ORDE

NIH Website Guide to Researcher Resources

Contents

NIH Structure

NIH Homepage

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) website (https://www.nih.gov/) is a massive yet helpful researcher resource (see Figure 1.) For those who spend a lot of time on this website, navigation is easier. However, most principal investigators and research support staff are looking for very specific items when visiting the NIH website and often find website negotiation challenging. This document is designed to break down the NIH website into easy-to-find sections that likely apply to you. You are provided with brief descriptions and direct links to web pages of importance to researchers. Please remember you can **always** contact ORDE with any questions you have about locating resources on funding agency websites (see our Contact Information on the last page).

Figure 1. Screenshot of NIH Website
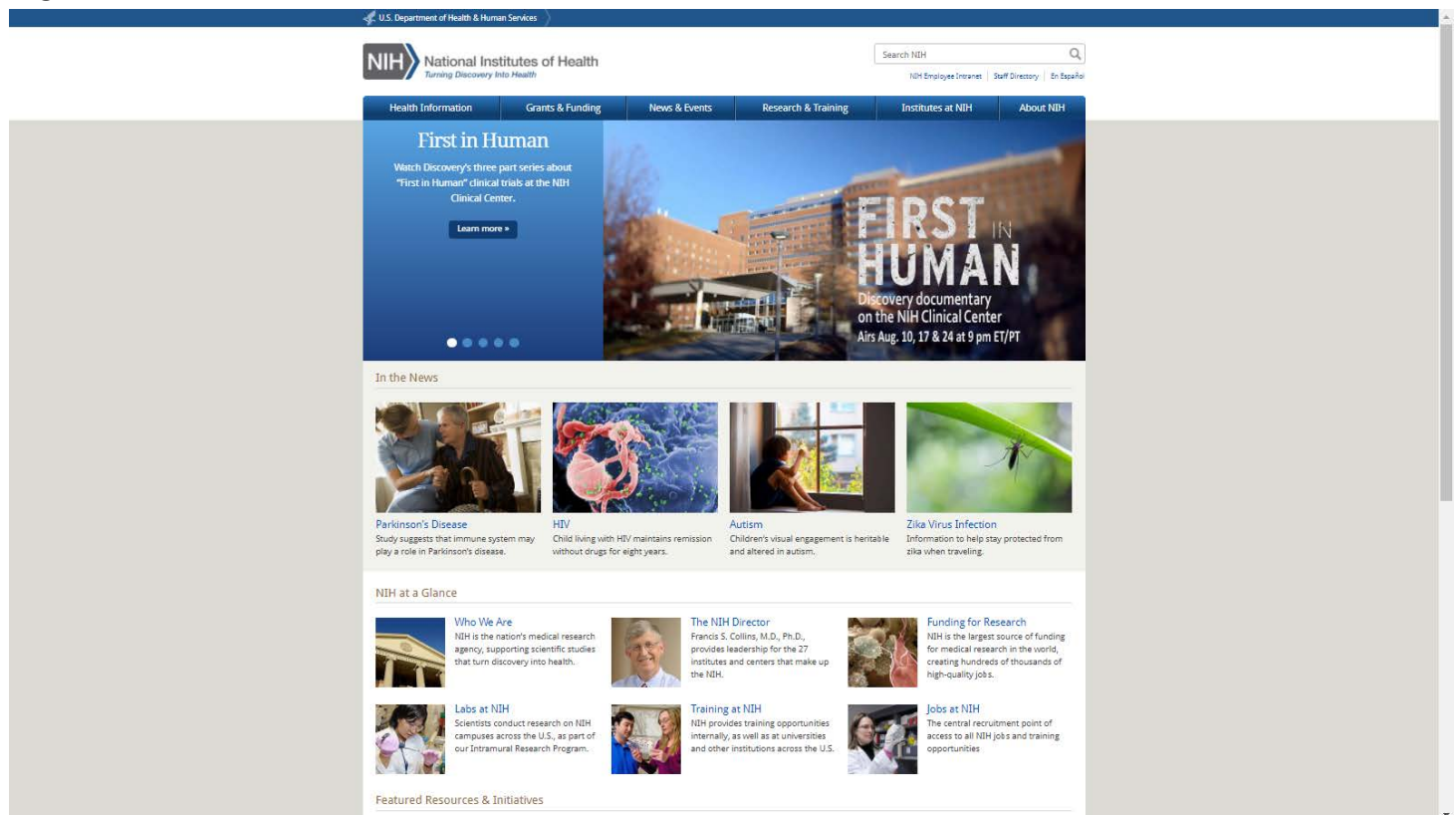
NIH Institutes at a Glance

https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/what-we-do/nih-almanac/nih-organization

