Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)

National Institutes of Health (NIH (http://www.nih.gov))

Components of Participating Organizations

National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS (https://www.nigms.nih.gov/))

National Eye Institute (NEI (https://www.nei.nih.gov/))

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI (https://www.genome.gov/))

National Institute on Aging (NIA (https://www.nia.nih.gov/))

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA (https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID (https://www.niaid.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS (https://www.niams.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB (https://www.nibib.nih.gov/))

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD (https://www.nichd.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR (https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK (https://www.niddk.nih.gov/))

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA (https://www.drugabuse.gov/))

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH (https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml))

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS (https://www.ninds.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR (https://www.ninr.nih.gov/))

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD (https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/))

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH (https://nccih.nih.gov/))

Office of The Director, National Institutes of Health (OD (https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director))

All applications to this funding opportunity announcement should fall within the mission of the Institutes/Centers. The following NIH Offices may co-fund applications assigned to those Institutes/Centers.

Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH (https://orwh.od.nih.gov/))

Office of Data Science Strategy (ODSS (https://datascience.nih.gov/about/odss))

NIH BRAIN Initiative (https://braininitiative.nih.gov/ (https://braininitiative.nih.gov/))

Funding Opportunity Title

NIH Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) (R25 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Activity Code

R25 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm?text_curr=r25) Education Projects

Announcement Type

Reissue of PAR-20-153 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-153.html)

Related Notices

NOT-OD-22-195 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-195.html) - New NIH "FORMS-H" Grant Application Forms and Instructions Coming for Due Dates on or after January 25, 2023

NOT-OD-19-109 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-109.html) - Requirement for ORCID iDs for Individuals Supported by Research Training, Fellowship, Research Education, and Career Development Awards Beginning in FY 2020.

NOT-OD-23-012 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-012.html) - Reminder: FORMS-H Grant Application Forms & Instructions Must be Used for Due Dates On or After January 25, 2023 - New Grant Application Instructions Now Available

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number

PAR-23-137

Companion Funding Opportunity

None

Number of Applications

See Section III. 3. Additional Information on Eligibility.

Assistance Listing Number(s)

93.859, 93.307, 93.855, 93.273, 93.866, 93.313, 93.865, 93.310, 93.846, 93.361, 93.213, 93.242, 93.853, 93.847, 93.867, 93.279, 93.121, 93.286

Funding Opportunity Purpose

The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, to pursue further studies or careers in research.

To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this NOFO will support educational activities with a primary focus on:

- ***Courses for Skills Development***
- ***Research Experiences***
- ***Mentoring Activities***
- ***Curriculum or Methods Development***
- ***Outreach***

Key Dates

Posted Date

April 03, 2023

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)

June 14, 2023

Letter of Intent Due Date(s)

Not Applicable

Application Due Dates			Review and Award Cycles		
New	Renewal / Resubmission / Revision (as allowed)	AIDS	Scientific Merit Review	Advisory Council Review	Earliest Start Date
July 14, 2023	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	November 2023	January 2024	April 2024
June 07, 2024	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	November 2024	January 2025	April 2025
June 06, 2025	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	November 2025	January 2026	April 2026

All applications are due by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Expiration Date

June 07, 2025

Due Dates for E.O. 12372

Not Applicable

Required Application Instructions

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in the Research (R) Instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400), except where instructed to do otherwise (in this NOFO or in a Notice from NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11164)).

Conformance to all requirements (both in the Application Guide and the NOFO) is required and strictly enforced. Applicants must read and follow all application instructions in the Application Guide as well as any program-specific instructions noted in Section IV. When the program-specific instructions deviate from those in the Application Guide, follow the program-specific instructions.

Applications that do not comply with these instructions may be delayed or not accepted for review.

There are several options available to submit your application through Grants.gov to NIH and Department of Health and Human Services partners. You **must** use one of these submission options to access the application forms for this opportunity.

1. Use the NIH ASSIST system to prepare, submit and track your application online.

   Apply Online Using ASSIST

2. Use an institutional system-to-system (S2S) solution to prepare and submit your application to Grants.gov and eRA Commons (https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/) to track your application. Check with your institutional officials regarding availability.

3. Use Grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html#search=true&oppNum=PAR-23-137) Workspace to prepare and submit your application and eRA Commons (http://public.era.nih.gov/commons/) to track your application.

Table of Contents

Part 2. Full Text of Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research educational activities that complement other formal training programs in the mission areas of the NIH Institutes and Centers.

The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, to pursue further studies or careers in research.

The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities that complement other formal training programs in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of the NIGMS Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) R25 program is to support educational activities that encourage pre-college students (pre-kindergarten to grade 12) from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html), to pursue further studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

SEPA supports two types of projects: (1) classroom-based projects for pre-kindergarten to grade 12 (pre-college) students and teachers and (2) informal science education (ISE) projects conducted in outside-the-classroom venues such as science centers, museums and libraries. Projects that support quantitative and computational skills development are strongly encouraged.

A SEPA project may focus on one or more of the following activities centered on any discipline of health research within NIH's mission:

- Courses for Skills Development: Courses in a specific discipline or research area that extend the STEM content normally taught in schools.
- Research Experiences: Hands-on exposure to research for pre-college students and teachers.
- Mentoring Activities: Provide participants with a perspective on the biomedical research training pathways and tools for overcoming challenges, navigating career transition points, and successfully transitioning into careers in the biomedical research workforce.
- Curriculum or Methods Development: STEM education resources to improve biomedical, behavioral or clinical science education, or develop novel instructional approaches or computer-based educational tools.
- Outreach: Dissemination of STEM education resources or biomedical, behavioral and clinical research findings to students, teachers and the general public.

Examples of SEPA projects can be found at https://nigms.nih.gov/capacity-building/division-for-research-capacity-building/science-education-partnership-awards-(sepa) (https://nigms.nih.gov/capacity-building/division-for-research-capacity-building/science-education-partnership-awards-(sepa)).

Scientific interests of partnering with NIH Institutes, Centers and Offices (ICOs) are delineated below:

NEI will fund educational and research programs targeted at pre-K to grade 12 students and teachers to inspire and train a diverse new generation of individuals to expand and strengthen the vision workforce. Applications dealing with innovative research to understand the eye and visual system, prevent and treat vision diseases, and expand opportunities for people who are visually impaired or require vision rehabilitation are highly encouraged.

NHGRI will fund educational, outreach, research and clinical activities and experiences, including developing programs that provide: early exposure to genomics; increased basic knowledge of genomics; and age-appropriate research experiences. Courses and activities should be in one or more of the areas relevant to NHGRI's research programs-genome sciences, genomic data science, genomic medicine, health equity in genomics, and ethical, legal, and social implications of genomics research. Programs should also complement the NHGRI Action Agenda Goal 1 to encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, including individuals from underrepresented groups in biomedical research to pursue genomics careers.

