

Getting Started with the NIH

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CHECKLIST

- Find a Program
- Find a Program Officer
- Find a Funding Mechanism

How do I Find a NIH Program?

- Each of the NIH Institutes and Centers support extramural grants through numerous programs
- Each program identifies the boundaries of its funding mission on the web
- Each program lists program contacts on the web

Do All of the NIH Programs Support CBPR?

- No – CBPR is new and is just starting to appear in Institute portfolios
- NIH has published several Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) to help applicants find interested applicants
- Use the FOAs to find a Program Officer

NICHD: An Example

- NICHD has funded two multi-site, multi-million dollar research Networks with CBPR content – Community Child Health Network and the Work and Family Network
- We have been adding grants thanks to the CBPR –PARs (0 in FY06, 2 in FY07 and 4 in FY08)
- We also have one unsolicited R01

Talk to your Program Officer

- The FOAs list Program Officers
- I am the contact for NICHD and I will be your Program Officer or I will introduce you to someone better able to work with you within NICHD
- Shop around

Choosing a Funding Mechanism

- There are many funding mechanisms within the NIH system and it is important to choose the right one for your project
- R21 – a perfect way to start up a CBPR project
- R01 – the mechanism to do any type of study

R21

- An exploratory grant that supports preliminary work necessary to design and execute a research study
- Needs a good scientific goal and a functional CBPR process
- 2 yr grant with a limit of 275K (direct cost)

R01

- Can support any type of research project
- Needs a fully worked out scientific idea, design and content; needs a functioning CBPR process
- Can go for 5 years and is renewable; needs special permission to exceed 500k in any year (direct cost)

Grant Writing Tips for New Investigators

Paul A. Cotton, PhD, RD
Program Director,
Health Behavior & Minority Health
National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)



Overview

- **NINR Mission**
- **NINR & CBPR**
- **Tips for New Investigators**
- **NINR is Currently Funding 38 CBPR Grants**



The mission of NINR is to promote and improve health of individuals, families, communities populations.

NINR supports and conducts clinical and basic research and research training on health and illness across the lifespan.

Program Directors

- **Can**

- Talk **ONLY** to PI
- Discuss their Institutes Interests
- Review Concept Paper
- Identify Appropriate Mechanisms
- Point to Relevant FOAs
- Provide Application Guidance
- Explain Grants Process

- **Cannot**

- Tell You What to Study
- Write or Review the Application
- Talk to You Between Submission and Review

Build A Team

- **Seek opportunities for collaboration.**
- **Identify collaborators to fill gaps in your expertise, especially a mentor or collaborator who is well known.**
- **Consider multidisciplinary approaches.**
- **Recruit senior colleagues who can provide advice and periodic peer-review of your grant application (e.g., overall scope, specific aims, methods)**

Start with a Good Ideal

- **Concentrate ideas in your area of expertise that would make an impact on public health.**
- **Do your homework; make sure your topic fills a gap in the existing literature and CRISP**
- **Pose testable hypotheses, whenever possible.**
- **Brainstorm potential topics with mentors and colleagues.**

- **Keep in mind that your topic should fit the mission of the NIH, and the specific Institute.**
- **Just moving science forward is not enough; so, tie your science to curing, treating, or preventing disease.**
- **You will be judged on the likelihood that your research can make an impact on public health.**

- **Many grant applications are not funded because they propose too much and are viewed as lacking focus.**
- **An overly ambitious research plan can make reviewers question your ability to achieve your goals and also wonder whether the project has been thoroughly thought through.**

Do not Procrastinate

- **Get started early.**
- **Make steady progress; arrange dedicated time each week for grant-writing.**
- **Submit only your best work; do not rush to finish the application.**