

EXHIBIT 3



NEW TO NIH

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New to NIH

As you begin your journey in search of NIH grant funding, the information in this section can help you understand the structure of NIH and why it's important to successfully navigate the grants process.

NIH Grants Process: A
Video Walk-Through
for Beginners

What We Do

The National Institutes of Health is the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world.

Our mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

NIH provides financial assistance for projects that advance this mission in a variety of broad research and research-related funding categories

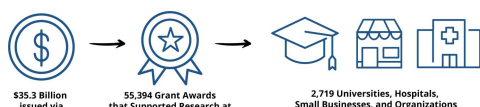
- Research Training and Career Development
- Research and Development
- Small Business
- Supplemental Funding
- Construction and Modernization
- Loan Repayment Programs
- Contracts
- Other Transactions
- Challenges and Prizes

**Want to learn more?**

Visit [Funding Categories](#).

Where is the Money

FY 2025 Investments in Research



NIH's institutes, centers, and offices (ICOs) award 80-85% of the NIH budget to support extramural research conducted outside of NIH. About 10% of NIH's budget supports intramural scientists in our own laboratories, most on our NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

NIH is made up of 27 institutes and centers (ICs) and the Office of the Director (OD).

- Each IC has a distinct mission that focuses on a specific disease area, organ system, or stage of life.
- The OD, including the Office of Extramural Research (OER), is the central office responsible for setting NIH policy and for planning, managing, and coordinating programs and activities across NIH.
- Twenty-four of the 27 ICs and several offices within the OD post extramural funding opportunities and make awards.

Each IC has a [separate appropriation](#) from Congress. The director of each IC makes [Funding Decisions](#) for which grants the IC will fund, taking into consideration the results of the scientific peer review of the grant application, input from NIH staff, public health need, scientific opportunity, and the need to balance its scientific portfolio. Since awards are made through the ICOs, prospective recipients should identify the ICOs that might be interested in their area of study.



Want to learn more?

Visit [Find a Fit for Your Research](#) for highlighted topics and NIH ICO profiles.

A Highly Competitive Process

Funding is a highly competitive process.

NIH has three application, review, and award cycles per year. Unless a funding opportunity specifically indicates money has been set aside for awards, all applications compete for the same funds.



Tip

Funding opportunities with set-aside funds are designated as Requests for Applications (RFA) or Program Announcements with set-aside funds (PAS). You can easily identify them by the first three characters of their notice numbers (e.g., RFA-HL-25-123 or PAS-CA-25-123).

NIH receives a lot of applications and there simply aren't enough funds to go around. The overall chance a research project application would be funded in 2025, referred to as success rate, was around 13%. Still, NIH made a considerable number of research project awards - over 8,000!

Be persistent and learn from each application experience. Many investigators who were not initially successful go on to secure funding on subsequent attempts.



Want to learn more?

Visit [Funding Decisions](#) to learn how funding decisions are made and [Write Application](#) for tips on preparing a strong application. Our [Fiscal Year 2025 By the Numbers: Extramural Grant Investments in Research](#) Nexus post also provides context for our 2025 numbers.

How NIH Announces Funding Opportunities —

Our institutes, centers, and offices (ICOs) issue notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) to look for grant proposals of high scientific caliber that are within mission and relevant to public health needs.

You can [Explore NIH Grant Opportunities](#) and search with NIH-specific filters to quickly identify potential funding opportunities of interest published at [Grants.gov](#) .

NIH offers both investigator-initiated and targeted funding opportunities.

Investigator-Initiated Research

- Much of what NIH supports are *investigator-initiated* or *unsolicited* research and training applications that originate from your research idea or training need, yet also address the scientific mission of the NIH and one or more of its ICOs.
- Consider NIH's centralized list of [Highlighted Topics](#) representing selected research priority areas within one or more ICO.
- Investigator-initiated applications are submitted through centrally managed NIH “[parent announcements](#)” or broad ICO-issued funding opportunities.

Targeted, NIH-requested Research

- NIH ICOs regularly identify specific research areas and program priorities to carry out their scientific missions. They issue funding opportunities to encourage and stimulate research and the submission of research applications in these areas.
- These funding opportunities may be issued to support research in an understudied area of science, to take advantage of current scientific opportunities, to address a high scientific program priority, or to meet additional needs in research training and infrastructure.



Want to learn more?

Visit [Find Your Opportunity, Contacts, and Due Dates](#).

Who is Eligible —

Eligibility requirements vary by program and can be further restricted within individual funding opportunities but follow some general principles.

