



National Institute  
■ ♦ ★ \* on Aging

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# NIH Grant Review

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Department of Health and Human Services

# **NIH Grant Review**

- **Receipt and Referral**
- **Scientific Review**
- **Summary Statement**
- **Resubmission**
- **Award**
- **Reporting**

# Receipt and Referral

- **The Center for Scientific Review (CSR)**
  - Receives the proposal and records the receipt
  - Refers your grant to an institute and
  - Assigns your grant to a study section
- **This information is on the eRA Commons**
  - You have access to this information because your institution registered you with the eRA Commons

# Receipt and Referral

- **The eRA commons will show you**
  - **The grant number**
  - **The institute assignment**
    - **There will be a program officer (possibly temporary)**
  - **The study section assignment**
    - **There will be a scientific review administrator (possibly temporary)**
  - **Council date**

# Your Grant Application Number

**1 R01 GM098765-01A1**

## **TYPE**

**1 – new**

**2 – competing continuation**

**3 – supplement**

**4 – extension**

**5 – noncompeting continuation**

**7 – change of institution**

# Your Grant Application Number

**1 R01 GM098765-01A1**

**Activity**

**R01**

**R21**

**P01**

**K01**

# Your Grant Application Number

**1 R01 GM098765-01A1**

**Administering Organization  
(Institute or Center)**

**GM – NIGMS**

**DK – NIDDK**

**AG – NIA**

**HL – NHLBI**

### In the News

#### Autism Discovery



[Gene linked to autism in families with more than one affected child](#)

#### New AMD Study



[Effect of antioxidants and fish oil on age-related macular degeneration](#)

- [More Press Releases](#)
- [eColumn: NIH Research Matters](#)

### Medical Research Issues

- [Genetic Information Repository](#)
- [Research Results for the Public](#)
- [NIH Roadmap](#)
- [Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives](#)
- [Stem Cell Information](#)

### Health Information

A-Z index of NIH health resources, clinical trials, MedlinePlus, health hotlines

### Grants & Funding Opportunities

Grants news, applications, grants policy, NIH Guide, award data, eRA Commons, research training, research contracts, loan repayment programs, Small Business Research Programs

### News & Events

News releases, press room, RSS, Podcasts, calendars, radio & video, media contacts, *News in Health* newsletter, *NIH Research Matters* eColumn

### Research Training & Scientific Resources at NIH

Intramural research, Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry, scientific interest groups, library catalogs, journals, training, labs, scientific computing

### Institutes, Centers & Offices

The individual organizations that make up the NIH

### About NIH

Visitor info, employee directory, jobs, science education, mission, Director's Page, public involvement, research planning, organization, budget, history, doing business with

### Q&A About NIH



### Jobs at NIH



### Visitor Information



- [Employee Information](#)
- [Información en español](#)

### Featured this week

**The Sister Study:**  
*Discovering the Causes of Breast Cancer*

**NIH Radio**

Now Podcasting

# Your Grant Application Number

**1 R01 GM098765-01A1**

**Serial Number  
Starting from “1”  
for many institutes**

# Your Grant Application Number

**1 R01 GM098765-01A1**

**Year of the award  
(if an award will be made)**

# Your Grant Application Number

**1 R01 GM098765-01A1**

## **Suffix**

**A = amended**

**A1 = first amended**

**A2 = second amended**

**S = supplement**

# Your Grant Application Number

**1 R01 GM098765-01A1**

**Use this number when you refer to the grant,  
especially for citations when you publish work  
funded by this proposal.**

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# Program Officer

- **A Health Scientist Administrator responsible for a portfolio of grant applications and awards.**
- **An official of the executive branch of government responsible for oversight of awards (reads your progress reports and compliance with NIH rules and regulations for research – does NOT visit your lab to monitor your research).**
- **Someone who offers advice about navigating the application process.**
- **Participates in setting research priorities at the NIH.**

# The Institute

- **The Institute (or Center) is responsible for paying the award when appropriate to do so.**
- **The Institutes function autonomously, but with oversight from the NIH Director's office.**
  - **Set priorities for research**
  - **Set funding levels**
  - **Set business practices (e.g., allocate funds for training awards)**
  - **Review some proposals within the institute**

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# Scientific Review Administrator

- **The SRA has administrative responsibility for the review of your proposal.**
- **Reads the proposal and identifies the reviewers with expertise and experience.**
- **Convenes the study section.**
- **Your contact from the time of receipt until the time the summary statement has been released.**
- **Collates the review into a summary statement (posted on the eRA Commons).**

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# The Study Section

- **Members (reviewers) are scientists whose charge is to identify the best proposals for research among the submitted proposals.**
  - The group that will review your proposal in comparison to others'
- **Composed of the SRA, an assistant, and review panel members**
  - Will have expertise in the area of your proposal
- **Votes priority scores for grants**
  - Relative scientific merit
- **The Program Officer is present or listens by conference phone to the reviews.**
  - A program officer's notes on the discussion can provide additional insight about the review.

# The Study Section

- **Grants are divided in two groups**
  - **Scored (outstanding and excellent proposals; the upper 40 – 50% of all applications)**
  - **Unscored – were given preliminary scores by three reviewers but these scores would put the applications in the lower 50 to 60 percent of applications.**
- **The unscored proposals are identified at the start of the study section and are not “discussed” unless a study section member asks for discussion.**
- **Those proposals that are discussed receive priority scores and percentile rankings.**

# The Review Process

- Panel members with conflicts leave the room.
- The reviewers state their scores. The chair asks for discussion.
- The Primary Reviewer presents a synopsis of the aims.
- The primary reviewer states the strengths and weaknesses that led to the score.
- The secondary reviewer and the reader state their concurrence or disagreement, indicating additional strengths and weaknesses.
- During the discussion these reviewers and other panel members might challenge specific points raised by each reviewer or discussant.