NIA is interested in projects that reflect its mission to support research on aging, the aging process, and diseases and conditions associated with growing older such as Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD). Applications are encouraged that reflect NIA's programmatic interests in genetic, biological, clinical, epidemiological, neuroscience, behavioral, social, and economic research on aging, both basic and translational, as they relate to the health and well-being of older people. NIA will support educational activities related to aging that are intended to help foster a diverse biomedical, behavioral, social, and clinical research workforce. In addition to further diversifying the workforce in research, the NIA is committed to reducing health disparities among older adults through supporting projects that reflect the life course perspective. To that effect, NIA is seeking applications that offer (1) tailored learning opportunities, (2) an emphasis on explaining the relevance of aging, the aging process, and the science of

aging to students' lives, and (3) opportunities to engage students with an interest in science from diverse backgrounds, including those from underrepresented groups, and foster their development as future scientistsin aging research, enrich the questions asked, and expand the scope of interventions developed from the research.

NIAAA encourages research education applications across a broad spectrum of inquiry related to alcohol misuse and alcohol use disorder. NIAAA supports basic, translational, and clinical research on the causes, consequences, prevention, diagnosis, progression, and treatment of alcohol-related problems across the lifespan. NIAAA encourages meritorious alcohol research projects in the broad areas of neuroscience and behavior, organ damage and other health effects, epidemiology and prevention, and treatment, health services, and recovery. NIAAA also encourages applications on alcohol-related topics relevant to understanding and addressing minority health and health disparities across NIH-defined health disparity populations, and especially within American Indian and Alaska Native populations, along with applications that foster the training of a diverse research workforce. More information about NIAAA's mission and research priorities is available in the NIAAA Strategic Plan (https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/strategic-plan). For specific programmatic questions, please contact NIAAA point of contact as listed in this NOFO.

NIAID will support innovative science education activities related to our institute's areas of focus: HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, allergy, immunology, and transplantation research, including the development of therapies, vaccines, diagnostics, and other advanced technologies (including but not limited to data science and bioinformatics). The pursuit of NIAID's research mission requires innovation, collaboration, and broad-mindedness. Programs that transcend individual diseases or immunological conditions form an important part of our research agenda. NIAID seeks to further promote diversity in research training and education programs by developing programs that support the participation and retention of investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from nationally underrepresented groups (see, e.g., Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity, NOT-OD-20-031 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html)), within NIAID mission areas

NIAMS The mission of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) is to support research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases. In the context of this announcement, NIAMS will support educational and research programs targeted at pre-K to grade 12 students and teachers that relate to this mission. The objective is to inspire and strengthen a diverse, new generation of the research workforce. Educational and research programs should be designed to increase awareness and knowledge in the scientific research areas of NIAMS' mission. Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential applications with the NIAMS scientific contact.

NIBIB will fund educational, outreach, and research activities that provide: early exposure to biomedical engineering and its capacity to improve human health and health equity; increased understanding of engineering concepts and their applications in medicine and biology; age-appropriate experiences that engage participants in the design, building and testing of tools and methods to address questions and problems in human biology and disease; enhanced understanding of and interest in biomedical engineering as a career path; and career opportunities and guidance to make the biomedical engineering career pathway more accessible for students from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in engineering and to prepare students for careers in biomedical engineering. Courses and activities should be in one or more of the areas relevant to NIBIB's Scientific Programs.

NICHD's mission is to lead research and training to understand human development, improve reproductive health, enhance the lives of children and adolescents, and optimize abilities for all. Of high priority are research education projects for underserved preK-12 students that are inclusive of mentors, near-peer role models, and students with disabilities (physical, cognitive, and/or intellectual) and chronic disorders, as well as projects that engage in outreach to encourage interest among students diverse in age, gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, language preference, socioeconomic (SES) status, and rural/urban residence. Programs should also align with NICHD's Strategic Plan. (https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/strategicplan).)

NIDCR will support innovative research educational activities in research areas relevant to the NIDCR mission to advance fundamental knowledge about dental, oral, and craniofacial health and disease, and to translate these findings into prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies that improve overall health for all individuals and communities across the lifespan. NIDCR expects educational, outreach and research activities to encourage participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in dental, oral, and craniofacial research. Applications that include partnerships with dental schools are also encouraged.

NIDA will support applications related to addiction sciences, including, but not limited to: cellular and molecular neuroscience, neuroimaging, genetics, medication and treatment development, development of new and improved strategies to prevent substance use and its consequences, neuroimmune signaling, neuropathology in brain systems, cognitive processes, population neuroscience, HIV and drugs of abuse (including basic discovery science research as well as applied research on delivery of HIV and substance use prevention and treatment services to persons who use drugs), medication development, epidemiology, identifying the biological, environmental, behavioral, and social causes and consequences of substance use and addiction across the lifespan, and implementation science, including secondary data analysis. In all these and related areas of addiction sciences research, NIDA encourages an emphasis on understanding and addressing health disparities which are experienced by vulnerable populations.

NIMH will support research educational activities on topics spanning from basic neuroscience and behavioral science, translational application of brain and behavior relationships in healthy and diseased states, as well as mental health services and intervention activities. Proposed research activities should align with the priorities detailed in the NIMH Strategic Plan. NIMH expects to support educational activities that encourage participation by individuals from a diversity of backgrounds and experiences. Such educational activities may cover, but are not limited to, topics such as addressing mental health disparities, reducing mental health stigma, or health outcomes in disparate populations.

NINDS will support research educational activities that address or seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system (i.e., in the healthy and diseased brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves) and informal science education activities that highlight knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease for all people. NINDS also encourages activities focused on understanding and addressing disparities in neurologic health and health outcomes in disparate populations. NINDS expects to support educational activities that encourage participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the neuroscience field. Programs should align with the NINDS goals of the Strategic Plan for Training and Workforce Diversity.

NIMHD will support training activities through the development of Courses for Skills Development and Research Experiences for high school students and teachers (grades 9-12) to advance scientific understanding of the causes of health disparities (https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview/science-visioning/) and efforts to reduce health disparities and improve minority health. As part of its efforts to strengthen the national capacity for minority health and health disparities research, NIMHD is committed to training the next generation of students, including those from underrepresented groups. To further support student biomedical research training, NIMHD aims to develop a diverse workforce of teachers and programs to facilitate inclusion in training opportunities to conduct biomedical research at all stages of education. To this end, NIMHD is interested in supporting programs that increase educational opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from underrepresented groups, to pursue scientific careers, especially those focused on the needs of communities that experience health disparities. For information regarding the NIMHD Science Visioning results and the NIMHD Research Framework, please see Science Visioning (nih.gov) (https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview/science-visioning/). The NIMHD Research Framework adapted to specific groups experiencing health disparities can be accessed at NIMHD Research Framework Details (nih.gov) (https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/about/overview/research-framework/nimhd-framework.html).

