NIH Career Development Programs ("K" Awards)

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NIH Institutes and Centers

One of 11 agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

27 Institutes and Centers (IC)
Breakdown of $30.4 Billion Appropriated to NIH for FY 2009

- Research Project Grants (53%)
- Research Centers (10%)
- R&D Contracts (11%)
- Other Research (6%)
- Training (3%)
- Intramural Research (10%)
- Research Mgmt & Support (5%)
- All Other (2%)

$16.1 B
Training and Career Timetable

Stage of Research Training / Career

- Pre-Bac
  - Pre-Bac Institutional Training Grant (T34)

- Graduate/Medical Student
  - Predoctoral Institutional Training Grant (T32)
  - Predoctoral Individual NRSA (F31)
  - Predoctoral Individual MD/PhD NRSA (F30)

- Postdoctoral Institutional Training Grant (T32)
  - Postdoctoral Individual NRSA (F32)

- Early Career
  - NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award (K99/R00)
  - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01)
  - Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08)
  - Mentored Patient-Oriented RCDA (K23)
  - Mentored Quantitative RCDA (K25)

- Middle Career
  - Independent Scientist Award (K02)
  - Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research (K24)

- Senior Career
  - Senior Scientist Award (K05)

Awards

- Small Grant (R03)
- Research Project Grant (R01)
- Exploratory/Development Grant (R21)
Purpose of NIH Career Development Programs:

To help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists are available in adequate numbers and in the appropriate research areas to address the Nation’s biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs.
Career Development Programs

• Become a well-informed applicant
• Find out about NIH Institute and Center (IC) missions and programs [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)
• Find out about IC specific utilization of the wide variety of Career Awards
• Contact appropriate NIH program/scientific or grants management staff
• Talk with potential mentors, collaborators, peers (early…follow up…)
‘Career’ Awards = ‘K’ Awards

• Individual Awards:
  – Mentored
  – Independent—can interact with other NIH Awards
  – Depending on the award, for early, mid-, or senior career levels
  – Depending on the award, all doctorates or restricted to clinical doctorates

• Institutional Awards:
  – Curriculum/Program Development
  – Institutional
Mentored K Awards

College

Graduate School

Postdoctoral

Independent Investigator

Pathway to Independence (PI) Award (K99/R00)

Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01)

Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08)

Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Development Award (K23)

Mentored Quantitative Research Career Development Award (K25)

Career Transition Award (K22)
Mentored K Awards

• Support mechanisms that provide mentored research experiences to gain additional expertise in a new research area or in an area that will significantly enhance research capabilities.
Mentored K Awards

- K01: Mentored Research Scientist Development Award
- K08: Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award
- K22: Research Career Award for Transition to Independence
- K23: Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Development Award
- K25: Mentored Quantitative Research Development Award
- K99/R00: NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award
- K12: Institutional Mentored Research Scientist Development Program
K01: For Research Doctorate

• Provides an intensive, mentored research experience

• Candidates normally must have a research doctorate and postdoctoral experience

• Not an extension of postdoctoral training

• Varied and limited NIH IC participation
  - Used for re-entry
  - Used for pursuit of new research area
K08: For Health Professional Doctorate

- Supervised research experience for individuals with health professional degree who are committed to a career in laboratory research

- Phased award period
  - didactic experience
  - “hands-on” research experience

- For individuals intending a career in basic or translational research
K22: For Research or Health Professional Doctorate

- Assists transition to independence
- May be activated after identifying a suitable position at a research institution
- Might include mentored and independent phases
- May support an NIH intramural and an extramural phase
K23: For Health Professional Degree

• Supervised research for clinically trained professionals with a commitment to focus on patient-oriented research (POR)

• POR is defined as research in which the investigator directly interacts with human subjects

• Must have completed clinical training, including specialty/sub-specialty, if applicable, prior to award
K25: Research Doctorate in Quantitative/Engineering Disciplines

• Mentored experiences for scientists from quantitative and engineering backgrounds interested in pursuing health-related research

• Postdocs to Senior Faculty eligible to apply
• K99: Mentored research experience for up to 2 years
• R00: Transition to research independence as junior faculty for up to 3 years
• Applicants: no more than 5 years of postdoctoral research training at the time of initial application or resubmission
• Non-U.S. citizens may apply, but institution must be domestic
• Transition to R00 phase requires offer and acceptance of tenure-track, full-time assistant professor position (or equivalent)
• K12: Institutional Mentored Research Scientist Development Program
  – Enhance research career development for individuals, selected by the institution, who are training for careers in specified research areas
  – Provides institutions with the capacity for mentoring junior investigators through a programmatic approach
Mentored K Awards: Review

- Candidate
- Career Development Plan
- Research Plan
- Mentor, Co-mentor(s), Consultant(s), and Collaborator(s)
- Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate
Independent K Awards

- College
- Graduate School
- Postdoctoral

Independent Scientist Award (K02)

Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research (K24)

Senior Scientist Award (K05)
K02 For Research or Clinical Doctorate

• Intended for newly independent scientists who need a period of research focus in order to enhance their careers

• May be renewable

• Provides only salary; requires existing research support
• Provides clinician investigators protected time to devote to patient-oriented research and to serve as mentors for junior researchers

