

Competitive Revision Applications

Enabling Selected Individual Investigator Awards to Leverage NCRR Center and Center-like Programs

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number(s)

93.701, 93.702

Key Dates

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Application Due Date: April 21, 2009; July 10, 2009

Peer Review Dates: July 2009, October 2009

Council Review Dates: October 2009, January 2010

Earliest Anticipated Start Dates: December 2009, March 2010

Issued by

National Center for Research Resources (NCRR: <http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/>)

Participating Institutes and Centers

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

National Eye Institute (NEI)

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID)

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)

National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

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National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)

Purpose

The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) announces the opportunity for investigators and United States institutions/organizations with active NIH funded R01, R33, R37, R21, and U01 awards to submit revision applications (formerly termed competitive supplements) to leverage the resources, expertise, and infrastructure of the NCRR Centers and Center-like Programs through significant expansion of the scope or research protocol of approved and funded projects. Support for these revision applications will come from funds provided to NCRR/NIH through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("Recovery Act" or "ARRA"), Public Law 111-5.

The deadline for receipt of these revision applications is **April 21, 2009 (requests can be for up to two years of funding) or July 10, 2009 (restricted to one year of funding)**.

Background

The Recovery Act was signed into law on February 17, 2009 with the purpose of stimulating the American economy through job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, and economy through job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, and other means. The Recovery Act provides NIH with up to \$10.4 billion to be obligated over two years for a variety of biomedical research and research support activities, \$301 million of which is designated for the National Center for Research Resources for new and existing awards. The NCCR anticipates allocating \$20 million to this Competitive Revision Application announcement. This funding opportunity for revisions (formerly called competitive supplements) is one part of the overall NIH Recovery Act investment strategy, as described at www.nih.gov/recovery. The NIH Announcement for the Availability of Recovery Act Funds for Competitive Revision Applications (NOT-OD-09-058) can be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-058.html>.

Description

NCCR is actively engaged in supporting the continuum of biomedical research, from technology development to resource and infrastructure to translational research to community engagement. Transcending geographic boundaries and research disciplines, the NCCR supports unique and essential resources that help researchers funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) transform basic scientific discoveries into improved human health.

This Competitive Revision Application funding opportunity encourages and supports NIH-grantees to foster innovative research, training, outreach, and networking through a partnership with NCCR Centers and Center-like Programs. NIH Grantees with active investigator-initiated grants from any of the participating NIH Institute or Centers listed above may apply for these Revision awards.

Current NIH grantees should contact any NCCR Center or Center-like Program to discuss projects/activities that can be accomplished in two years that meet the goals of the ARRA. The goal is to leverage the investment NIH has made in basic, translational, clinical, community, and training/educational resources through partnership of active research and resource/infrastructure programs. The impact is expected to extend beyond the immediate applicant who receives funds.

All applications must contain the following Notice title in both the cover letter and first sentence of the Project Description: "Enabling RPGs to Leverage NCCR Center and Center-like Programs". **If the title of this announcement is not included, NCCR will not consider the application.**

Information on the NCCR Centers and Center-like Programs can be found at http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/about_us/programs.asp

NCRR Center and Center-like Programs include:

- Animal and Biological Material Resources. These Resources provide high-quality, disease-free animals and specialized animal research facilities.
(http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/comparative_medicine/)
- Biomedical Technology Research Centers. These Centers create critical, often unique technology and methods at the forefront of their respective fields, and apply them to a broad range of basic, translational, and clinical research.
(http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/biomedical_technology/biomedical_technology_research_centers/)
- Clinical and Translational Science Awards. The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) initiative assists institutions to create an integrated academic home for Clinical and Translational Science that has the resources to train and advance multi- and inter-disciplinary investigators and research teams with access to innovative research tools and information technologies that apply new knowledge and techniques to patient care. (<http://www.ctsaweb.org/> and http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/clinical_research_resources/clinical_and_translational_science_awards/)
- General Clinical Research Centers. General Clinical Research Centers offer clinical investigators specialized research environments that provide the infrastructure necessary to conduct patient-oriented research.
(http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/clinical_research_resources/resource_directory/general_clinical_research_centers/)
- Institutional Development Award. NCRR's Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program broadens the geographic distribution of NIH funding for biomedical and behavioral research. The program fosters health-related research and enhances the competitiveness of investigators at institutions located in states in which the aggregate success rate for applications to NIH has historically been low.
(http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/research_infrastructure/institutional_development_award/).
- National Primate Research Centers. The National Primate Research Center's facilities and resources enable NPRC staff scientists and investigators from the host institution and others across the country to collaborate on research projects.
(http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/comparative_medicine/resource_directory/primates.asp).
- Research Centers in Minority Institutions. NCRR's Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) program enhances the research capacity and infrastructure at minority colleges and universities that offer doctorates in health sciences.
(http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/research_infrastructure/research_centers_in_minority_institutions/)
- Science Education Partnership Awards NCRR's Science Education Partnership Awards (SEPA) program is designed to improve life science literacy throughout the nation through innovative educational programs.
(http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/science_education_partnership_awards/).
- A variety of different types of projects are likely to be considered responsive to this solicitation; however, projects must be well thought out with achievable and defined timelines and deliverables, specified personnel, and a justified budget. High priority will be given to highly focused projects that are consistent with NIH goals and are innovative, creative, and transformative even if risky. Sub-awards (sub-contracts or sub-grants) are allowed.