NCCIH will support research educational activities and experiences that are well aligned with the NCCIH Strategic Plan (https://www.nccih.nih.gov/about/nccih-strategic-plan-2021-2025) (https://www.nccih.nih.gov/about/nccih-strategic-plan-2021-2025 (https://www.nccih.nih.gov/about/nccih-strategic-plan-2021-2025)) and provide exposure to research on nutritional, psychological, and physical approaches that may have originated outside of conventional medicine. These include natural products (e.g., dietary supplements, plant-based products, probiotics), mind and body approaches (e.g., yoga, massage therapy, meditation, mindfulness-based stress reduction, spinal/joint manipulation, acupuncture, music and arts-based approaches), and multicomponent therapeutic systems. NCCIH is interested in research educational activities that advances research on whole person health, taking a transdisciplinary approach that integrates the natural, social, and health sciences and transcends traditional boundaries. Programs should align with NCCIH's Strategic Objective to support research training and career development opportunities to increase the number of well-trained scientists from diverse backgrounds conducting rigorous, cutting-edge research on complementary and integrative health practices. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the NCCIH programmatic contact listed below.

NIDDK supports education programs to support the mission defined in our strategic plan: to improve health and quality of life for people with diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic disorders; liver, intestinal, and other digestive diseases; obesity; nutritional disorders; and kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases.

ORWH is interested in projects that reflect its mission and programmatic interests. Some examples (not inclusive) are: (1) Innovative science and health education curricula that emphasize the biological and physiological differences between males and females. (2) Books, films, and other media featuring women scientists and engineers that would inspire girls to enter into STEM careers. (3) Interactive games and role-playing opportunities that highlight the importance of a diverse team in solving scientific problems. (4) Resources for P- 12 teachers that inform how common childhood and adolescent diseases and disorders present differently in boys vs. girls.

ODSS supports research education projects and activities that inspire interest in data science and how data science can advance biomedical research. Activities are encouraged that help students develop knowledge, skills and proficiency in foundational competencies that will facilitate eventual data science-related careers. ODSS supports projects that include (but are not limited to) a general introduction to the broad landscape of data science fields relevant to biomedical sciences. ODSS encourages projects that involve plans to meaningfully engage families and communities of the participants, so that the students may carry out research education activities in supportive environments. ODSS also encourages projects that creatively engage students from diverse backgrounds, including individuals from groups that are underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences, in alignment with the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity (NOT-OD-20-031 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html)).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the appropriate Scientific/Research Contact listed in Section VII. Agency Contacts.
See Section VIII. Other Information for award authorities and regulations.

Section II. Award Information

Funding Instrument

Grant: A support mechanism providing money, property, or both to an eligible entity to carry out an approved project or activity.

Application Types Allowed

New

The OER Glossary (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11116) and the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide provide details on these application types. Only those application types listed here are allowed for this NOFO.

Clinical Trial?

Not Allowed: Only accepting applications that do not propose clinical trial(s).

Need help determining whether you are doing a clinical trial? (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82370)

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards

The number of awards is contingent upon NIH appropriations and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.

Award Budget

Direct costs are limited to $250,000, excluding consortium F&A costs, annually.

Award Project Period

The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is 5 years.

Other Award Budget Information

Personnel Costs

Individuals designing, directing, and implementing the research education program may request salary and fringe benefits appropriate for the person months devoted to the program. Salaries requested may not exceed the levels commensurate with the institution's policy for similar positions and may not exceed the congressionally mandated cap. (If mentoring interactions and other activities with participants are considered a regular part of an individual's academic duties, then any costs associated with the mentoring and other interactions with participants are not allowable costs from grant funds).

Participant Costs

Participants for this NOFO are those individuals who are involved in the proposed research education activity. Participants may be paid if specifically required for the proposed research education program and sufficiently justified. Participant costs must be itemized in the proposed budget.

Other Program-Related Expenses

Consultant costs, equipment, supplies, travel for key persons, and other program-related expenses may be included in the proposed budget. These expenses must be justified as specifically required by the proposed program and must not duplicate items generally available at the applicant institution.

Funds may be requested for the PD(s)/PI(s) and other key personnel to attend the annual SEPA Conference.

A maximum of ten percent (10%) of the direct costs requested may be devoted to evaluation-related activities.

Indirect Costs

Indirect Costs (also known as Facilities & Administrative [F&A] Costs) are reimbursed at 8% of modified total direct costs (exclusive of tuition and fees, expenditures for equipment and consortium costs in excess of $25,000), rather than on the basis of a negotiated rate agreement.

NIH grants policies as described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120) will apply to the applications submitted and awards made from this NOFO.

Section III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Organizations

Higher Education Institutions

- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education

The following types of Higher Education Institutions are always encouraged to apply for NIH support as Public or Private Institutions of Higher Education:

- Hispanic-serving Institutions
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
- Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)

Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education

- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)

For-Profit Organizations

- Small Businesses
- For-Profit Organizations (Other than Small Businesses)

Governments

- Local Governments
- State Governments
- County Governments
- City or Township Governments
- Special District Governments
- Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Federally Recognized)
- Indian/Native American Tribal
- Governments (Other than Federally Recognized)

Federal Governments

- Eligible Agencies of the Federal Government
- U.S. Territory or Possession

Other

- Independent School Districts
- Public Housing Authorities/Indian Housing Authorities
- Native American Tribal Organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Faith-based or Community-based Organizations
- Regional Organizations
- Public, Private and Charter schools

The applicant institution must assure support for the proposed program. Appropriate institutional commitment to the program includes the provision of adequate staff, facilities, and educational resources that can contribute to the planned program.

Institutions with existing Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) institutional training grants (e.g., T32) or other Federally funded training programs may apply for a research education grant provided that the proposed educational experiences are distinct from those training programs receiving federal support. In many cases, it is anticipated that the proposed research education program will complement ongoing research training occurring at the applicant institution.

Foreign Institutions

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) **are not** eligible to apply

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations **are not** eligible to apply.

Foreign components, as defined in the *NIH Grants Policy Statement* (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11118), **are not** allowed.

Required Registrations

Applicant Organizations

Applicant organizations must complete and maintain the following registrations as described in the SF 424 (R&R) Application Guide to be eligible to apply for or receive an award. All registrations must be completed prior to the application being submitted. Registration can take 6 weeks or more, so applicants should begin the registration process as soon as possible. The NIH Policy on Late Submission of Grant Applications (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-039.html) states that failure to complete registrations in advance of a due date is not a valid reason for a late submission.

- System for Award Management (SAM) (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82390) – Applicants must complete and maintain an active registration, **which requires renewal at least annually**. The renewal process may require as much time as the initial registration. SAM registration includes the assignment of a Commercial and

Government Entity (CAGE) Code for domestic organizations which have not already been assigned a CAGE Code.
- NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) Code (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11176) – Foreign organizations must obtain an NCAGE code (in lieu of a CAGE code) in order to register in SAM.
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) – A UEI is issued as part of the SAM.gov registration process. The same UEI must be used for all registrations, as well as on the grant application.
- eRA Commons (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11123) - Once the unique organization identifier is established, organizations can register with eRA Commons in tandem with completing their Grants.gov registration; all registrations must be in place by time of submission. eRA Commons requires organizations to identify at least one Signing Official (SO) and at least one Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) account in order to submit an application.
- Grants.gov (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82300) – Applicants must have an active SAM registration in order to complete the Grants.gov registration.

Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PD(s)/PI(s))

All PD(s)/PI(s) must have an eRA Commons account. PD(s)/PI(s) should work with their organizational officials to either create a new account or to affiliate their existing account with the applicant organization in eRA Commons. If the PD/PI is also the organizational Signing Official, they must have two distinct eRA Commons accounts, one for each role. Obtaining an eRA Commons account can take up to 2 weeks.

Eligible Individuals (Program Director/Principal Investigator)

Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) is invited to work with their organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and women are always encouraged to apply for NIH support. See, Reminder: Notice of NIH's Encouragement of Applications Supporting Individuals from Underrepresented Ethnic and Racial Groups as well as Individuals with Disabilities, NOT-OD-22-019 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-019.html).

For institutions/organizations proposing multiple PDs/PIs, visit the Multiple Program Director/Principal Investigator Policy and submission details in the Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Component of the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

The PD(s)/PI(s) should have the appropriate expertise and experience to provide both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the proposed project. The PD(s)/PI(s) will be expected to monitor and assess the program and submit all documents and reports as required.

2. Cost Sharing

This NOFO does not require cost sharing as defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11126).

3. Additional Information on Eligibility

Number of Applications

Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.

The NIH will not accept duplicate or highly overlapping applications under review at the same time per 2.3.7.4 Submission of Resubmission Application. This means that the NIH will not accept:

- A new (A0) application that is submitted before issuance of the summary statement from the review of an overlapping new (A0) application.
- An application that has substantial overlap with another application pending appeal of initial peer review.

Additional Eligibility Information:

- A PD/PI with an active SEPA award is eligible to submit a new SEPA application as long as the new SEPA project is distinct from the active project and there is no more than six months overlap between the end date of the current SEPA award and the potential start date of the new SEPA award.
- An institution with an active SEPA award, i.e., within the 5-year project start and end dates, is eligible to submit new applications in a different scientific discipline distinct from the active SEPA project.
- Organizations with a contractual fee for service or consortium partnership with an active SEPA award may submit a SEPA application if the proposed new project is independent of the existing SEPA contractual fee for service or consortium partnership.

Program Faculty

Researchers from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, are encouraged to participate as preceptors/mentors. Mentors should have research expertise and experience relevant to the proposed program (see NOT-OD-22-019 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-019.html)).

Participants

Participants in SEPA programs are pre-college students, teachers or the general public.

Unless strongly justified on the basis of exceptional relevance to NIH, research education programs should be used primarily for the education of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Requesting an Application Package

The application forms package specific to this opportunity must be accessed through ASSIST, Grants.gov Workspace or an institutional system-to-system solution. Links to apply using ASSIST or Grants.gov Workspace are available in Part 1 of this NOFO. See your administrative office for instructions if you plan to use an institutional system-to-system solution.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in the Research (R) Instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400), except where instructed in this Notice of Funding Opportunity to do otherwise. Conformance to the requirements in the Application Guide is required and strictly enforced. Applications that are out of compliance with these instructions will not be reviewed.

Page Limitations

All page limitations described in the SF424 Application Guide and the Table of Page Limits (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/page-limits.htm#train) must be followed.

Instructions for Application Submission

The following section supplements the instructions found in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide and should be used for preparing an application to this NOFO.

SF424(R&R) Cover

Follow all instructions provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

SF424(R&R) Project/Performance Site Locations
Follow all instructions provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

SF424(R&R) Other Project Information Component
Follow all instructions provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide with the following additional modifications:

> **Facilities & Other Resources.** Describe the educational environment, including the facilities, laboratories, participating departments, computer services, and any other resources to be used in the development and implementation of the proposed program. List all thematically related sources of support for research training and education following the format for Current and Pending Support.

SF424(R&R) Senior/Key Person Profile Expanded
Follow all instructions provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

An evaluator must be listed in the Key Personnel section.

R&R Budget
Follow all instructions provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide with the following additional modifications:

- Include all personnel other than the PD(s)/PI(s) in the Other Personnel section, including clerical and administrative staff.
- The PD/PI must devote a minimum of 2.0 person months per year. Up to 4.8 person months PD/PI effort per year can be requested with justification.
- In the case of multiple PD/PI (MPI) projects, each PD/PI must devote a minimum of 2.0 person months per year. Up to 4.8 person months per year can be requested for the combined MPI effort.
- Use the section on Participant/Trainee Support Costs to request support for participants in the program.

PHS 398 Cover Page Supplement
Follow all instructions provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

PHS 398 Research Plan
All instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide must be followed, with the following additional instructions:

Research Strategy

The Research Strategy section must be used to upload the **Research Education Program Plan**, which must include the following components described below:

- Proposed Research Education Program
- Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s)
- Program Faculty
- Program Participants
- Institutional Environment and Commitment
- Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity
- Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Evaluation Plan
- Dissemination Plan

Research Education Program Plan

Proposed Research Education Program. While the proposed research education program may complement ongoing research training and education occurring at the applicant institution, the proposed educational experiences must be distinct from those research training and research education programs currently receiving federal support. When research training programs are on-going in the same department, the applicant organization should clearly distinguish between the activities in the proposed research education program and the research training supported by the training program.

The Proposed Research Education Plan should address the following:

- Clear goals and anticipated outcomes.
- A Gantt Chart (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6817648/)that visualizes overall project plan, timelines and the relationship between various activities.
- Project alignment with the practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK285703/).
- How the Logic Model (https://www.cdc.gov/evaluation/logicmodels/index.htm#:~:text=A%20logic%20model%20is%20a,activities%20and%20its%20intended%20effects) depicts the relationship between your program's activities and its intended effects.
- Strategies to develop critical thinking skills.
- Cultural relevance to the target audience(s).
- Input from the students, teachers, community and other stakeholders.
- Potential to build a sustainable STEM education capacity for the community.
- Potential for replication or adaptation at different locations)or institutions.

If an advisory committee is proposed, discuss the composition, roles and responsibilities of the committee, desired expertise of committee members, and frequency of committee meetings. Describe how the advisory committee will monitor progress and advise the project team on the overall effectiveness of the program. Advisory committee members should not be identified or contacted prior to receiving an award.

Applicants who have had a prior SEPA award, or an active SEPA project that is ending before the next funding cycle, are strongly encouraged to utilize their SEPA-generated infrastructure, partnerships, and evaluation tools for the new SEPA project.

