific aims page with your PO and request feedback on:

• the fit of your proposed grant program and/or funding opportunity with your goals

• whether your specific aims fit within the mission and priorities of NIDA.

*For more information, see: [Understand Staff Roles | grants.nih.gov](grants.nih.gov)

Identifying the "right" PO

The "right" PO is just a few clicks and a few emails away!

Option 1: Check Part 2. Section VII. of your notice of funding opportunity

Option 2: Use the "Matchmaker" Tool
[LINK](#) to Matchmaker Tool

Option 3: Check the NIDA website
- [Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research (DESPR)](#)
- [Division of Neuroscience and Behavior (DNB)](#)
- [Division of Therapeutics and Medical Consequences (DTMC)](#)

Option 4: Send an email to nida_training@nida.nih.gov

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NIH Funding Basics

- Abbreviations:
    - **NOFO**=Notice of Funding Opportunity
    - **NOSI**=Notice of Special Interest
    - **RFA**=Request for Applications
    - **PA**=Program Announcement

- Institutions submit grants to NIH on behalf of PIs who develop grant proposals. The PIs must select an appropriate "**RFA**" or "**PA**" for their proposed project. RFAs and PAs are collectively known as Notices of Funding Opportunity (**NOFO**s)

For information on NOFOs, see this <u>LINK</u>

- To apply for a grant, applicants must select a specific NOFO. NOFOs can be identified by number (e.g., RFA-DA-25-024, PAR-24-225, or PAS-24-242).

- The NOFO <u>title</u> will indicate what types of studies can be submitted (e.g., clinical trials –or– no clinical trials –or– basic experimental studies with humans). *BE SURE TO SELECT THE CORRECT NOFO!* See this <u>LINK</u> for more information.

- NIH institutes use NOSIs to describes a specific topic area of interest for funding. NOSIs point to specific NOFOs.

Research Career Development Awards

Mentored career development awards ("CDAs" or "Ks")…

- are intended for investigators at earlier phases of their research careers

- provide three to five years of salary, mentored research support, and protected time

- allow awardees to enhance skills development

- require oversight of an experienced mentor

See: Career Development Awards

NIDA supports the following individual **mentored CDAs**

- K01 Research Scientist CDA

- K08 Clinical Scientist Research CDA

- K23 Patient-Oriented Research CDA

- K25 Quantitative Research CDA

- K99/R00 – Pathway to Independence

  - Parent K99/R00

  - "MOSAIC" K99/R00

Research Project Grant R01

- Used to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed research project.
- NIH's most commonly used grant program.
- No specific dollar limit unless specified in funding opportunity.
- Advance permission required for $500K or more (direct costs) in any year.
- Generally awarded for 3-5 years.

See: NIH Research Project (R01)

R01 Notes:
- NIH publishes a "parent" R01 NOFO for investigator-initiated research.
- R01s often (but not always) are expected to have preliminary data.
- Budgets for R01s do not have to be large. If the budget is large, the personnel proposed to manage the project should have prior successful experiences managing sizable awards.
- When reviewed by NIH, R01s are routinely grouped by whether the investigator is "new" or "established."

R01 Funding for New Investigators and Early-Stage Investigators (ESIs)

- **"New Investigator":** Applicant who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a significant NIH independent research award (e.g., R01 grant)

- **"Early-Stage Investigator":** A New Investigator who is within 10 years of the terminal doctoral degree or end of formal clinical training (residency and fellowship)

Please see [NIH Early Investigators Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)](#)

- The 21st Century Cures Act (2016) requires NIH to..
  - develop, modify, or prioritize policies to promote opportunities for new researchers and earlier research independence
  - encourage successful, independent careers for Early-Stage Investigators (ESIs) in a way that enhances workforce diversity
  - create a sustainable workforce across all career stages to ensure the long-term stability of the biomedical research enterprise.

- ***NIH funds R01s of ESIs more favorably***

NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award – R21

- Encourages new, exploratory and developmental research projects by providing support for the early stages of research projects. Sometimes used for pilot and feasibility studies.

- Up to two years of funding.

- Combined budget for direct costs for the two-year project period usually may not exceed $275,000.

- Typically, no preliminary data is required.

