

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS (FOAs) AND OTHER SPECIAL INITIATIVES

- **What is a funding opportunity announcement or FOA?**

A [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) (FOA) is an announcement on the [Grants.gov](#) web portal of a Federal grant funding opportunity. Grants.gov lets organizations apply for grants sponsored by at least 26 Federal agencies. NIH FOAs can be general “parent” announcements (see below), [Program Announcements](#) (PAs) or [Requests for Applications](#) (RFAs).

Each FOA has an application package with forms as well as general instructions that are in the [Grant Application Guide](#). The synopsis of the FOA on Grants.gov links to an *NIH Guide* announcement, which gives you opportunity-specific information and instructions.

- **What is a “parent” announcement?**

A “parent” announcement is an NIH-wide [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) that enables applicants to submit an [investigator-initiated](#) grant application for a single grant mechanism, e.g., [Research Project Grant \(Parent R01\)](#) using the electronic interface. Other PAs describe specific research areas an Institute is particularly interested in supporting.

PIs must verify that the funding IC(s) most relevant to their research participate in the [Parent Announcement](#) to which they plan to submit. Not all ICs participate in all parent FOAs even if they support the grant mechanism through specific PAs or [RFAs](#). For example, NCI does not participate in the [Parent R03 FOA](#) or in the [Parent R21 FOA](#). However, the NCI does support R03 and R21 applications through specific initiatives (See NCI [Small Grants \(R03\) Initiatives](#) or [Exploratory/Developmental Grants \(R21\)](#) web sites).

- **How does NIH handle investigator-initiated applications such as those for the R01 research project grants?**

NIH issues a broad announcement, called a “parent” announcement, for each mechanism that is appropriate for [investigator initiated](#) applications, including the [R01](#) mechanism. See the NIH [Parent Announcements](#).

It is the NIH goal to receive all grant applications electronically through Grant.gov FOAs, however, some types of applications have not transitioned to electronic format. By the time NIH finishes converting to electronic applications, almost every broadly used NIH grant mechanism (e.g., R01, R03, T32) will have a [Parent Announcement](#) in Grants.gov with its own Grant Application Package.

Be aware that for some investigator-initiated mechanisms, such as the [R21](#) exploratory/development mechanism, some NIH institutes do not accept applications for the [Parent Announcement](#) or for all scientific topics listed in the parent announcement.

- **What's the best way to find NIH funding opportunities?**

There are two interconnected options: [Grants.gov](#), the [NIH Guide](#). Pre-selected links to all NCI-relevant funding opportunities in the [NIH Guide](#) can also be found at the [NCI Funding Announcements List](#).

The [NIH Guide](#) provides the full announcements for all NIH grant opportunities.

- If a grant type requires electronic application, the [NIH Guide](#) announcement includes an "Apply for Grant Electronically" button, which takes you to Grants.gov's [application package](#) download page. Then click the "download" link on the lower right.
- If the grant type uses paper, the "apply" button won't appear in the [NIH Guide](#) announcement. Use the [PHS 398](#) to submit a paper application.

- **Should I read the *NIH Guide* announcement or the Grants.gov FOAs?**

Both. You must find the instructions you need in two places: in the [NIH Guide](#) RFA and PA announcements and on [Grants.gov](#). NIH Guide announcements include links to the [FOAs](#) on [Grants.gov](#).

- **When do I use an NIH Parent Announcement versus an NCI-specific announcement?**

For a specific grant mechanism (e.g., R01, R03), there may be two types of [Funding Opportunity Announcements](#) (FOA):

- A single NIH-wide [Parent Announcement](#).
 - It allows [investigator-initiated](#) applications but may be limited to scientific areas of interest to an institute or center (IC).
 - Some ICs may NOT participate in a specific [Parent Announcement](#). For example, NCI does not participate in the R03 and R21 NIH "parent" program announcements ([PA-06-180](#) and [PA-06-181](#), respectively). However, the NCI does support [R03](#) and [R21](#) applications through specific FOAs.
- Specific FOAs
 - The [Program Announcements](#) (PAs) and [Requests for Applications](#) (RFAs) that the NCI and other ICs have traditionally issued for targeted funding initiatives.
 - Specifies a scientific (or resource) area, special administrative requirements (e.g., special receipt dates and/or review requirements), or both.
 - May be issued by a single NIH IC or jointly by several ICs.

- **Where do I find high-priority funding areas?**

Find all NCI [Funding Opportunity Announcements](#) (FOA) on the NCI [Extramural Funding Opportunities](#) page under NCI Sponsored Research Initiatives.

NIH publishes most initiatives -- [Requests for Applications](#) (RFAs) and [Program Announcements](#) (PAs) -- in the [NIH Guide](#). For funding mechanisms that have been transitioned to electronic applications, you may access the application package (i.e., form and instructions) from the FOA in the NIH Guide or by going directly to the FOA in [Grants.gov](#).

[Requests For Proposals](#) (RFPs) for NCI's contract initiatives are published in [FedBizOpps](#), and most do not appear in the [NIH Guide](#). NCI lists the current RFPs on the [NCI Request for Proposals List](#).

- **May I submit in response to an RFA an application that is largely identical to a previously submitted application pending initial peer review?**

No. NIH will not accept an application in response to a [Request for Applications](#) (RFA) that is the same as a new, revised, or renewal application pending [initial peer review](#) unless the pending application is first withdrawn.

- **My application submitted in response to an RFA was not funded. May I resubmit the application as an investigator-initiated application?**

Yes. However, you must submit it as a [new](#) application and you cannot include an introduction describing any changes that you may have made to your previous submission.

This rule allows you to benefit fully from the NIH policy that allows only one [resubmission](#).