Program Director/Principal Investigator. Describe arrangements for the administration of the program. Provide evidence that the Program Director/Principal Investigator is actively engaged in research and/or teaching in an area related to the mission of NIH, and can organize, administer, monitor, and evaluate the research education program. For programs proposing multiple PDs/PIs, describe the complementary and integrated expertise of the PDs/PIs, their leadership approach, and governance appropriate for the planned project.

Program Faculty. SEPA faculty are the individuals who assist the PD/PI to design and deliver the education activities and/or mentor participants. Researchers from diverse backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and women, are encouraged to participate as program faculty. Faculty should have expertise relevant to the proposed program and a demonstrated history of, or the potential for, their intended roles.

Near Peer Mentors. Inclusion of role models or near-peer mentors of age, gender, race, or ethnicity appropriate for the target audience is encouraged. How the role models or near-peer mentors will be selected and trained must be described in the application.

Project Evaluator. Document that the evaluator is free of actual or perceived conflict of interest and has expertise relevant to the participants, grade level; and project format (classroom-based, out-of-classroom, science center or library).
Program Participants. Applicants must describe the intended participants, including the rationale for their selection and grade level(s), as well as the eligibility criteria for participation in the proposed research education program. SEPA encourages the inclusion of students with learning and physical disabilities**.**

Institutional Environment and Commitment. Describe any additional aspects of the Institutional Environment and Commitment not addressed under "Facilities & Other Resources" or the required "Institutional Commitment Letter of Support," described below. Appropriate institutional commitment should include the provision of adequate staff, facilities, and educational resources that can contribute to the planned research education program. This section should not duplicate information provided elsewhere.

Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity. The applicant must provide a recruitment plan to enhance diversity. Include outreach strategies and activities designed to recruit prospective participants from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups described in the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html). Describe the specific efforts to be undertaken by the program and how the proposed plan reflects past experiences in recruiting individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Applications lacking a Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity will not be reviewed.

Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research. All applications must include a plan to fulfill NIH requirements for instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). The plan must address the five, required instructional components outlined in the NIH policy: 1) Format - the required format of instruction, i.e., face-to-face lectures, coursework, and/or real-time discussion groups (a plan with only non-interactive instruction is not acceptable); 2) Subject Matter - the breadth of subject matter, e.g., conflict of interest, authorship, data management, human subjects and animal use, laboratory safety, research misconduct, research ethics; 3) Faculty Participation - the role of the program faculty in the instruction; 4) Duration of Instruction - the number of contact hours of instruction, taking into consideration the duration of the program; and 5) Frequency of Instruction –instruction must occur during each career stage and at least once every four years. See also NOT-OD-10-019 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-10-019.html) and NOT-OD-22-055 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-055.html). The plan should be appropriate and reasonable for the nature and duration of the proposed program. Renewal (Type 2) applications must, in addition, describe any changes in formal instruction over the past project period and plans to address any weaknesses in the current instruction plan. All participating faculty who served as course directors, speakers, lecturers, and/or discussion leaders during the past project period must be named in the application.

Projects proposing a student or teacher laboratory internships component must include participant training plans to improve the culture and practice of laboratory safety through the implementation of best safety practices in the laboratory (https://www.molbiolcell.org/doi/full/10.1091/mbc.E20-03-0167).

Applications lacking a plan for instruction in responsible conduct of research will not be reviewed.

Evaluation Plan. Applications must include a plan for evaluating the activities supported by the award. The application must specify baseline metrics (e.g., numbers, educational levels, and aggregate demographic characteristics of participants), as well as measures to gauge the short- or long-term success of the research education award in achieving its objectives. Wherever appropriate, applicants are encouraged to obtain feedback from participants to help identify weaknesses and to provide suggestions for improvements.

- If appropriate, the evaluator may provide training as necessary to key personnel to ensure the integrity and adequacy of data capture, analysis and reporting.
- Statistically rigorous evaluation designs such as Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) and Well-Matched Comparison (WMCC), etc., are encouraged to be used to evaluate classroom-based projects to allow strong conclusions about effectiveness.

Dissemination Plan. A plan must be provided describing how findings resulting from or materials developed under the auspices of the research education program will be disseminated nationally, e.g., sharing course curricula and related materials via web postings, presentations at scientific meetings, workshops.

- The Dissemination Plan should provide access to STEM resources by Limited English Proficient Persons (LEP).
- SEPA projects must include a project website development plan for dissemination of resources developed. The website may be a new website or a SEPA-specific component added to an existing website. The SEPA website must be launched within 6 months from the initial award date. Credit text for NIH, NIGMS and SEPA must be displayed on the website Home Page and cited in publications generated by SEPA support. The website must be free and open to the public.
- Dissemination of project outcomes through social media platforms is encouraged.

Letters of Support

A letter of institutional commitment must be attached as part of Letters of Support (see section above: "**Institutional Environment and Commitment.**" Institutional letters of support and commitment should include a discussion on the provision of adequate staff, facilities, and educational resources that can contribute to the planned research education program.

Applicants are encouraged to include 1-page letters of support, appropriate for the proposed SEPA project, from key personnel, collaborators, and other significant partners, stakeholders and contributors.

Resource Sharing Plan
Note: Effective for due dates on or after January 25, 2023, a Data Management and Sharing Plan is not applicable for this NOFO.

Individuals are required to comply with the instructions for the Resource Sharing Plans as provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

Appendix: Only limited Appendix materials are allowed. Follow the instructions for the Appendix as described in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information

When involving human subjects research, clinical research, and/or NIH-defined clinical trials (and when applicable, clinical trials research experience) follow all instructions for the PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information form in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide, with the following additional instructions:

If you answered "Yes" to the question "Are Human Subjects Involved?" on the R&R Other Project Information form, you must include at least one human subjects study record using the **Study Record: PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information** form or **Delayed Onset Study** record.

Study Record: PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information

All instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide must be followed.

Delayed Onset Study

Note: Delayed onset (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#DelayedOnsetStudy) does NOT apply to a study that can be described but will not start immediately (i.e., delayed start). All instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide must be followed.

PHS Assignment Request Form

All instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide must be followed.

3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

See Part 1. Section III.1 for information regarding the requirement for obtaining a unique entity identifier and for completing and maintaining active registrations in System for Award Management (SAM), NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) Code (if applicable), eRA Commons, and Grants.gov

4. Submission Dates and Times

Part I. Overview Information contains information about Key Dates and times. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications before the due date to ensure they have time to make any application corrections that might be necessary for successful submission. When a submission date falls on a weekend or Federal holiday (https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/federal-holidays/), the application deadline is automatically extended to the next business day.

Organizations must submit applications to Grants.gov (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11128) (the online portal to find and apply for grants across all Federal agencies). Applicants must then complete the submission process by tracking the status of the application in the eRA Commons (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11123), NIH's electronic system for grants administration. NIH and Grants.gov systems check the application against many of the application instructions upon submission. Errors must be corrected and a changed/corrected application must be submitted to Grants.gov on or before the application due date and time. If a Changed/Corrected application is submitted after the deadline, the application will be considered late. Applications that miss the due date and time are subjected to the NIH Policy on Late Application Submission.