Potential Applicants should work with an NCRR Center or Center-like Program to develop the project aims, the timeline, and the budget.

Examples of Partnership Areas include, but are not limited to:

- Training Opportunities
- Technology sharing
- Equipment sharing
- Outreach Projects
- Animal model development
- Study design support
- Computational modeling
- Clinical support
- Technology transfer support
- Translational research studies

Eligibility

This announcement is for revision applications to active investigator-initiated NIH Research Grants with the R01, R33, R37, R21, and U01, activity codes. In general, most parent grants will have been reviewed in the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). Only the 18 ICs listed above are participating in this component of the competitive revision program.

To be eligible, the parent grant must be active at the time the revision application is submitted, and the research proposed in the revision must be accomplished within the current competitive segment. That is, the period of support requested for the revision cannot exceed the current project period end date of the parent grant, including projects on a no-cost extension. Also, a no-cost extension must be in place before the revision application is submitted.

Applications from foreign institutions are not permitted. Consistent with the goals of the Recovery Act to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery in the United States, applicants must be domestic (United States) institutions/organizations (i.e., located in the 50 states, territories and possessions of the United States, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or District of Columbia).

IMPORTANT: Revision applications must be for costs to support new research objectives and aims that are outside of the scope of the approved parent grant. A request for funds to support work within the general scope of the peer-reviewed activities and aims approved within the parent grant should be submitted as an administrative supplement. To apply for an administrative supplement under the Recovery Act, please see [NOT-OD-09-056](#).

How to Apply

Applicants should follow the instructions given in NOT-OD-09-058 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-058.html>) while incorporating the following guidance.

All revision applications must be submitted by the PD/PI (or Contact PD/PI for multi-PI grants) listed on the parent grant.

The due date for revision applications is April 21, 2009 and July 10, 2009.

Applicants who have an R01, R21, R33, or R37 award) must submit their application through Grants.gov, using the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that was used for the parent grant. For R01 awards that were submitted under an expired FOA, use PA-07-070 to submit through Grants.gov. R33 or R37 awards should also use PA-07-070. U01 awardees should submit using the PHS 398 form (paper).

Follow the instructions as noted below. Note: Font size restrictions apply as designated within the applicable SF424 (R&R) Application or the PHS398 application instructions, and page limitations noted in the original FOA under which the current grant was funded (or if using a Parent FOA because the original FOA expired) should be followed.

- **You must include the phrase Enabling RPGs to Leverage NCRR Center and Center-like Programs in two places.**
- **Include a Cover Letter and cite the NCRR Notice title: Enabling RPGs to Leverage NCRR Center and Center-like Programs in the first sentence. If the title of this announcement is not included, NCRR will not consider the application.**
- **Explicitly cite the Notice Title: Enabling RPGs to Leverage NCRR Center and Center-like Programs in the first sentence of the Project Description/Abstract Component of the application. If the title of this announcement is not included, NCRR will not consider the application.**

Provide a one-page "Introduction" that describes the nature of the revision and how it will expand the scope of the specific aims, research design, and methods of the current grant. Use Item 2.1, Introduction to application, of the PHS 398 Research Plan component to provide this information. The body of the application should contain sufficient information from the original grant application to allow evaluation of the proposed revision in relation to the goals of the original application. Applicants must submit a budget using the same budget format as was used for the current award. That is, for electronic submissions, use the SF424 (R&R) PHS398 Modular Budget or Research & Related Budget, as appropriate, and for paper applications, use the PHS 398 detailed budget (see <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-079.html>).

