General Budget Review Information

The reviewer should determine whether the requested budget is realistic for the conduct of the proposed research.

MODULAR GRANTS

- For applications with modular budgets (presented in $25,000 modular increments up to $250,000), the reviewer may recommend either the elimination of specific budget items - not necessarily in $25,000 modules - or elimination of one or more $25,000 modules. Documents relevant to modular grants can be found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/modular/modular.htm.
- Applications from foreign institutions with budgets of any size must use budget requests that are itemized and justified: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-06-096.html.

NONMODULAR BUDGETS

- In the case of non-modular budgets, the reviewer may recommend that certain positions or other requests be deleted from the budget if they do not appear necessary to conduct the research, or that the percent of effort to be devoted to the project by certain individuals be reduced if judged to be excessive for the needs of the project.
- Reductions of salary rates may not be recommended. If salary rates are thought to be inappropriate, this should be brought to the attention of IC staff through an administrative note at the end of the summary statement.
- The reviewer may also recommend a budget believed to be adequate to support the proposed work without making line item changes.

JUSTIFICATION FOR REDUCTIONS IN TIME OR AMOUNT OF BUDGET

- If the reviewer recommends reductions (or increases) in time or amount, please provide reasons, which should be clearly documented in the budget paragraph of the summary statement.
- Neither the duration of recommended support nor the budget is to be reduced just to increase reviewers' enthusiasm for the project.
- Reductions may be recommended under the following circumstances: (1) when the SRG suggests deleting parts of a project; (2) when budget is considered not to be justified by the research described in the application; (3) when the principal investigator has provided insufficient information in the application about the work to be done in later years of the project; (4) when the reviewers think that the project can be completed in fewer years or for less money than requested; or (5) when the principal investigator is entering a new research area and because of questions regarding the feasibility of the project, the SRG would like to review the preliminary results. Such terminology as "the SRG wishes to look at this particular program in 2 or 3 years" is not sufficient to justify reductions in time. Budget modifications should be made to adjust the level of support to that appropriate for the work recommended.

REVISION (FORMERLY SUPPLEMENTAL) REQUESTS

Supplemental requests must include comments on the supplement in relation to the originally approved parent budget.

OVERLAP WITH OTHER SUPPORT

Overlap with other support is not a review criterion. Potential overlap should be addressed in an administrative note. Please note that there is no requirement that applications list all active or pending research grants, particularly for modular applications.