

NIDDK ACTIVITY CODE DEFINITIONS

Extramural research activities are divided into three main mechanisms: grants, contracts and cooperative agreements. A mechanism is the type of funding instrument used at the NIH. In general, with grants (all activity codes other than “N” or “U”), investigators are responsible for developing the concepts, methods, and approach for a research project. With contracts (“N”series), the DHHS awarding unit is responsible for establishing the detailed requirements. With cooperative agreements (“U”series), both the awarding unit and the recipient have substantial responsibility. Programs are areas within the funding mechanisms for example research, training, fellowships, and cooperative agreements. Activity codes identify categories applied to various mechanisms.

Fellowship Programs

- F 31 **Predocutorial Individual National Research Service Award**
To provide predoctoral individuals with supervised research training in specified health and health-related areas leading toward the research degree (e.g., Ph.D.).
- F 32 **Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award**
To provide postdoctoral research training to individuals to broaden their scientific background and extend their potential for research in specified health-related areas.
- F 33 **National Research Service Awards for Senior Fellows**
To provide opportunities for experienced scientists to make major changes in the direction of research careers, to broaden scientific background, to acquire new research capabilities, to enlarge command of an allied research field, or to take time from regular professional responsibilities for the purpose of increasing capabilities to engage in health-related research.

Research Career Programs

- K 01 **Research Scientist Development Award - Research & Training**
For support of a scientist, committed to research, in need of both advanced research training and additional experience.
- K 08 **Clinical Investigator Award (CIA)**
To provide the opportunity for promising medical scientists with demonstrated aptitude to develop into independent investigators, or for faculty members to pursue research aspects of categorical areas applicable to the awarding unit, and aid in filling the academic faculty gap in these shortage areas within health profession's institutions of the country.
- K 12 **Physician Scientist Award (Program) (PSA)**
For support to a newly trained clinician appointed by an institution for development of independent research skills and experience in a fundamental science within the framework of an interdisciplinary research and development program.
- K 18 **The Career Enhancement Award**
To provide either full-time or part-time support for experienced scientists who wish to broaden their scientific capabilities or to make changes in their research careers by acquiring new research skills or knowledge. Career enhancement experiences supported by this award should usually last no more than one year.

- K 23 **Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award**
To provide support for the career development of investigators who have made a commitment of focus their research endeavors on patient-oriented research. This mechanism provides support for a 3 year minimum up to 5 year period of supervised study and research for clinically trained professionals who have the potential to develop into productive, clinical investigators.
- K 24 **Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research**
To provide support for the clinicians to allow them protected time to devote to patient-oriented research and to act as mentors for beginning clinical investigators.
- K 25 **Mentored Quantitative Research Career Development Award**
To engender and foster such activities by supporting the career development of investigators with quantitative scientific and engineering backgrounds outside of biology or medicine who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on behavioral and biomedical research (basic or clinical). This mechanism is aimed at research-oriented scientists with experience at the level of junior faculty (e.g., early to mid-levels of assistant professor or research assistant professor ranks). This award provides support for a period of mentored study and research for professionals with such backgrounds who have the potential to integrate their expertise with biomedicine and develop into productive investigators.
- Examples of quantitative scientific and technical backgrounds outside of biology or medicine considered appropriate for this award include, but are not limited to: mathematics, statistics, computer science, informatics, physics, chemistry, and engineering.
- K 30 **Clinical Research Curriculum Award (CRCA)**
The CRCA is an award to institutions and is intended to stimulate the inclusion of high-quality, multi-disciplinary didactic training as part of the career development of clinical investigators. This award is intended to support the development of new didactic programs in clinical research at institutions that do not currently offer such programs or, in institutions with existing didactic programs in clinical research to support or expand their programs or to improve the quality of instruction.

Extramural Loan Repayment Program

- L30 **Loan Repayment Program for Clinical Researchers**
To provide for the repayment of the educational loan debt of qualified health professionals involved in clinical research. Qualified health professionals who contractually agree to conduct qualified clinical research are eligible to apply for this program.
- L40 **Loan Repayment Program for Pediatric Research**
To provide for the repayment of the educational loan debt of qualified health professionals involved in research directly related to diseases, disorders, and other conditions in children. Qualified health professionals who contractually agree to conduct qualified pediatric research are eligible to apply for this program.

Research and Development-Related Contracts

- N 01 **Research and Development Contracts**
To develop and/or apply new knowledge or to test, screen, or evaluate a product, material, device, or component for use by the scientific community.
- N 02 **Resource and Support Contracts - Awarded in the ICD**
To support intramural and extramural station support needs. This activity also includes the

provision of resources to intramural research programs.