Applicants are responsible for viewing their application before the due date in the eRA Commons to ensure accurate and successful submission.

Information on the submission process and a definition of on-time submission are provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

5. Intergovernmental Review (E.O. 12372)

This initiative is not subject to intergovernmental review (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_10/10.10.1_executive_orders.htm).

6. Funding Restrictions

All NIH awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120).

Pre-award costs are allowable only as described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11143).

7. Other Submission Requirements and Information

Applications must be submitted electronically following the instructions described in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Applicants must complete all required registrations before the application due date. Section III. Eligibility Information contains information about registration.

For assistance with your electronic application or for more information on the electronic submission process, visit How to Apply – Application Guide (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html). If you encounter a system issue beyond your control that threatens your ability to complete the submission process on-time, you must follow the Dealing with System Issues (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/dealing-with-system-issues.htm) guidance. For assistance with application submission, contact the Application Submission Contacts in Section VII.

> **Important reminders:**
>
> All PD(s)/PI(s) must include their eRA Commons ID in the Credential field of the Senior/Key Person Profile form**.** Failure to register in the Commons and to include a valid PD/PI Commons ID in the credential field will prevent the successful submission of an electronic application to NIH.
>
> The applicant organization must ensure that the unique entity identifier provided on the application is the same identifier used in the organization's profile in the eRA Commons and for the System for Award Management. Additional information may be found in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.
>
> See more tips (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11146) for avoiding common errors.

Upon receipt, applications will be evaluated for completeness and compliance with application instructions by the Center for Scientific Review and NIGMS. Applications that are incomplete or non-compliant will not be reviewed.

Hyperlinks and URLs are not permitted by this NOFO in Specific Aims, Research Strategy and other page-limited attachments. Please follow specific instructions included in NOT-OD-20-174 (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-174.html).

Post Submission Materials

Applicants are required to follow the instructions for post-submission materials, as described in the policy (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82299).

Section V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. Applications submitted to the NIH in support of the NIH mission (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11149) are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

For this particular announcement, note the following:

The goal of this R25 program is to support innovative, high-quality skills development, mentoring, and outreach educational activities that encourage pre-college students from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, to pursue further studies in STEM fields**.**

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to strongly advance research education by fulfilling the goal of this R25 Education Program, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria, as applicable for the project proposed.

Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Significance

Does the proposed program address a key audience and an important aspect or important need in research education? Is there convincing evidence in the application that the proposed program will significantly advance the stated goal of the program?

Specific to this NOFO: Discuss how well the research education plan:

- Encourages individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those underrepresented in the biomedical research fields, to consider further studies in STEM?
- Incorporates validated practices for the development of effective STEM education resources?

Investigator(s)

Is the PD/PI capable of providing both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the proposed program? Is there evidence that an appropriate level of effort will be devoted by the program leadership to ensure the program's intended goal is accomplished? If applicable, is there evidence that the participating faculty have experience in mentoring students and teaching science? If applicable, are the faculty good role models for the participants by nature of their scientific accomplishments? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance, and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

Innovation

Taking into consideration the nature of the proposed research education program, does the applicant make a strong case for this program effectively reaching an audience in need of the program's offerings? Where appropriate, is the proposed program developing or utilizing innovative approaches and latest best practices to improve the knowledge and/or skills of the intended audience?

Approach

Does the proposed program clearly state its goals and objectives, including the educational level of the audience to be reached, the content to be conveyed, and the intended outcome? Is there evidence that the program is based on a sound rationale, as well as sound educational concepts and principles? Is the plan for evaluation sound and likely to provide information on the effectiveness of the program? If the proposed program will recruit participants, are the planned recruitment, retention, and follow-up (if applicable) activities adequate to ensure a highly qualified participant pool?

Specific to this NOFO: Discuss how well the research education plan:

- Aligns with State or Next Generation Science Standards for projects that target pre-college students and teachers.
- Is culturally appropriate for the target audience.
- Incorporates input from the teachers, parents, community, and other stakeholders.

Evaluation Plan: Discuss whether:

- Evaluator training and experience is appropriate for the research project and the evaluation plan.
- Evaluation benchmarks, timeline, and metrics are sufficient to capture, analyze, and report outcome measures that will determine the success of the project in achieving its objectives.

Dissemination Plan: Assess to what extent:

- The plan is appropriate for the resources that will be created.
- The findings resulting from or materials developed under the auspices of the research education program will be disseminated nationally.
- The plan ensures access to the program and activities by Limited English Proficient Persons (LEP).
- The plan for the development of a dedicated SEPA project website is satisfactory.

Environment

Will the scientific and educational environment of the proposed program contribute to its intended goals? Is there a plan to take advantage of this environment to enhance the educational value of the program? Is there tangible evidence of institutional commitment? Is there evidence that the faculty have sufficient institutional support to create a sound educational environment for the participants? Where appropriate, is there evidence of collaboration and buy-in among participating programs, departments, and institutions?

Additional Review Criteria

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will evaluate the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit, and in providing an overall impact score, but will not give separate scores for these items.

Protections for Human Subjects

For research that involves human subjects but does not involve one of the categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, the committee will evaluate the justification for involvement of human subjects and the proposed protections from research risk relating to their participation according to the following five review criteria: (1) risk to subjects, (2) adequacy of protection against risks, (3) potential benefits to the subjects and others, (4) importance of the knowledge to be gained, and (5) data and safety monitoring for clinical trials.

For research that involves human subjects and meets the criteria for one or more of the categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, the committee will evaluate: (1) the justification for the exemption, (2) human subjects involvement and characteristics, and (3) sources of materials. For additional information on review of the Human Subjects section, please refer to the Guidelines for the Review of Human Subjects (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11175).

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals Across the Lifespan

When the proposed project involves human subjects and/or NIH-defined clinical research, the committee will evaluate the proposed plans for the inclusion (or exclusion) of individuals on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity, as well as the inclusion (or exclusion) of individuals of all ages (including children and older adults) to determine if it is justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed. For additional information on review of the Inclusion section, please refer to the Guidelines for the Review of Inclusion in Clinical Research (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11174).

Vertebrate Animals

The committee will evaluate the involvement of live vertebrate animals as part of the scientific assessment according to the following criteria: (1) description of proposed procedures involving animals, including species, strains, ages, sex, and total number to be used; (2) justifications for the use of animals versus alternative models and for the appropriateness of the species proposed; (3) interventions to minimize discomfort, distress, pain and injury; and (4) justification for euthanasia method if NOT consistent with the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. Reviewers will assess the use of chimpanzees as they would any other application proposing the use of vertebrate animals. For additional information on review of the Vertebrate Animals section, please refer to the Worksheet for Review of the Vertebrate Animals Section. (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11150)

Biohazards

Reviewers will assess whether materials or procedures proposed are potentially hazardous to research personnel and/or the environment, and if needed, determine whether adequate protection is proposed.