The National Institutes of Health consists of 21 institutes and 6 centers. This web page provides access to detailed information about the mission, history and organization of each institute and center, a good starting place when deciding which component of the NIH to target for an upcoming grant application.

NIH People

https://ned.nih.gov/search/

Looking for a specific person at NIH? Utilize the NIH Enterprise Directory (NED), a search engine designed to locate contact information for NIH personnel. You may search by name, telephone number, e-mail address, or specific institute in which the NIH employee is located.

NIH Glossary and Acronym Finder

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm

NIH has compiled a helpful glossary of commonly used grant-related terms, arranged alphabetically. An Acronym List is also maintained by the agency, and is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/acronym_list.htm.

Types of Awards

NIH Grant Types

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm

Ever wonder how many different types of grant mechanisms NIH recognizes? Answer: **239**. Confused by the various R, K, T, U, F and P designations? This web page makes the letters and numbers understandable. (For the full list of 239 activity codes, go to https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm).

NIH Career (K) Awards

https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development

NIH offers a variety of Research Career Development (K) Awards for both clinical and basic scientists at various career stages. Identify the best career award for your circumstances by using the Career Award Table (see Figure 2). This web page offers details and provides links to current program announcements and requests for applications for each K Award type as well as a handy Frequently Asked Questions document.

Figure 2. Screenshot of NIH K Award Web Page

NIH Parent Announcements

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/parent_announcements.htm

Are you submitting an investigator-initiated or unsolicited application, one for which you have not identified a specific request for applications (RFA) or program announcement (PA)? If so, then choose a Parent Announcement as your Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) (see Figure 3). They are available for Research Project Grants (R01), Small Grants (R03), Exploratory/Developmental Research Grants (R21), and other grant mechanisms. You are provided with appropriate instructions and the ability to select the correct Grants.gov application kit for on-line submission. Note that while Parent Announcements are NIH-wide, individual institutes and centers may opt out of specific Parent Announcements. So, be certain to check if the institute/center you wish to target is participating.

