

CSR News Flash

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Center for Scientific Review
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NIH Gives Chartered Reviewers New Flexibility Submitting Applications

NIH has just increased the incentives for scientists to serve as chartered or “permanent” members on its peer review groups so it can better identify the most promising research for funding. These researchers, who typically serve four years reviewing NIH grant applications, now have more flexibility in submitting their own grant applications.

A recent [NIH Guide Notice](#) explains a new policy that gives these reviewers the option to submit—as soon as they are developed—R01, R21 or R34 applications that would normally be submitted for standard submission dates. Chartered members are strongly encouraged to add a cover letter to their applications requesting this option.

This new policy was developed to better compensate chartered reviewers, who can be disadvantaged by deadlines that force them to develop their own applications while reviewing those submitted to NIH by others.

These reviewers may still request a review by a standing study section other than their own. In this case, they must submit their applications in accord with established deadlines. A second [NIH Guide Notice](#) explains that current “windows” for reviewers to submit many of these applications late will remain available.

Continuous submission will be carefully evaluated to see whether eligibility should be extended. The NIH Guide Notice provides details on this new practice.

About CSR

The Center for Scientific Review organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of grant applications submitted to the National Institutes of Health. These groups include experienced and respected researchers from across the country and abroad. Since 1946, CSR's mission has been to see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews — free from inappropriate influences — so NIH can fund the most promising research. CSR also receives all incoming applications and assigns them to the NIH institutes and centers that fund grants.

For more information, go to our Web site—<http://www.csr.nih.gov>—or phone 301-435-1111.