Any budgetary changes for the remainder of the project period of the current grant must be discussed in the Budget Justification. If the revision application relates to a specific line of investigation presented in the original application that was not recommended for approval by the Scientific Review Group, then the applicant must respond to the criticisms in the prior Summary Statement, and substantial revisions must be clearly evident and summarized in the "Introduction." Include the following additional information in the revision application:

a) **Scope of the overall project and the anticipated contribution of the requested revision.** Summarize the activities that were included in the parent grant that encompass those proposed in the revision request. This section should include a description of the revision's specific aims, including research design and methods and data analysis. Describe the relationship of the revision request to the parent grant. Describe the partnership/leveraging of the NCRR Center or Center-like Program.

b) **The research project plan should discuss how the revision will accelerate the tempo of scientific research and/or allow for job creation and retention.** In order to ensure that all expenditures in support of a revision advance the objectives of the Recovery Act, all

applications must address Recovery Act justifications, including how the revision is expected to stimulate the economy by:

- 1) enabling hiring of additional staff;
- 2) enabling increased hours of current part-time staff;
- 3) procuring additional needed equipment (costing under \$100,000); and/or
- 4) contracting for additional needed skills.

c) Include a letter from the NCRR Center or Center-like program that you plan to work with. This letter should acknowledge that the Center has the ability to work with you if the revision is funded. For electronic applications, this letter should be uploaded as part of the research plan. The letter should be at the end of the text of the research plan. For paper applications, the letter should be in the same location.

d) Budget for the revision with a justification that details the items requested, including Facilities and Administrative costs and a justification for all personnel and their role in this project. The budget provided for the revision application must match the budget provided in the parent application. For instance, if the parent application was submitted using the Modular budget component, then the revision application must also use the Modular budget component.

e) Biographical Sketch for PD/PI and all new Senior/Key Personnel (those who are additions on the revision project). You will need to include an updated biographical Sketch for the PD/PI and new Senior/Key Personnel, using the forms, which are available as [MS Word \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc) or [PDF \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.pdf\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.pdf). There is no need to repeat information previously provided for other Senior/Key Personnel.

f) Human Subjects/ Vertebrate Animal documentation (if applicable). Include a current Human Subjects/IRB or Vertebrate Animals/IACUC approval letter, if available. Otherwise, this will be required at the time of funding. All appropriate IRB and IACUC approvals must be in place prior to a revision award being made. Any differences in the involvement or use of human subjects or specimens, or use of vertebrate animals, between the administrative revision activity and the parent grant should be noted. When appropriate, details should be provided on the protection of human subjects and inclusion of women, children, and minorities. Additional guidance on Human Subjects Research and Vertebrate Animals is provided under Part II of the PHS 398 instructions (<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>).

Use the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide available at:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424_RR_Guide_General_Adobe_VerA.doc ([MS Word](#) [3.5 MB]) or http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424_RR_Guide_General_Adobe_VerA.pdf ([PDF](#) [4.5 MB]).

Note: Paper applications will not be accepted for activity codes that have transitioned to electronic submission.

NIH encourages the participation of individuals from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research, individuals with disabilities and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Budget and Funding Information

Funding for revisions to existing grants will be available from Recovery Act funds in FYs 2009 and 2010. Due to the limited, two-year nature of Recovery Act funds, revision applications may only be requested for up to two years; therefore the scope and budget of the requested revision must reflect aims and goals that can be accomplished within that limited timeframe. Requests selected for funding in FY2010 will be limited to one year for the project and budget period. The budget for the revision should be appropriate for the proposed work. In some cases, Institutes and Centers (ICs) at NIH have limited the size of revision awards. You should talk to your program officer or check the website of the IC for that information. NCRR will not exceed \$300,000 direct cost for any competitive revision award.

In addition, domestic U.S. institutions planning to submit applications that include foreign components should be aware that requested funding for any foreign components should not exceed 10% of the total requested direct costs or \$25,000 per year (per subcontract/subaward or in aggregate for multiple subcontracts/subawards), whichever is less.

Any cost increases need to result from making modifications to the project in order to take advantage of opportunities that would increase the value of the project goals and objectives or to accelerate the rate of discovery of scientific research. Revision applications are not appropriate when the sole purpose is to restore awards to the full Scientific Review Group-recommended level if they were administratively reduced by the funding agency. In addition, NIH will not consider requests which are solely to restore previously applied budget adjustments to a project nor to supplant institutional commitments supporting individuals and other costs previously committed to projects.

NCRR intends to commit \$20 million to this supplement program. The total amount awarded and the number of awards will depend on the quality and costs of the projects that are proposed. Support for revision applications is contingent on availability of funds and eligibility is restricted to currently-funded Principal Investigators/Project Directors awarded a research project grant.

Application Review Process

The mission of the NIH is to support science in pursuit of knowledge about the biology and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability. As part of this mission, applications submitted to the NIH for grants or cooperative agreements to support biomedical and behavioral research are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

For funding considerations, revision applications will be assigned to the ICs through which the parent grant was funded. It is anticipated that all revision applications under this announcement will be reviewed by the Center for Scientific Review (CSR).

CSR will decide whether applications are complete. Applications that are complete will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by appropriate scientific review group(s) in accordance with NIH peer review procedures (<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/peer/>) using the review criteria stated below. Applicants will be notified regarding the review outcome.