Figure 3. NIH Parent Announcement Offerings

Grant Processes

NIH Office of Extramural Research Website

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

The Office of Extramural Research (OER) is responsible for acting as guide for the NIH extramural research enterprise. Extramural research represents approximately 83% of the entire NIH budget, and OER is tasked with helping external organizations and investigators understand the grants process and related policies. The OER website is easily navigable and helpful for both new and established investigators. Application forms and grant policy information are all just a click away in the boxes provided on the OER web page (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. NIH Office of Extramural Research Web Page
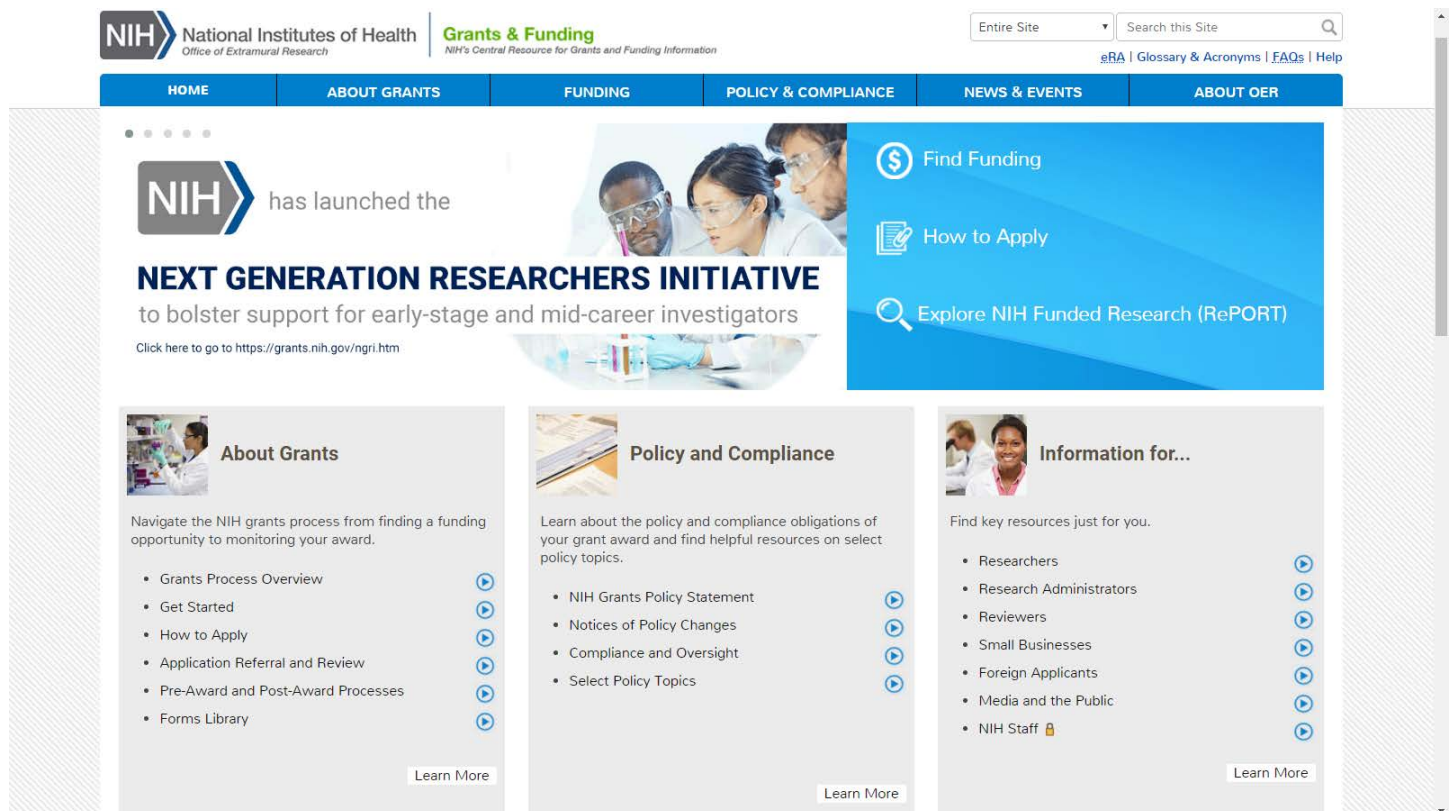
NIH Application Guidelines

Specific grant application guidance, forms, and instructions are provided for all NIH grant mechanisms in the Forms Library (see Figure 5). Progress report forms and supplement request procedures are now also available on this page.

