

NIH Diversity supplements: Tips

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NIH-wide program: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-149.html>

What follows are general guidelines. However, there is some variability across NIH institutes. Be sure to check with the institute funding the parent grant for more information. There is a contact person for these supplements at each institute.

1. What PI's are eligible?
 - a. Current PI of virtually any type of NIH research award
 - R21: check with institute
 - T32: special rules for training grants
 - Any other R-, U-, or P-grant: go for it!
 - b. CDC and NIOSH grants may also qualify
 - c. Parent grant must have at least 2 years remaining (unless the candidate is a high school or college student).

2. What candidates are eligible?
 - a. High school through faculty
 - b. Under-represented in biomedical research
 - African American
 - Hispanic American
 - Native American
 - Alaskan Natives
 - Hawaiian Natives
 - Natives of the US Pacific Islands
 - Economically disadvantaged (high school and undergrad only)
 - Disabled
 - c. Must be citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident.
 - d. Applicant can NOT be a co-investigator funded on the parent grant.
 - e. In general, faculty applicant must plan to devote 75% effort to supplement award, but it may be possible to reduce that to as low as 50% to accommodate clinical responsibilities. Check with institute.
 - f. Usually, a parent grant may support only one individual on a supplement." [Note "usually" - exceptions are possible.]
 - g. Candidates may receive support from only one supplement program at a time, but **may be supported by more than one supplement during the development of their research careers.**

3. Application process
 - a. Submission deadlines vary by institute. Some have rolling submissions (submit at any time), others have special deadlines (see 6a below).
 - b. Submit at least 3 months before funding start date. Best if start date coincides with anniversary date of parent.
 - c. Submit to your funding component (usually through the parent grant's project officer)
 - d. See : <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-149.html> for general instructions, but be sure to look for institute-specific instructions as well. PI should talk to the institute contact for diversity supplements.

4. Application content (6-pages)
 - a. Description of parent grant
 - b. Plan for candidate, including mentorship plan and timeline
 - c. Address all review criteria:
 - The qualifications of the candidate including career goals, prior research training, research potential, and any relevant experience.
 - Evidence of educational achievement and interest in science, if the candidate is a student.
 - The strength of the description of how this particular appointment will promote diversity within the institution or in science nationally.
 - The plan and timeline for the proposed research and career development experiences in the supplemental request and their relationship to the parent grant.
 - Evidence that the proposed experience will enhance the research potential, knowledge, and/or skills of the candidate and that adequate mentorship will be provided.
 - Evidence that the activities of the candidate will be an integral part of the project.
 - d. A signed statement from the Principal Investigator and an institutional official establishing the eligibility of the candidate for support under this program (template available on request to Laura Svetkey).
5. Review process
 - a. Reviewed first by the division that funds the parent grant, based on:
 - Science
 - Research commitment/potential of applicant
 - Relationship of proposed work to parent grant.
 - b. Then reviewed at the institute level, based on:
 - Alternate funding available to the applicant
 - Good investment for the institute (i.e., candidate is likely to go on to next level)
 - Administrative funds available
6. Variability across institutes
 - a. Review schedule
 - b. Duration of funding
 - c. Timeline for review
 - d. Hit rate: can be as high as 70%
7. Other tips
 - a. Try to synchronize start date with parent start date.
 - b. End date = no later than end date of parent grant
 - c. Get institute-specific info
 - Look at PA or RFA that funds the parent grant
 - Talk to the parent grant project officer
 - Talk to the person at the parent grant's institute who is responsible for diversity supplement grants at that institute
 - Go to the institute web site and look for "training and career development"