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will:

- Undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit, generally the top half of applications under review, will be discussed and assigned an overall impact/priority score;
- Receive a written critique; and
- Receive a second level of review by the appropriate national advisory council or board.

Overall Impact. Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the standard review criteria, and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

When reviewing a Revision application, the committee will consider the scientific merit of the new work proposed and the appropriateness of the proposed expansion of the scope of the project. If the Revision application relates to a specific line of investigation presented in the original application that was not recommended for approval by the committee, then the committee will consider whether the responses to comments from the previous scientific review group are adequate and whether substantial changes are clearly evident.

Because different review criteria apply to different types of applications, the revision applications will be evaluated using the criteria appropriate for that type of application. For example, the standard review criteria for research grant applications and cooperative agreements are Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, and Environment ([NOT-OD-09-025](#)).

Additional Review Criteria. As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider the following additional items in the determination of scientific and technical merit, but will not give separate scores for these items: Protections for Human Subjects; Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children; Vertebrate Animals; and Biohazards.

Additional Review Considerations. As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will address each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items and should not consider them in providing an overall impact/priority score: Budget and Period Support; Select Agent Research; and Resource Sharing Plans.

After the peer review of the application is completed, the PD/PI will be able to access his or her Summary Statement (written critique) via the NIH eRA [Commons](#).

Selection Process

Applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity will compete for available Recovery Act funds with all other recommended applications. The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review.
- Availability of funds.
- Relevance of the proposed project to program and ARRA priorities.

Award Notices

While geographic variation will be considered in awarding Recovery Act funding, a proposal's scientific merit will always be the prevailing criterion. If the application is considered for funding, NIH will request "just-in-time" information from the applicant. For details, applicants may refer to the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Part II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards, Subpart A: General](#). To meet the various transparency, accountability, and reporting requirements of the Recovery Act, all applications under this notice that are selected for Recovery Act funding and that used a modular budget format at the time of submission will be required to submit a detailed budget as part of the Just-In-Time information.

A formal notification in the form of a Notice of Award (NoA) will be provided to the applicant organization. The NoA signed by the grants management officer is the authorizing document. Once all administrative and programmatic issues have been resolved, the NoA will be generated via email notification from the awarding component to the grantee business official.

Terms of Award

The terms of the NoA will reference the requirements of the Recovery Act.

In addition to the standard NIH terms of award, all awards will be subject to the HHS Standard Terms and Conditions for Recovery Act awards. The full text of these terms approved for NIH awards can be found in the following document: [Standard Terms and Conditions for AARA Awards](#).

Selection of an application for award is not an authorization to begin performance. Any costs incurred before receipt of the NoA are at the recipient's risk. These costs may be reimbursed only to the extent considered allowable pre-award costs. See [Section IV.5](#), "Funding Restrictions."

The resource sharing plan will become part of the terms and conditions of the award.

A Program Official from one or more of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers will be assigned to each funded application and will assume responsibility for normal stewardship of the awards.

All NIH grant and cooperative agreement awards include the NIH Grants Policy Statement as part of the NoA. For these terms of award, see the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Part II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards, Subpart A: General](#) and [Part II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards, Subpart B: Terms and Conditions for Specific Types of Grants, Grantees, and Activities](#).

In addition, recipients of Recovery Act funds are reminded that such funds must be separately tracked and monitored independently of any non-Recovery Act funding.

Reporting

If the revision application includes support for a future year, awardees will be required to submit a separate [Non-Competing Continuation Grant Progress Report \(PHS 2590\)](#) annually and financial statements as required in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#). This will be in addition to

any annual progress report required for the parent grant. The funded Recovery Act revision application will also require separate closeout reports.

In addition, grantees must comply with the requirements set forth in the Recovery Act, including, but not limited to, the reporting requirements described in Section 1512 of the Act, as well as applicable OMB guidance regarding the use of Recovery Act funds. As noted above, grantees must also comply with the HHS Standard Terms and Conditions for Recovery Act awards. The full text of these terms approved for NIH awards can be found in the following document: [Standard Terms and Conditions for ARRA Awards](#).

Recovery Act-related reporting requirements will be incorporated as a special term of award. The reporting must be supplied to both the NCRR and the parent grant NIH Institute or Center.

Inquiries

Inquiries and discussion of plans for responding to this Notice are strongly encouraged.

For scientific or technical questions relating to research that would be supported by this solicitation, contact the Program Officer assigned to the parent grant.

For questions specific to an NCRR Center and Center-like program, contact the individual center.

For administrative questions related to this solicitation, contact the Grants Management Specialist noted on the Notice of Award for the parent grant.

For general questions related to this NCRR-ARRA Competitive Revision Application Announcement, contact

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