R21 Notes:
- NIH publishes a "parent" R21 NOFO for investigator-initiated research; NIDA also publishes topical R21 NOFOs.
- Being awarded an R21 ***does not*** disqualify an investigator from NI/ESI status <u>or</u> from being considered for an individual mentored career development (K) award.
- ESI status is not considered in the review of R21 applications.

See: [NIH Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21)](#)

Small Grant Program – R03

- Provides limited funding for a short period of time to support a variety of types of projects, including pilot or feasibility studies, collection of preliminary data, secondary analysis of existing data, small, self-contained research projects, development of new research technology, etc.

- Generally, limited to two years of funding.

- Direct costs *generally* up to $50,000 per year.

- Not renewable.

See: [NIH Small Research Grants (R03)](#)

R03 Notes:
- NIH publishes a "parent" R03 NOFO for investigator-initiated research. NIDA also publishes topical R03 NOFOs
- Being awarded an R03 ***does not*** disqualify an investigator from NI/ESI status <u>or</u> from being considered for an individual mentored career development (K) award.
- NIDA publishes special R03 announcements:
  - A-START (HIV research)
  - B-START (behavioral research)
  - I-START (imaging research)
  - D-START (data science research)
- Some R03 announcements have higher direct cost limits

NIH Planning Grant – R34

The NIH Planning Grant Program (R34) provides support for the initial development of a clinical trial or research project.

R34 Characteristics:

- Project period limited to 3 years

- Direct costs limited to $225,000 per year and $450,000 over the 3-year project period

- Not renewable

- For clinical trials, the R34 supports development of essential elements of a clinical trial and leads to an application for support of a full-scale trial

See: NIH Planning Grant (R34)

R34 Notes:

- NIH ***does not*** publish a "parent" R34 NOFO

- An R34 is not considered a major NIH award. Being awarded an R34 ***does not*** disqualify an investigator from receiving a subsequent career development award.

- It is very important to read the guidance for the selected R34 NOFO to make sure your application is responsive.

Other Research Funding Mechanisms

NIH has other funding mechanism that may be appropriate for early career investigators

- DP1: NIH Director's Pioneer Award

- DP2: Director's New Innovator Award

- R16: Research Excellence Award

NOTE: Carefully check eligibility criteria, expiration dates for funding opportunities

NOTE: NDSN participation is not well-suited for DP1 and DP2 applicants.

About Funding Mechanisms:

- Each NOFO will identify in its title a single funding mechanism. You must select the NOFO associated with your chosen mechanism.

- POs have a wealth of information to help applicants identify funding mechanisms to meet their needs

The NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts

For a complete list of NIDA-supported announcements for a particular grant "mechanism" or "activity code" (e.g., R01, K23):

- Go to the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts website
- Under "Funding Organizations" select "NIDA" and the "Advanced Search" option lets you filter by "Activity Code" and more

NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts

The NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts is NIH's official publication of notices of grant policies, guidelines, and funding opportunities. We publish daily and issue a Weekly Table of Contents.

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Funding Category ⓘ
Select...

Learn more about Funding Categories

Funding Organization(s) ⓘ
Select...
☐ Issuing Organization Only

Keyword ⓘ
🔍 Quick Search
☐ Title Only

≡ Advanced Search   Clear Filters

Note: You can subscribe to the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts HERE.

NIH RESOURCES

- NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding: https://grants.nih.gov/
- NIH Grants Process – A Brief Walk-Through for Beginners: https://www.youtube.com/live/KtwAMvjzvcInners
- All About Grants Podcasts: https://grants.nih.gov/news/virtual-learning/podcasts.htm
- NIH Extramural Nexus: https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/
- Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools: https://report.nih.gov/
- NIH Center for Scientific Review: https://public.csr.nih.gov/

NIH Grant Process Primer

Understanding NIH's overall structure and the foundation of the agency's grants process is vital to successfully applying for NIH funding. To help you on this journey, the NIH invites you to participate in a two-part webinar designed to help inform and clarify important elements from application preparation to award.

Part I: Application to Award
           Wednesday, November 13, 2024
           1:00PM ET – 4:00PM ET
           Virtual

Part II: Application to Award
           Thursday, November 14, 2024
           1:00PM ET – 4:00PM ET
           Virtual

Part I Registration
Part II Registration

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Please enter questions into the Q&A box.

QUESTIONS?

For additional questions about NIDA's Diversity Scholars Network program...

Contact:

NDSN@nih.gov