

A GLOSSARY OF NIH TERMS

Application: A formal request for support of a specific project or activity.

Award: A project or activity to which funds have been obligated.

Biomedical Research and Development Price Index (BRDPI): The BRDPI (pronounced “birdpie”) is developed annually for the NIH to measure changes in the prices of items and services for its sponsored research and development activities.

Center for Scientific Review (CSR): The component of the NIH that provides central receipt of all PHS applications for research and training support, and makes initial referral to PHS components. The CSR also provides scientific review of most NIH research grant applications.

Competing Continuation: Sometimes called a “competing renewal,” a competing continuation is an application for continued support of a project. It requires competitive peer review and institute/center action to continue to receive funding beyond its current grant period.

Direct Costs: The budgetary component of an award consisting of personnel, supplies, itemized equipment, travel, and other expenses necessary to carry out a research project. (See facilities and administrative costs, total cost)

Extramural (Award, Grant): Funds provided by the National Institutes of Health to organizations outside of the NIH, such as universities, teaching hospitals and independent research institutions.

Facilities & Administrative Costs: Formerly known as “indirect costs,” the budgetary component of an award provided to help defray costs of institutional overhead and grant administration. The amount of facilities and administrative costs awarded is usually derived from the “facilities and administrative cost rate,” a pre-negotiated percentage of the direct costs of an award. Not all research grant mechanisms are eligible for facilities and administrative cost reimbursement. (See direct cost, total cost.)

General Clinical Research Centers (GCRC): NIH program established in 1960 to create and sustain specialized institutional resources in which clinical investigators can observe and study human physiology and disease, and develop innovative approaches of therapy. Centers operate as discrete, multi-departmental, multi-categorical resources where scientists from many departments complement their laboratory studies with carefully controlled clinical investigations and analyses.

Initial Review Group (IRG): A cluster of study sections responsible for the review of grant applications in scientifically related areas. These study sections share common intellectual and human resources.

Institutional Review Board (IRB): An administrative body established to protect the rights and welfare of human research subjects recruited to participate in research activities conducted under the auspices of the institution with which it is affiliated. The IRB has the authority to approve, require modifications in, or disapprove all research activities that fall within its jurisdiction as specified by both the federal regulations and local institutional policy. [Research that has been reviewed and approved by an IRB may be subject to review and disapproval by officials of the institution.]

Intramural program: Research conducted by employees of the NIH, generally on its campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

K Awards: A variety of grant mechanisms that provide researchers with expertise in a new research area with the goal of enhancing their scientific productivity and career development.

MERIT Award (R37): Method to Extend Research in Time Award. Grants designed to provide long-term support to investigators whose research competence and productivity are distinctly superior and who are likely to continue to perform in an outstanding manner. Candidates are identified during the normal grant review process.

National Institutes of Health Clinical Center: The central clinical research facility of the NIH intramural program. The Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center opened in 1953 in Bethesda, Maryland and is a 2.5

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million square foot facility with 24 inpatient care units, 267 beds, and 15 outpatient clinics with adjacent laboratories, including a major Clinical Pathology Department. The Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Center, an 870,000 square foot, 242-bed facility, opened in September 2004.

National Research Service Award (NRSA): Awards either to individuals or institutions to provide research training.

New (Application, Award, Grant): Refers to an application that has not received prior funding.

Non Competing Continuation: A year of continued support for an existing grant that has been funded previously for a specified time. Applications for this continued support do not undergo peer review, but are administratively reviewed and are funded based on a prior award commitment.

Percentile Rank: The percentage of reviewed applications with priority scores equal to or better than the particular application under review. Percentile rank is usually based on all the applications reviewed within a given study section in three consecutive meetings.

Principal Investigator (PI): The grant applicant who is responsible for the scientific and technical direction of a project and in whose name the grant application is submitted.

Priority Score: The score assigned an application by an initial review group (study section). The score is a quantitative indicator of scientific and technical merit that ranges from 1.00 (of highest merit) to 5.00 (of lowest merit).

R01: An activity code assigned by the NIH to identify the traditional, investigator-initiated research project award. The award is intended to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project.

Renewal: See Competing Continuation.

Research Centers: Research center grants support multi disciplinary, long-term research and development

programs at research centers, usually associated with outside institutions. Research centers usually have a clinical orientation.

Research Project Grants (RPG): Primarily investigator-initiated, scientific research grants. Such grants may be assigned a variety of activity codes, such as R01, P01, etc.

SBIR Awards: Small Business Innovative Research Award. A grant program for small businesses designed to support projects that may have commercial viability.

Study Section: A panel of experts established according to scientific disciplines or current research areas for the primary purpose of evaluating the scientific and technical merit of grant applications. Also called scientific review groups (SRGs).

Success Rate: The percentage of reviewed applications that receive funding. It is computed by dividing the number of competing applications funded by the sum of applications reviewed and applications eliminated during triage. Applications that have one or more amendments in the same fiscal year are counted only once in the success rate computation.

Supplemental: A request for additional funds, either for the current operating year or for any future year when funding had previously been committed, usually for an expansion of the project's scope or to meet unforeseen costs.

Total Costs: The sum of the direct costs and the facilities and administrative costs of the research.

Training: Training awards support the research training of scientists for careers in the behavioral and biomedical sciences. Training awards consist of institutional training grants and individual fellowships.

Triage: The process of eliminating from further review those submitted applications judged to be of noncompetitive quality.

Sources: A variety of NIH Center for Scientific Review publications and the PHS Grants Policy Statement.