

NIH Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research FAQs

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The NIH provides funding to develop research careers and enhance diversity and inclusion among trainees and faculty who are underrepresented in medicine (UIM) including biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences, have a disability or a disadvantaged background, to research careers.

1. What is a Diversity Supplement?

[NIH Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research \(Admin Supp - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\); PA-21-071](#)

The NIH provides funding to enhance the diversity of the research workforce by recruiting and supporting students, post doctorates, and eligible investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related research.

NIH Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (“Diversity Supplements”) provide additional funding to recruit and support high school, undergraduate and graduate/clinical students, post doctorates and eligible investigators to work on an existing NIH-funded project in a particular area of interest. However, not all participating NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) support all the activity codes listed in PA-21-071.

- The application information (which can be accessed [here](#) for each NIH Institute) describes the requirements for all levels of trainees, from high school through college, graduate school, and postgraduate studies, as well as the investigator level.
- Diversity Supplements must support work within the scope of an ongoing, NIH funded project.
- Although many Diversity Supplement applications are accepted on a rolling basis, each Institute or Center may have specific application deadlines. PIs should check with their [Institute or Center staff](#) for details.
- Diversity Supplements are less competitive than peer-reviewed grant funding mechanisms and can provide an excellent entry point for a research career.
- Budget requests must follow the budget cycle of the existing grant.
- Supplemental funding may not extend beyond the existing grant’s project end date.

2. Why should I apply for a Diversity Supplement?

- Diversity Supplements are an important approach to supporting UIM, disabled and disadvantaged trainees and junior faculty who are interested in research.
- These supplements can be used to obtain additional resources for funded research projects.
- An application for a Diversity Supplement, which must be submitted by the Principal Investigator of an existing and eligible NIH-funded grant or contract, is relatively brief and simple.
- Diversity supplements do not require peer review—they can be approved by NIH Project Officers and are supported using funds specifically set-aside for this purpose.

3. Who can apply?

- Principal Investigators who hold an active [DP1](#), [DP2](#), [DP4](#), [DP5](#), [G12](#), [G20](#), [P01](#), [P20](#), [P2C](#), [P30](#), [P40](#), [P41](#), [P50](#), [P51](#), [P60](#), [PM1](#), [PN2](#), [R00](#), [R01](#), [R03](#), [R15](#), [R18](#), [R21](#), [R21/R33](#), [R24](#), [R33](#), [R34](#), [R35](#), [R37](#), [R41](#), [R41/R42](#), [R41/R42](#), [R42](#), [R43](#), [R43/R44](#), [R43/R44](#), [R44](#), [R61/R33](#), [RC1](#), [RC2](#), [RC3](#), [RC4](#), [RF1](#), [RM1](#), [SC1](#), [SC2](#), [SC3](#), [S06](#), [UL1](#), [U01](#), [U10](#), [U13](#), [U18](#), [U19](#), [U24](#), [U2C](#), [U41](#), [U42](#), [U44](#), [U54](#), [U56](#), [UC2](#), [UC4](#), [UF1](#), [UG1](#), [UG3/UH3](#), [UH2](#), [UH2/UH3](#), [UH3](#), [UM1](#) or [UM2](#) grant are generally eligible to submit a request for an Administrative Supplement to the parent grant. Principal Investigators holding an Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15), an Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21) or a Small Grant Award (R03) also may apply for a supplement under this program. Subproject directors on multi-component research grants (e.g., P01, P50, U54) may request supplements to their project through the overall PD/PI of the grant.
- This supplement opportunity is also available to PD(s)/PI(s) of research grants who are or become disabled and need additional support to accommodate their disability in order to continue to work on the research project.
- At the time of a supplemental award, the parent grant must have support remaining for a reasonable period (usually two years or more).
- PIs should check with their [Institute or Center staff](#) for details.

4. How do eligible PIs apply?

Principal Investigators interested in submitting an application for a Diversity Supplement should begin by contacting the NIH staff administering the parent grant and the [NIH Diversity Supplement Scientific/Research contacts](#) for each awarding Institute. Please check with these contacts for any additional application instructions and requirements specific to your Institute or Center.

5. Who is an eligible candidate for support under a Diversity Supplement?

By providing research opportunities for qualified individuals at various career levels, the number entering and remaining in health-related research careers will increase.

In order to receive a Diversity Supplement, the proposed research must have the potential to significantly contribute to the career development of the candidate. Accordingly, Principal

Investigators are encouraged to consider administrative supplements under this program for candidates who are:

A. at the following career levels:

- High School Students who have expressed an interest in the health-related sciences.
- Undergraduate Students who wish to pursue graduate level research training in health-related sciences.
- Post-Baccalaureate Students and Post-Master's Degree Students who have recently graduated and wish to pursue further graduate training in health-related research.
- Graduate (Predoctoral) and Health Professional Students who wish to develop their research capabilities in the health-related sciences.
- Individuals in Postdoctoral Training who wish to participate as postdoctoral researchers in ongoing research projects and career development experiences in preparation for an independent career in a health-related research.
- Faculty who wish to participate in ongoing research projects while further developing their own independent research potential. An individual who has received prior independent or K (except K12 and KL2) award funding from the NIH may be ineligible. Check [here](#) and with your awarding Institute or Center to determine ineligibility.
- Established investigators who become disabled may be eligible for additional support or special equipment that will facilitate a continuing contribution to the goals of the parent grant.

B. URM, disabled, and disadvantaged trainees or faculty:

Investigators are encouraged to identify candidates who will increase diversity on a national or local basis. The NIH is particularly interested in encouraging the recruitment and retention of the following classes of candidates:

(1) Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis ("UIM").

The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders

(2) Individuals with disabilities, which are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

(3) Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds defined as:

- Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Definition: <https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento/>);
- Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families (Definition: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/focus-areas/foster-care/>);
- Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years (Definition: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines/>);
- Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree (see <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018009.pdf>);

- Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants (Definition: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/eligibility.html>);
- Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child (Definition: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-eligibility-requirements>).
- Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer (<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/ruralhealth>), or b) a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas (qualifying zip codes are included in the file).
- From a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds who has qualified for Federal disadvantaged assistance, received a Health Professions Student Loan or Loan for Disadvantaged Students, or received a scholarship from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Scholarship for Individuals with Exceptional Financial Need.
- From a social, cultural, or educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city areas that have directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career.
- Eligibility related to a disadvantaged background is most applicable to high school and perhaps to undergraduate candidates but is difficult to justify for individuals beyond that level of academic achievement.

4. Women from the above backgrounds (categories 1, 2 and 3 above)

C. United States citizens/permanent residents:

Awards under this program are limited to citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States or to individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States (i.e., in possession of a Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551) This program may not be used to provide technical support to NIH-supported investigators.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the NIH institute staff prior to submission to obtain specific information about eligibility and preparing and submitting an application (see [Table of IC-Specific Information, Requirements and Staff Contacts](#)).