• Protects between 25% and 50% of professional effort

• Permits salary from other Federal sources, e.g. R01 grant
Extramural Loan Repayment

• Researchers at 50% effort or more at non-profit organizations with qualifying educational debt
• Payments to loaning institution up to $35,000 per year
• Tax liability on the loan payments partially offset
• Concurrent service requirement
• Application Period: September - December
Common Features: Eligibility

• Eligibility—Who can Apply?
  – Doctoral Degree (generally)
    • Some (K08, K23, K24) require clinical degree
  – US Citizen, Non-Citizen National, Permanent Resident (except K99/R00)
  – Previous NIH PD/PI may be Ineligible
    • Usually PD/PI on R03 or R21 is OK (except K99/R00)
    • PD/PI on R01 or subproject PD/PI on a P01 is **NOT OK**

*Read the Eligibility Section of the Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) carefully!*
Common Features: Duration

- Duration: three, four, or five years
  - Extensions in time – award terms remain in effect
- Entry level awards require a mentor, multiple mentors are OK
- Mentored Ks encouraged to apply for independent support during K
- Non-mentored awards (e.g., K02, K24) are sometimes renewable
Common Features: Appointment & Effort

• **Appointment:**
  – For K eligibility purposes, individual must have a full-time appointment at applicant organization *(organization defines “full-time”)*
  – Any minimum effort requirement must be covered by that appointment

• **Level of Effort:**
  – Mentored awards require full-time effort (defined as at least 9 person months (i.e.75%) on research and the rest on other career development related activities)

• At the time of application and initial award, all candidates must meet the full-time appointment requirement as well as the minimum 75% effort requirement.
• **Policies on Part-Time Institutional Appointments & Reduced Effort**
  
  – NIH existing policy allows temporary adjustment to < 75% effort
  
  – **New Policy** (issued 1/2009): K awardees may request to reduce their appointment to less than full-time (but not less than three-quarter time) for a period not to exceed 12 continuous months during the K award project period.
  
  – For both adjustments: the nature of the circumstances requiring a change in appointment status or percent effort might include personal or family situations such as parental leave, child care, elder care, medical conditions, or a disability.
  
  – Permission to change appointment status or percent effort will not be approved to accommodate job opportunities, clinical practice, clinical training, or joint appointments.

• Awardees **may not** simultaneously request a reduction in appointment status from full-time to part-time **AND** a reduction in percent effort to less than 75%.

• Two options only available after a K award has been issued. Part-time appointments will be considered by the IC on a case-by-case basis.

• Both require NIH Prior Approval
Existing Policy: Reducing effort to 50% in the final 2 years & replacing that effort with effort on any peer-reviewed research grant or subproject

• The K award must be active when the competing research grant application is submitted & must be in its final two years before the reduction in effort to 6 person-months (50% full-time effort) is permitted.

• Individual must:
  – Remain in a mentored situation
  – Be one of the named PIs on a competing NIH research grant application (R01, R03, R15, R21, R34, or equivalent from another Federal agency); or a sub-project director on a competing multi-component research, center grant, or cooperative agreement application (P01, P50, U01, etc. or equivalent application from another Federal Agency).

Common Features: Costs

Some costs vary widely across NIH ICs. Review specific Program Announcements carefully.

• **Salary/fringe benefits:**
  – Salaries capped between $75,000 and legislatively mandated cap (currently $196,700)
  – Fringe benefits are over & above any salary cap
  – Salary supplementation OK, but must not require extra duties that would interfere with K activities

• **Research/development costs:**
  – Generally $25,000 to $50,000
  – Commonly used for: supplies, equipment, technical personnel, travel to research meetings or training, tuition/fees, computational services
Ancillary Personnel Support: Generally **not** allowed—salary for administrative/secretarial support, support for mentors

F&A Costs: 8% Rate, Base = Modified Total Direct Costs
Common Features: Other Income & Changes

• **Other income:**
  – Fees resulting from research activities required by the K award may not be retained by the recipient.
  – Royalties and fees may be retained if incidental, not required by research & training activities of the K award, and consistent with grantee institution’s policies. Examples: scholarly writing, service on advisory groups, lecturer/speaker fees, fees resulting from clinical practice, professional consulting, or other comparable activities.

• **Change of Institution or Mentor:**
  - Requires prior approval in writing of the NIH awarding component; contact NIH staff ASAP!
Application Procedures

• “K” awards now electronically submitted using the SF424 (R&R) application package

• See also special instructions in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

• Submission Dates:
  – February 12, June 12, October 12 (new)
  – March 12, July 12, November 12 (renewal, resubmission, revision)

• IC use of Career Awards is variable –

  Read the FOA carefully; call the NIH awarding component with any questions!
Application Procedures

Electronic Submission involves new business processes

- **Reference Ltrs**: Submitted directly through the eRA Commons; not as part of the Grants.gov application. Will be matched with application at NIH

- **Budget**: Now required with application

- **Candidate’s Biosketch**: Now includes “Research Support” section; same as other biosketches used by investigators

• K Kiosk – NIH Career Development Awards:
  http://grants1.nih.gov/training/careerdevelo
  pmentawards.htm

• Career Award Wizard:
  http://grants1.nih.gov/training/kwizard/inde
  x.htm
Thank You

Questions?

Contact Us:

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