Figure 5. Forms Library Web Page
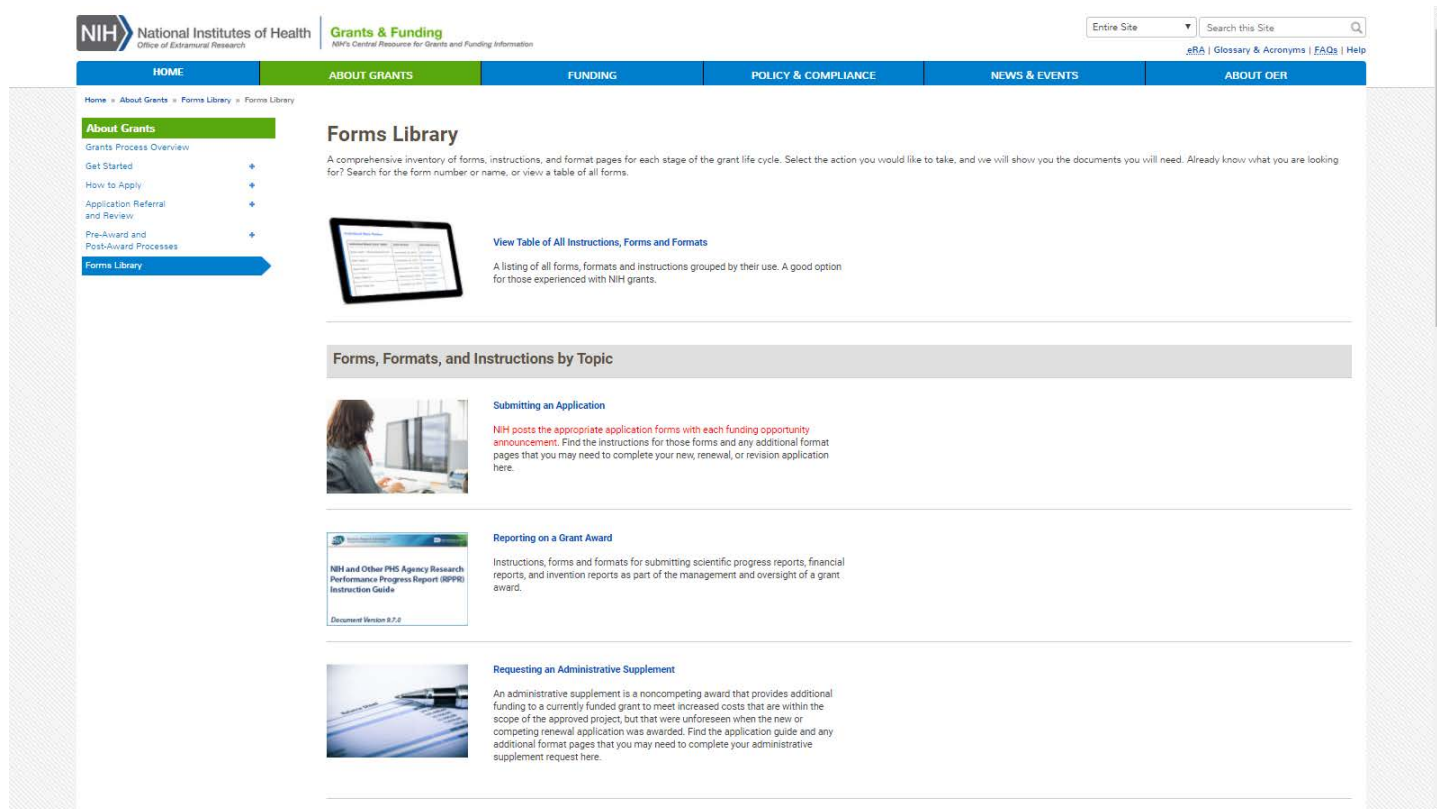
NIH Peer Review Process

To gain a better understanding of the NIH peer review process, spend some time on the agency's Peer Review Policies and Practices web page. In the right-hand column of this page, select "Rosters of NIH Scientific Review Groups" to view and assess standing review committees applicable to your projects. You may then request a particular NIH institute and/or study section by using the Assignment Request Form in the application packet. For more details, visit the NIH Scientific Review Group Roster Index web page at https://public.era.nih.gov/pubroster/. Rosters also provide names and affiliations of current Scientific Review Group members. A good overview of the entire dual-level application review process used by NIH is provided by the Office of Extramural Research at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer-review.htm.

Funding Opportunities and Deadlines

NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts

https://grants.nih.gov/searchguide/

The NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts contains official NIH announcements – requests for applications, program announcements, requests for proposals, and agency policy notices are all released through the *NIH Guide* on a daily basis (see Figure 6). You may browse or search the *Guide* on-line using the search tools on the left side of the screen. NIH also offers a subscription service which provides the *NIH Guide* Table of Contents each Friday via e-mail; see https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv_dev.htm for sign-up instructions.

Figure 6. NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts

NIH Standard Due Dates

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/due-dates.htm

Ever wonder about the application due dates for standard grant mechanisms at NIH? NIH provides a table outlining all such dates (see Figure 7). This table provides specific due dates for each grant mechanism as well as review dates and earliest start dates. The table is arranged by Activity Code (i.e., grant mechanism).

Figure 7. NIH Application Due Date Table Screenshot

Learning Resources

All about Grants Podcasts

https://grants.nih.gov/news/virtual-learning/podcasts.htm

NIH produces podcasts on specific grant-related topics, featuring NIH officials who provide their insights to new and established investigators. Recent podcast titles are "Using the PHS Assignment Request Form" and "NIH's Biosketch Requirements". These podcasts are downloadable as MP3 files.