Resubmissions

Not Applicable

Renewals

Not Applicable

Revisions

Not Applicable

Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity

Reviewers will examine the strategies to be used in the recruitment of individuals from underrepresented groups. The review panel's evaluation will be included in the summary statement. Plans will be rated as **acceptable** or **unacceptable**, and the summary statement will provide the consensus of the review committee.

Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research

Taking into account the specific characteristics of the proposed research education program, the level of participant experience, the reviewers will evaluate the adequacy of the proposed RCR training in relation to the following five required components:

1. ***Format -*** the required format of instruction, i.e., face-to-face lectures, coursework, and/or real-time discussion groups (a plan with only non-interactive instruction is not acceptable);
2. ***Subject Matter -*** the breadth of subject matter, e.g., conflict of interest, authorship, data management, human subjects and animal use, laboratory safety, research misconduct, research ethics;
3. ***Faculty Participation -*** the role of the program faculty in the instruction;
4. ***Duration of Instruction -*** the number of contact hours of instruction, taking into consideration the duration of the program; and
5. ***Frequency of Instruction -*** instruction must occur during each career stage and at least once every four years. See also: **Responsible Conduct of Research—Training SOP** (https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/responsible-conduct-research-training)

If the research plan includes student or teacher laboratory experiences, the reviewers will evaluate the plans to improve the culture and practice of laboratory safety through the implementation of best safety practices in the laboratory.

The review panel's evaluation will be included in the summary statement. Plans will be rated as **acceptable** or **unacceptable**, and the summary statement will provide the consensus of the review committee.

Additional Review Considerations

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items, and should not consider them in providing an overall impact score.

Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research Applications from Foreign Organizations

Not Applicable

Select Agent Research

Generally not applicable. Reviewers should bring any concerns to the attention of the Scientific Review Officer.

Resource Sharing Plans

Reviewers will comment on whether the Resource Sharing Plan(s) (e.g., Sharing Model Organisms (https://sharing.nih.gov/other-sharing-policies/model-organism-sharing-policy#policy-overview)) or the rationale for not sharing the resources, is reasonable. If support for development, maintenance, or enhancement of software is requested in the application, the reviewers will comment on the proposed software dissemination plan.

Budget and Period of Support

Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.

2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate Scientific Review Group(s) convened by the Center for Scientific Review, in accordance with NIH peer review policy and procedures (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11154), using the stated review criteria. Assignment to a Scientific Review Group will be shown in the eRA Commons.

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will receive a written critique.

Applications may 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 score.

Applications will be assigned on the basis of established PHS referral guidelines to the appropriate NIH Institute or Center. Applications will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications submitted in response to this NOFO. Following initial peer review, recommended applications will receive a second level of review by the appropriate national Advisory Council or Board. The following will be considered in making funding decisions consistent with applicable law:

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review.
- Availability of funds.
- Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities.
- Portfolio balance.
- Geographical and institutional distribution of the awards.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

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 eRA Commons (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11123). Refer to Part 1 for dates for peer review, advisory council review, and earliest start date.

Information regarding the disposition of applications is available in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120).

Section VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

If the application is under consideration for funding, NIH will request "just-in-time" information from the applicant as described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_2/2.5.1_just-in-time_procedures.htm).

A formal notification in the form of a Notice of Award (NoA) will be provided to the applicant organization for successful applications. The NoA signed by the grants management officer is the authorizing document and will be sent via email to the recipient's business official.

Recipients must comply with any funding restrictions described in Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions. 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.

Any application awarded in response to this NOFO will be subject to terms and conditions found on the Award Conditions and Information for NIH Grants (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/part_ii_subpart_b.htm) website. This includes any recent legislation and policy applicable to awards that is highlighted on this website.
Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Independent Ethics Committee (IEC) Approval: Recipient institutions must ensure that protocols are reviewed by their IRB or IEC. To help ensure the safety of participants enrolled in NIH-funded studies, the recipient must provide NIH copies of documents related to all major changes in the status of ongoing protocols.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

All NIH grant and cooperative agreement awards include the NIH Grants Policy Statement (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120) 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 (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11157) and Part II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards, Subpart B: Terms and Conditions for Specific Types of Grants, Recipients, and Activities (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11159), including of note, but not limited to:

- Federal wide Research Terms and Conditions (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_3/3.1_federalwide_standard_terms_and_conditions_for_research_grants.htm)
- Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-041.html)
- Acknowledgment of Federal Funding (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_4/4.2.1_acknowledgement_of_federal_funding.htm)

If a recipient is successful and receives a Notice of Award, in accepting the award, the recipient agrees that any activities under the award are subject to all provisions currently in effect or implemented during the period of the award, other Department regulations and policies in effect at the time of the award, and applicable statutory provisions.

Should the applicant organization successfully compete for an award, recipients of federal financial assistance (FFA) from HHS will be required to complete an HHS Assurance of Compliance form (HHS 690) in which the recipient agrees, as a condition of receiving the grant, to administer programs in compliance with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex and disability, and agreeing to comply with federal conscience laws, where applicable. This includes ensuring that entities take meaningful steps to provide meaningful access to persons with limited English proficiency; and ensuring effective communication with persons with disabilities. Where applicable, Title XI and Section 1557 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and gender identity, The HHS Office for Civil Rights provides guidance on complying with civil rights laws enforced by HHS. See https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-providers/provider-obligations/index.html (https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hhs.gov%2Fcivil-rights%2Ffor-providers%2Fprovider-obligations%2Findex.html&data=05%7C01%7Ccarrie.mitchell%40nih.gov%7Ce8bc304bfdb644bb556e08dac343ad36%7C14b77578977342d58507251ca2dc2b06%7C0%7C0%7C63803
and https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/nondiscrimination/index.html (https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hhs.gov%2Fcivil-rights%2Ffor-individuals%2Fnondiscrimination%2Findex.html&data=05%7C01%7Ccarrie.mitchell%40nih.gov%7Ce8bc304bfdb644bb556e08dac343ad36%7C14b77578977342d58507251ca2dc2b06%

HHS recognizes that research projects are often limited in scope for many reasons that are nondiscriminatory, such as the principal investigator's scientific interest, funding limitations, recruitment requirements, and other considerations. Thus, criteria in research protocols that target or exclude certain populations are warranted where nondiscriminatory justifications establish that such criteria are appropriate with respect to the health or safety of the subjects, the scientific study design, or the purpose of the research. For additional guidance regarding how the provisions apply to NIH grant programs, please contact the Scientific/Research Contact that is identified in Section VII under Agency Contacts of this NOFO.