- N 41 **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Contracts - Phase I**
To support cooperative R&D projects between small business concerns and research institutions, limited in time and amount, to establish the technical merit and feasibility of ideas that have potential for commercialization. Awards are made to small business concerns only.
- N 42 **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Contracts - Phase II**
To support in-depth development of cooperative R&D projects between small business concerns and research institutions, limited in time and amount, whose feasibility has been established in Phase I and that have potential for commercialization. Awards are made to small business concerns only.
- N 43 **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Contracts- Phase I**
To support project, limited in time and amount, to establish the technical merit and feasibility of R&D ideas which may ultimately lead to a commercial product(s) or service(s). These contracts may be made only with small businesses.
- N 44 **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Contracts - Phase II**
To support in-depth development of R&D ideas whose feasibility has been established in Phase I and which are likely to result in commercial products or services. These contracts may be made only to small businesses.

Research Program Projects and Centers

- P 01 **Research Program Projects**
For the support of a broadly based, multidisciplinary, often long-term research program which has a specific major objective or a basic theme. A program project generally involves the organized efforts of relatively large groups, members of which are conducting research projects designed to elucidate the various aspects or components of this objective. Each research project is usually under the leadership of an established investigator. The grant can provide support for certain basic resources used by these groups in the program, including clinical components, the sharing of which facilitates the total research effort. A program project is directed toward a range of problems having a central research focus, in contrast to the usually narrower thrust of the traditional research project. Each project supported through this mechanism should contribute or be directly related to the common theme of the total research effort. These scientifically meritorious projects should demonstrate an essential element of unity and interdependence, i.e., a system of research activities and projects directed toward a well-defined research program goal.
- P 20 **Exploratory Grants**
To support planning for new programs, expansion or modification of existing resources, and feasibility studies to explore various approaches to the development of interdisciplinary programs that offer potential solutions to problems of special significance to the mission of the NIH. These exploratory studies may lead to specialized or comprehensive centers.
- P 30 **Center Core Grants**
To support shared resources and facilities for categorical research by a number of investigators from different disciplines who provide a multidisciplinary approach to a joint research effort or from the same discipline who focus on a common research problem. The core grant is integrated with the center's component projects or program projects, though funded independently from them. This support, by providing more accessible resources, is expected to assure a greater productivity than from the separate projects and program projects.
- P 50 **Specialized Center**
To support any part of the full range of research and development from very basic to clinical; may involve ancillary supportive activities such as protracted patient care necessary to the primary

research or R&D effort. The spectrum of activities comprises a multidisciplinary attack on a specific disease entity or biomedical problem area. These grants differ from program project grants in that they are usually developed in response to an announcement of the programmatic needs of an Institute or Division and subsequently receive continuous attention from its staff. Centers may also serve as regional or national resources for special research purposes.

P 60 Comprehensive Center

To support a multipurpose unit designed to bring together into a common focus divergent but related facilities within a given community. It may be based in a university or may involve other locally available resources, such as hospitals, computer facilities, regional centers, and primate colonies. It may include specialized centers, program projects and projects as integral components. Regardless of the facilities available to a program, it usually includes the following objectives: to foster biomedical research and development at both the fundamental and clinical levels; to initiate and expand community education, screening, and counseling programs; and to educate medical and allied health professionals concerning the problems of diagnosis and treatment of a specific disease.

Research Projects

R 01 Research Project

To support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project to be performed by the named investigator(s) in an area representing his specific interest and competencies.

R 03 Small Research Grants

To provide research support specifically limited in time and amount for studies in categorical program areas. Small grants provide flexibility for initiating studies which are generally for preliminary short-term projects and are non-renewable.

R 13 Conference

To support recipient sponsored and directed international, national or regional meetings, conferences and workshops.

R 15 Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA)

To support small scale research projects conducted by faculty in primarily baccalaureate degree-granting domestic institutions. Awards are for up to \$75,000 for direct costs (plus applicable indirect costs) for periods not to exceed 36 months.

R 18 Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects

To provide support designed to develop, test, and evaluate health service activities, and to foster the application of existing knowledge for the control of categorical diseases.

R 21 Exploratory/Developmental Grants

To encourage the development of new research activities in categorical program areas. (Support generally is restricted in level of support and in time.)

R 24 Resource-Related Research Projects

To support research projects that will enhance the capability of resources to serve biomedical research.

R 25 Education Projects

For support to develop and/or implement a program as it relates to a category in one or more of the areas of education, information, training, technical assistance, coordination, or evaluation.