NIH VideoCasting and PodCasting

https://videocast.nih.gov/

NIH, through their Center for Information Technology, offers a series of video resources of interest to researchers including guest lectures, symposia series, NIH-convened workshops on specific health issues, and NIH-sponsored conferences that have or will take place on the NIH Campus. Visitors to the website may view the schedule of upcoming events or peruse the list of past videocasts available on demand (see Figure 8). This vast videocast library is searchable by key concept. *(Note: While most events are available to the public, some are only accessible by NIH personnel.)*

Figure 8. Screen Shot of VideoCasting NIH Web Page

NIAID Grants and Contracts Resource
https://www.niaid.nih.gov/

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has developed a very helpful resource that takes you step-by-step from finding a funding opportunity to award close-out procedures. Click on the Grants and Contracts tab on the NIAID website to access this information, applicable to both new and established investigators. While specific to NIAID, the provided information points also apply to every NIH institute.

Knowing that reading sample grant applications is one of the best preparation tools for writing competitive applications, NIAID provides access to successful applications and accompanying summary statements for a variety of grant mechanisms including Research Project Grants (R01), Small Grants (R03) and Developmental/ Exploratory Research Grants (R21) (see Figure 9). They are available for download at https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications.

NIAID also offers Funding News, an e-publication providing the latest information about NIAID funding opportunities, frequently asked questions, and policy details; see https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/funding-news-notices and sign up to receive the newsletter via e-mail.

Figure 9. NIAID Sample Applications Web Page

Identifying NIH Funding Trends

Spending by Category

https://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx

This multi-year table (see Figure 10), "Estimates of Funding for Various Research, Condition and Disease Categories (RCDC)", provides an overall view of funding by research area, health condition, and disease category; and originated as a request by Congress for an aid to understand how NIH dollars are spent. In addition to dollars spent across fiscal years, NIH recently added mortality and prevalence data to provide a more complete picture of how NIH research priorities meet public health needs. Researchers can use this table to gain a broad view of spending priorities at NIH over several years, a good starting point for researchers seeking insights about what areas NIH is funding.

Figure 10. Estimates of Funding – RCDC

NIH Data Available Using RePORT

https://report.nih.gov/index.aspx

A variety of reports on the NIH grants enterprise are available through the Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT) website (see Figure 11). Types of information provided include NIH success rates; funding facts for institutes, divisions, and related programs; awards by location and specific organization; and categorical spending analyses by fiscal year (which allows you to view spending by key concept or disease state). These data will prove invaluable when you are making decisions about which NIH component to target with your latest proposed project.

Figure 11. Screen Shot of NIH RePORT

NIH RePORTER

https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm

One of the tools on the NIH RePORT website is a searchable database of NIH awards called **NIH RePORT Expenditures and Results (RePORTER)**. The RePORTER Database is updated weekly, and provides summary information on all NIH-supported projects over the past 25 fiscal years. (Other federal agencies represented in RePORTER include Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Food and Drug Administration, and US Department of Veterans Affairs.) Summary details provided include abstracts, award amounts, publications, and patents associated with particular awards. Using the RePORTER Query Form (see Figure 12), you may search on keyword, principal investigator name, project title, funding institute, recipient organization, funding mechanism, study section, program officer, and many other parameters. This information will prove useful when identifying potential collaborators or selecting appropriate institutes, study sections, or funding announcements for your proposed project. A relatively new feature is Matchmaker – you input text (e.g., an abstract); then based on your input, Matchmaker generates a list of up to 100 similar projects from the RePORTER Database. To see information specific to the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, the easiest way is to input our DUNS number – 041096314 – in the appropriate box.

Figure 12. Screen Shot of RePORTER Query Form

ORDE IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU

Lynette Michael, Director
Telephone: 303-315-5822
Email: lynette.michael@ucdenver.edu

Naomi Nishi, Associate Director
Telephone: 303-315-5825
E-mail: naomi.nishi@ucdenver.edu

ORDE Website: http://ucdenver.edu/orde

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