Organization Eligibility

NIH recognizes the applicant organization as the recipient for most programs. The applicant organization, represented by an authorized organization representative (AOR), has overall responsibility for compliance with all terms and conditions of award.

In general, organizations eligible to receive NIH grants can be

- Domestic or foreign
- Public or private
- Non-profit or for-profit



Want to learn more?

Check out these resources

- [NIH Grants Policy Statement: Eligibility](#)
- [NOT-OD-26-084: Reminder - Definition of Foreign Components](#)
- [Acknowledging Foreign Components throughout NIH Application and Award Processes](#) (Nexus, June 2026)

Foreign Eligibility

Foreign and international organizations are eligible to apply for most NIH research project grants but are not eligible to apply for institutional training, program project, center, resource, small business, or construction grants.

The Foreign Organizations eligibility section of each funding opportunity states whether the following types of organizations **are** or **are not** eligible to apply

- Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Organizations)
- Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations
- Foreign components, as [defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement](#)

In addition to standard review criteria, applications from foreign and international organizations are assessed on the following

- Whether the project presents special opportunities for furthering research programs through the use of unusual talent, resources, populations, or environmental conditions in other countries that are not readily available in the United States or that augment existing U.S. resources.
- Whether the proposed project has specific relevance to the mission and objectives of the ICO and has the potential for significantly advancing the health sciences in the United States.



Want to learn more?

Visit [NIH Grants Policy Statement: Foreign Eligibility](#).

Individual Eligibility

The applicant organization must designate one or more project director/principal investigators (PD/PIs) to direct the project or program supported by the award.

The career stage of the PD/PI varies by program. NIH supports scientists at various stages in their careers, from pre-doctoral students on research training grants to investigators with extensive experience who run large research centers.

Generally, PD/PIs and other personnel supported by NIH research grants are not required to be U.S. citizens; however, some NIH programs have a citizenship requirement.

Carefully read the Eligible Individuals (Program Director/Principal Investigator) section of your funding opportunity for any citizenship requirement or other individual eligibility restrictions.

Are you an early stage investigator?

An early stage investigator (ESI) is a principal investigator who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as a PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award.

NIH is committed to supporting ESIs.

- Reviewers give early stage investigators special consideration
- Applications with meritorious scores may be prioritized for funding
- NIH has programs targeted specifically for this population (e.g., [Stephen I. Katz Early Stage Investigator Research Project Grant](#))



Want to learn more?

Visit [NIH Early Stage Investigators Policy](#).

Meet the NIH Team

Your success with NIH funding requires an understanding of who your contacts are here at NIH.

Since applications are reviewed by the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) and awards are made through NIH institutes, centers, and offices (ICOs), most of your interactions with NIH will be with staff from CSR and ICOs, including scientific review officers, program officials, and grants management officers or specialists.

Scientific Review Officer (SRO)

Responsible for managing peer review meetings, evaluation procedures, and the determinations and management of conflicts of interest during review.

Program Official (PO)

Responsible for the programmatic, scientific, and/or technical aspects of a grant or cooperative agreement.

Grants Management Officer/Specialist (GMO/GMS)

Responsible for the business management aspects of awards, including evaluation of administrative compliance with requirements, negotiating awards, and interpretation of policies and provisions.



Want to learn more?

Learn more about NIH staff roles and responsibilities, who to contact when, how to find appropriate contacts at various stages of the grants process, and tips for reaching out at [Understand Staff Roles](#).

Interacting with NIH Systems

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Key Systems

Throughout your journey with NIH you will be interacting with a variety of systems that require registrations, some at the level of the institution, and others require registrations or permissions for institutional officials or individual investigators.

- **System for Award Management (SAM)**

- A federal-wide (non-NIH) system. All organizations (referred to as “entities” in SAM) must register in SAM and establish a unique entity identifier (UEI) prior to doing business with the U.S. federal government.
- The UEI serves as a common identifier across federal systems. Be sure to use the same UEI within all organization registrations and grant applications.
- SAM is also the central location to search for contract opportunities from federal agencies.

- **Grants.gov**

- Another federal-wide (non-NIH) system. [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) is a central portal used by all federal grant-making agencies and their applicants to find and apply for federal grant funding.
- Agencies post funding opportunities on Grants.gov. You can [Explore NIH Grant Opportunities](#) and search with NIH-specific filters to quickly identify potential funding opportunities of interest published at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Grants.gov receives application submissions on behalf of NIH and other agencies, and forwards those applications to the agency for processing.