R 33 Exploratory/Developmental Grants Phase II

The R33 award is to provide a second phase for the support for innovative exploratory and

development research activities initiated under the R21 mechanism. Although only R21 awardees are generally eligible to apply for R33 support, specific program initiatives may establish eligibility criteria under which applications could be accepted from applicants demonstrating progress equivalent to that expected under R33.

- R34 **Clinical Trial Planning Grant**
To provide support for the initial development of a clinical trial, including the establishment of the research team; the development of tools for data management and oversight of the research; the development of a trial design and other essential elements of the study, such as the protocol, recruitment strategies, and procedure manuals; and to collect feasibility data.
- R 37 **Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) Award**
To provide long-term grant support to investigators whose research competence and productivity are distinctly superior and who are highly likely to continue to perform in an outstanding manner. Investigators may not apply for a MERIT award. Program staff and/or members of the cognizant National Advisory Council/Board will identify candidates for the MERIT award during the course of review of competing research grant applications prepared and submitted in accordance with regular PHS requirements.
- R 41 **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Grants - Phase I**
To support cooperative R&D projects between small business concerns and research institutions, limited in time and amount, to establish the technical merit and feasibility of ideas that have potential for commercialization. Awards are made to small business concerns only.
- R 42 **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Grants - Phase II**
To support in-depth development of cooperative R&D projects between small business concerns and research institutions, limited in time and amount, whose feasibility has been established in Phase I and that have potential for commercialization. Awards are made to small business concerns only.
- R 43 **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants - Phase I**
To support projects, limited in time and amount, to establish the technical merit and feasibility of R&D ideas which may ultimately lead to a commercial product(s) or service(s).
- R 44 **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants - Phase II**
To support in-depth development of R&D ideas whose feasibility has been established in Phase I and which are likely to result in commercial products or services. SBIR Phase II are considered "Fast-Track" and do not require National Council Review.
- R 56 **High Priority, Short Term Project Award**
To provide limited interim research support based on the merit of a pending R01 application while applicant gathers additional data to revise a new or competing renewal application. This grant will underwrite highly meritorious applications that if given the opportunity to revise their application could meet IC recommended standards and would be missed opportunities if not funded. Interim funded ends when the applicant succeeds in obtaining an R01 or other competing award built on the R56 grant. These awards are not renewable.

Research-Related Programs

- S 06 **Minority Biomedical Research Support - MBRS**
To strengthen the biomedical research and research training capability of ethnic minority institutions, and thus establish a more favorable milieu for increasing the involvement of minority faculty and students in biomedical research.

Training Programs

- T 32 **Institutional National Research Service Award**
To enable institutions to make National Research Service Awards to individuals selected by them for predoctoral and postdoctoral research training in specified shortage areas.
- T 35 **NRSA Short-Term Research Training**
To provide individuals with research training during off-quarters or summer periods to encourage research careers and/or research in areas of national need.
- T90 **Interdisciplinary Research Training Award**
To support comprehensive interdisciplinary research training programs at the undergraduate, predoctoral and/or postdoctoral levels, by capitalizing on the infrastructure of existing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research programs.

Cooperative Agreements

- U 01 **Research Project--Cooperative Agreements**
To support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project to be performed by the named investigator(s) in an area representing his specific interest and competencies.
- U 10 **Cooperative Clinical Research--Cooperative Agreements**
To support clinical evaluation of various methods of therapy and/or prevention in specific disease areas. These represent cooperative programs between sponsoring institutions and participating principal investigators, and are usually conducted under established protocols.
- U 13 **Conference--Cooperative Agreements**
To support international, national or regional meetings, conferences and workshops where substantial programmatic involvement is planned to assist the recipient.
- U 19 **Research Program--Cooperative Agreements**
To support a research program of multiple projects directed toward a specific major objective, basic theme or program goal, requiring a broadly based, multidisciplinary and often long-term approach. A cooperative agreement research program generally involves the organized efforts of large groups, members of which are conducting research projects designed to elucidate the various aspects of a specific objective. Substantial Federal programmatic staff involvement is intended to assist investigators during performance of the research activities, as defined in the terms and conditions of award. The investigators have primary authorities and responsibilities to define research objectives and approaches, and to plan, conduct, analyze, and publish results, interpretations and conclusions of their studies. Each research project is usually under the leadership of an established investigator in an area representing his/her special interest and competencies. Each project supported through this mechanism should contribute to or be directly related to the common theme of the total research effort. The award can provide support for certain basic shared resources, including clinical components, which facilitate the total research effort. These scientifically meritorious projects should demonstrate an essential element of unity and interdependence.
- U 24 **Resource-Related Research Projects--Cooperative Agreements**
To support research projects contributing to improvement of the capability of resources to serve biomedical research.