- For guidance on meeting the legal obligation to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to programs or activities by limited English proficient individuals see https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/limited-english-proficiency/fact-sheet-guidance/index.html (https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/limited-english-proficiency/fact-sheet-guidance/index.html) and https://www.lep.gov (https://www.lep.gov/).
- For information on an institution's specific legal obligations for serving qualified individuals with disabilities, including providing program access, reasonable modifications, and to provide effective communication, see https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/disability/index.html (https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/disability/index.html).
- HHS funded health and education programs must be administered in an environment free of sexual harassment, see https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/sex-discrimination/index.html (https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/sex-discrimination/index.html). For information about NIH's commitment to supporting a safe and respectful work environment, who to contact with questions or concerns, and what NIH's expectations are for institutions and the individuals supported on NIH-funded awards, please see https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/harassment.htm (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/harassment.htm).
- For guidance on administering programs in compliance with applicable federal religious nondiscrimination laws and applicable federal conscience protection and associated anti-discrimination laws see https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/conscience-protections/index.html (https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/conscience-protections/index.html) and https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/religious-freedom/index.html (https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/religious-freedom/index.html).

Please contact the HHS Office for Civil Rights for more information about obligations and prohibitions under federal civil rights laws at https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html (https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html) or call 1-800-368-1019 or TDD 1-800-537-7697.

In accordance with the statutory provisions contained in Section 872 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417), NIH awards will be subject to the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) requirements. FAPIIS requires Federal award making officials to review and consider information about an applicant in the designated integrity and performance system (currently FAPIIS) prior to making an award. An applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal agency previously entered and is currently in FAPIIS. The Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgement about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 45 CFR Part 75.205 and 2 CFR Part 200.206 "Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants." This provision will apply to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements except fellowships."

3. Data Management and Sharing

Note: The NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing is effective for due dates on or after January 25, 2023.

Consistent with the NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing, when data management and sharing is applicable to the award, recipients will be required to adhere to the Data Management and Sharing requirements as outlined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_8/8.2.3_sharing_research_resources.htm). Upon the approval of a Data Management and Sharing Plan, it is required for recipients to implement the plan as described.

4. Reporting

When multiple years are involved, recipients will be required to submit the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) (//grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/index.htm) annually. Continuation support will not be provided until the required forms are submitted and accepted.

Programs that involve participants should report on education in the responsible conduct of research and complete a Trainee Diversity Report (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=61198), in accordance with the RPPR Instruction Guide (//grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/rppr_instruction_guide.pdf).

NIH NOFOs outline intended research goals and objectives. Post award, NIH will review and measure performance based on the details and outcomes that are shared within the RPPR, as described at 45 CFR Part 75.301 and 2 CFR 200.301.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Transparency Act), includes a requirement for awardees of Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards issued in FY2011 or later. All recipients of applicable NIH grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at www.fsrs.gov (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11170) on all subawards over the threshold. See the *NIH Grants Policy Statement* (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_4/4.1.8_federal_funding_accountability_and_transparency_act__ffata_.htm) for additional information on this reporting requirement.

Failure by the recipient institution to submit required forms in a timely, complete, and accurate manner may result in an expenditure disallowance or a delay in any continuation funding for the award.

In accordance with the regulatory requirements 45 CFR Part 75 and 2 CFR Part 200 and Appendix XII to 45 CFR Part 75.113 and 2 CFR Part 200.113, recipients that have currently active Federal grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies with a cumulative total value greater than $10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of a Federal award, must report and maintain the currency of information reported in the System for Award Management (SAM) about civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings in connection with the award or performance of a Federal award that reached final disposition within the most recent five-year period. The recipient must also make semiannual disclosures regarding such proceedings. Proceedings information will be made publicly available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently FAPIIS). This is a statutory requirement under section 872 of Public Law 110-417, as amended (41 U.S.C. 2313). As required by section 3010 of Public Law 111-212, all information posted in the designated integrity and performance system on or after April 15, 2011, except past performance reviews required for Federal procurement contracts, will be publicly available. Full reporting requirements and procedures are found in Appendix XII to 45 CFR Part 75 and 2 CFR Part 200 – Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

Other Reporting Requirements

A final RPPR and the expenditure data portion of the Federal Financial Report are required for closeout of an award as described in the *NIH Grants Policy Statement* *(//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11161)*.

5. Evaluation

In carrying out stewardship of grant programs, NIGMS will periodically evaluate the SEPA R25 Program, employing the representative measures identified below. In assessing the effectiveness of research resource investments, NIGMS may use information from progress reports and public databases, PD/PIs, and from participants themselves. Where necessary, PD/PIs and participants may be appropriately contacted after the completion of the grant period for updates on participants' subsequent outcomes.

The overall evaluation of the program will be based on metrics that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

For Courses for Skills Development:

- Aggregate number and demographic characteristics of participants
- Educational level of participants
- Participants' feedback on the program
- New knowledge or skills acquired

For Programs Focusing on Curriculum or Methods Development:

- Aggregate number and demographic characteristics of participants exposed to the new curricula or methods
- General educational level of participants
- Effectiveness of the new curricula or methods assessed by skills/competencies gained compared to existing curricula or methods
- Dissemination and/or adoption of new curricula or methods
- Feedback from users of the new curricula or methods

For Outreach Programs:

- Aggregate number and demographic characteristics of individuals reached
- Educational levels of participants
- Assessment of increased awareness, knowledge, or understanding of science- or research-related concepts, processes, or careers

Section VII. Agency Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this notice of funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants.

Application Submission Contacts

eRA Service Desk (Questions regarding ASSIST, eRA Commons, application errors and warnings, documenting system problems that threaten submission by the due date, and post-submission issues)

Finding Help Online: https://www.era.nih.gov/need-help (https://www.era.nih.gov/need-help) (preferred method of contact)
Telephone: 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552 (Toll Free)

General Grants Information (Questions regarding application instructions, application processes, and NIH grant resources)
Email: GrantsInfo@nih.gov (mailto:GrantsInfo@nih.gov) (preferred method of contact)
Telephone: 301-637-3015

Grants.gov Customer Support (Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace)
Contact Center Telephone: 800-518-4726
Email: support@grants.gov (mailto:support@grants.gov)

SBA Company Registry (Questions regarding required registration at the SBA Company Registry and for technical questions or issues)
Website to Email: http://sbir.gov/feedback?type=reg (http://sbir.gov/feedback?type=reg)

Scientific/Research Contact(s)

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Section VIII. Other Information

Recently issued trans-NIH policy notices (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11163) may affect your application submission. A full list of policy notices published by NIH is provided in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11164). All awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement (//grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120).

Authority and Regulations

Awards are made under the authorization of Sections 301 and 405 of the Public Health Service Act as amended (42 USC 241 and 284) and under Federal Regulations 42 CFR Part 52, 45 CFR Part 75 and 2 CFR Part 200.

Weekly TOC for this Announcement (/grants/guide/WeeklyIndex.cfm?04-07-23)
NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices (/grants/guide/index.html)

Note: For help accessing PDF, RTF, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Audio or Video files, see Help Downloading Files (/grants/edocs.htm).