- **eRA Commons** The eRA Commons is an NIH system that allows applicants, recipients, and federal staff to securely share, manage and process grant-related information. It allows principal investigators and institutional officials to track submission status, application assignment and review information, award information, and it supports post award reporting, amongst other things.

- **ASSIST**

- NIH's Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST) is one of several submission options available to prepare and submit grant applications electronically to NIH and other Public Health Service agencies.

Key Roles

There may be quite a few people involved in the preparation, submission, and administration of your grant application.

Grants.gov and eRA Commons use roles to determine which tasks each user is authorized to perform. At the time of organization registration, your organization designates one or more people with the authority to legally bind your organization in grants administration matters. Those designated individuals (Signing Officials in eRA Commons or E-Business Points of Contact in Grants.gov) can assign roles to other user accounts to define the functions they are authorized to perform.

Most electronic interactions with NIH are done through eRA Commons.

Key eRA Commons Roles

- **Signing Official (SO)**

- Holds authority to legally bind your institution and assume responsibility for adhering to all federal grant administration requirements referenced in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#)
- Registers the institution and maintains institutional profile data
- Accesses information for all applications and grants within your institution, including status and award information
- Creates and administers user accounts including additional SO and account administrator (AA) accounts

- **Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI)**

- Holds eRA Commons PI role as the designated project director/principal investigator (PD/PI) of an application or grant
- Directs the project or activity being supported by the grant and is accountable to the recipient organization for the proper conduct of the project or activity
- Performs or delegates tasks such as maintaining person profile information, checking application status, checking assembled application image used for review and performing post-submission administrative functions
- Accesses information for their own grants and applications, including summary statements, scores, and notices of award



Want to learn more?

Visit [eRA Commons Roles](#) (PDF) for a detailed list of eRA Commons roles and [Accounts Module Online Help System](#) for instructions for creating accounts.

Get Registered

Organizations

If your organization is new to working with NIH, multiple organization registrations are required including eRA Commons, System for Award Management (SAM), Grants.gov, and Small Business Administration (if applicable).

The full registration process in each system is typically completed once and then maintained as organization information changes.

The person who registers your organization must be authorized to act for the applicant organization and to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or grant awards.

This individual may be referred to as an entity administrator, signing official (SO), or authorized organization representative (AOR) depending on the system. They are responsible for initial registration, maintaining organization information, and authorizing other individuals to serve similar functions on behalf of their organization.



Want to learn more?

[Learn more about required organization registrations.](#)



Note

NIH typically makes awards to organizations, not individuals. In rare cases, an individual who is not affiliated with a research organization may need to register in eRA Commons. For example, the Loan Repayment Program (LRP) supports contracts with individuals. LRP applicants who are not affiliated with a research organization may need to register in eRA Commons as an organization and an individual user. See [Special Registration Instructions for Unaffiliated/Independent Applicants](#) (PDF).

System Accounts for Investigators and Other Individuals

Once organization registrations are complete, the individuals responsible for maintaining your organization's information can assist in creating any additional individual user accounts needed to perform specific tasks. For example, creating or affiliating principal investigator accounts with the PI role in eRA Commons.



Want to learn more?

See [System Accounts for Investigators and Other Individuals](#) to learn who needs an account in systems like eRA Commons, Grants.gov, SAM, and Login.gov.

Resources

General

[Information For](#) pages – links and resources of interest to specific audiences

- [Researchers](#)
- [Research Administrators](#)
- [Reviewers](#)
- [Small Business](#)
- [Foreign Grants](#)
- [Media and the Public](#)

See Also

Documents

- [How to Apply – Application Guide](#) — Use these general application instructions along with the guidance in funding opportunities to submit grant applications to NIH.
- [NIH Grants Policy Statement \(GPS\)](#) — The NIH GPS outlines the policy requirements that serve as the terms and conditions of NIH grant awards.
 - New policies or updates to existing policies are announced through the [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#) and later incorporated into the NIH GPS on a yearly basis.

Utility links

We have several handy utility links in the upper right corner of every page.

- [Glossary](#) — NIH, like most organizations, uses a lot of acronyms and nuanced terminology. Refer to our glossary to find acronym expansions and the meaning of many grant terms. A link to the glossary can be found at the top of each page under the search box.
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) — Find the answers to questions on a wide range of grants administration policies, programs, and processes. The main FAQ page is a compilation of the topic-specific FAQ sets you'll find towards the bottom of our topic pages.

Contact

Check online guidance and direct your questions to your sponsored programs office or grants administrators. If you still need assistance, find NIH contacts at [Need Help?](#)

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