

**Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral  
and Social Sciences (R01/R03/R21)****For the full text of these PARs, visit:**<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-212.html> (R01)<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-214.html> (R03)<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-213.html> (R21)**Description**

The goal of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to encourage research that will improve the quality and scientific power of data collected in the behavioral and social sciences, relevant to the missions of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers. The participating Institutes and Centers invite qualified researchers to submit research grant applications aimed at improving and developing methodology and measurement in the behavioral and social sciences through innovations in research design, data collection techniques, measurement, and data analysis techniques. Research that addresses methodology and measurement issues in diverse populations, issues in studying sensitive behaviors, issues of ethics in research, issues related to confidential data and the protection of research subjects, and issues in developing interdisciplinary, multimethod, and multilevel approaches to behavioral and social science research is particularly encouraged, as are approaches that integrate behavioral and social science research with biological, physical, or computational science research or engineering.

**Research Objectives**

The behavioral and social sciences offer significant, fundamental insights into the comprehensive understanding of human health, including disease etiology and treatment, and the promotion of health and well-being. To encourage the investigation of the impact of social and behavioral factors on health and disease, the participating Institutes and Centers invite qualified researchers to submit research grant applications on methodology and measurement in the behavioral and social sciences. Methodology and measurement encompass research design, data collection techniques, measurement, and data analysis techniques.

Within the broad spectrum of research defined by these areas, applicants are particularly encouraged (but are not required) to consider studies that address one or more of the following key issues:

- Methodology and measurement issues in developing innovative interdisciplinary, multimethod, and multilevel research designs for use in behavioral and social science research, with special emphasis on both developing new technologies and addressing the analytical complexities associated with the integration of behavioral, social, and biological data.
- Methodology and measurement issues in research relating to diverse populations, for example, populations that are distinctive by virtue of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, culture, including culture-specific medical systems, socio-economic status, literacy, language, or disability.
- Methodology and measurement issues in studying how dramatic changes in economic, social, environmental, physical, or political context affect human health and well-being, including developing new methods if older ones are no longer valid in the face of significant changes in populations and societies over the last several decades.
- Methodology and measurement issues in studying potentially sensitive behaviors, such as sexual behavior and abortion, and covert or illegal behaviors such as drug use, abuse, and violence.
- Methodology and measurement issues that facilitate incorporating measures of social environment with genetic data or enhance bringing genetic measures into studies of social epidemiology.
- Methodology and measurement issues concerning ethics in research, with emphasis on the topics of informed consent,

assessment of risk and benefit, and selection and retention of subjects, and ensuring subjects' confidentiality.

## Mechanisms of Support

The R01, R03, and R21 award mechanisms will be supported by this program. Applications using the R01 award mechanism must have extensive preliminary data and build on previous pilot work or existing research in the proposed research area. Applicants for the R01 applications have no dollar limit; the project period may not exceed 5 years. R03 mechanism may request a project period of up to 2 years and a budget for direct costs of up to \$50,000 per year may be requested. R21 mechanism may request a project period of 2 years with a combined budget for direct costs of up to \$275,000 (no more than \$200,000 in any single year).

## Eligibility Requirements

- Institutions of higher education
- Hispanic-serving institutions
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions
- Non-profit organizations
- For-profit organizations
- Native American tribal organizations
- State/county/city/township governments
- Special district governments
- Independent school districts
- Public/Indian housing authorities
- U.S. territory or possession
- Regional organizations
- Non-U.S. organizations
- Eligible Federal government agencies
- Faith-based or community-based organizations

## Further Assistance

### GrantsInfo

Tel. (301) 435-0714  
Email: [GrantsInfo@nih.gov](mailto:GrantsInfo@nih.gov)

### Grant Writing Tip Sheets

[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant\\_tips.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_tips.htm)

## Review

Applications submitted for this FOA will be assigned to NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs)

on the basis of established PHS referral guidelines. Appropriate scientific review groups convened in accordance with the standard NIH peer review procedures will evaluate applications for scientific and technical merit.

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## Co-Sponsors

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