# The Review Process

- **Human subject and vertebrate animal concerns are raised (if appropriate)**
- **The scores are restated and the panel members record their scores**
  - **Voting significantly outside the range of the reviewers requires a written explanation from that member.**
- **The budget is discussed only if any of the three reviewers feels there is an issue**
  - **To make a reduction in the budget, the reviewers must be unanimous.**
  - **A majority of the panel must concur.**
  - **The applicant and program officer are notified of this decision (in the summary statement)**

# The Review Process

- **The reviewers revise their critiques according to any changes needed, based on the discussion.**
- **The SRA is responsible for a summary of the discussion to be included in the summary statement.**
- **The SRA calculates the average priority score and the percentile.**
  - **These may be released (posted on the eRA Commons) before the summary statements.**

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# Summary Statement

- **The Summary Statement informs the applicant of the expert opinions of the reviewers, irrespective of whether the application was discussed.**
  - Critiques of unscored applications are often less extensive than those that have been discussed.
- **The summary statements are compiled from the critiques of each reviewer and the summary of the discussion, along with any administrative notes, the priority score and the percentile (the last is key).**
- **The summary statement becomes available to the reviewer and the program officer when it is posted on the eRA Commons website.**

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**SUMMARY STATEMENT**  
( Privileged Communication )

Release Date: 03/16/2006

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NAME OF APPLICANT (PI) Application Number: 1 R01 AG000001-01  
NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE APPLICANT INSTITUTION

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*Review Group: NNN*

*Meeting Date: 02/27/2006*

*Council: MAY 2006*

*Requested Start: 07/01/2006*

*PCC: 1BCARRK*

*Dual PCC: HHHAIN*

*Dual IC(s): HL, DK*

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*Project Title: The Study of Something Really Important*

*SRG Action: Priority Score: 226      Percentile: 35.7*

*Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved*

*Animal Subjects: 10-No live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.*

Project Year 1	Direct Costs Requested 250,000	Estimated Total Cost 477,500
2	250,000	477,500
3	250,000	477,500
4	250,000	477,500
5	250,000	477,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>2,387,500</b>

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**ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET NOTE:** The budget shown is the requested budget and has not been adjusted to reflect any recommendations made by reviewers. If an award is planned, the costs will be calculated by Institute grants management staff based on the recommendations outlined below in the COMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS section.

**ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE**

# **Summary Statement – The Critiques**

- **The critiques tell you how your application was examined, in detail**
- **These are your guide to future decisions**
  - **Resubmit or change course**

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# Resubmit the Application

- **Make a list of the strengths and weaknesses, identifying the key weaknesses (see the summary)**
  - Check with colleagues and your program officer to gauge whether you have the key points and what you might need to do.
- **Decide what you can do to respond**
  - Rewrite
  - New experiments
  - Change focus (modify, add or drop a specific aim)

# Resubmit the Application

- **Make the revisions**
  - **HAVE THE REVISIONS CHECKED**
- **Write your response to the reviewers**
  - **HAVE THE RESPONSE CHECKED**
    - For substance
    - For tone (do NOT take a hostile tone)
- **Always keep in mind**
  - **No debates with the reviewers**
    - You don't have to "cave in" but you have to be focused on improving the proposal
  - **Debates are for publications and talks**

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# Awards

- **The ONLY official act giving the award is the Notice of Grant Award (NGA)**
  - The Program Officer might tell you what past practice has been for funding by that institution for grants with your percentile, but that is unofficial.
- **This NGA is issued by a Grants Management Officer or Specialist in the Institute's or Center's Grants Management Office**
- **The NGA goes to the applicant institution**
  - Your institution (your employer) has the ability to disperse funds, pay taxes, run a loading dock, provide essential services (lights, water...) etc.
- **The NGA states the amount, the start date, the duration and any restrictions on the award.**
  - These numbers might as well be carved in stone.

# Awards

- **Prior to the award you will see a request for Just in Time (JIT) documents.**
  - Clear up any administrative concerns
  - IACUC or IRB approval
  - Current Support (Federal and Private)
- **This will be on the eRA Commons site**
- **The request comes from the Grants Management Office**
- **The response goes to the Grants Management Office**
- **ALL correspondance that is official MUST BE countersigned by a signing official of your institution**
  - This is often the same person who signed your application on behalf of the institution

# Awards

- **The Budget (almost always less than you requested)**
  - The direct costs are what you determined/requested
  - The indirect costs are negotiated between your institution and the institute (usually involves lawyers and accountants)
- **Adjustments MUST be made before the NGA is issued**
  - Institutes make across the board cuts
  - A cut of > 25% in the budget requires an adjustment of the specific aims.
- **Adjustments can be negotiated between you and the program officer, but they require official correspondance from your institution (countersigned by an official).**

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# Your Grant

- Once the award is made, it is “use it or lose it”
  - Do the work
  - Publish the work
    - ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GRANT
  - Write reviews
  - Go to meetings
  - Submit your progress reports (yearly)
  - Renew the grant