

Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)

National Institutes of Health ([NIH \(http://www.nih.gov\)](http://www.nih.gov))

Components of Participating Organizations

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases ([NIAID \(https://www.niaid.nih.gov/\)](https://www.niaid.nih.gov/))

Office of AIDS Research ([OAR \(https://www.oar.nih.gov/\)](https://www.oar.nih.gov/))

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute ([NHLBI \(https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/\)](https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/))

National Institute on Aging ([NIA \(https://www.nia.nih.gov/\)](https://www.nia.nih.gov/))

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism ([NIAAA \(https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/\)](https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases ([NIAMS \(https://www.niams.nih.gov/\)](https://www.niams.nih.gov/))

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development ([NICHD \(https://www.nichd.nih.gov/\)](https://www.nichd.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research ([NIDCR \(https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/\)](https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/))

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases ([NIDDK \(https://www.niddk.nih.gov/\)](https://www.niddk.nih.gov/))

National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA \(https://www.drugabuse.gov/\)](https://www.drugabuse.gov/))

National Institute of Mental Health ([NIMH \(https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml\)](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml))

National Institute of Nursing Research ([NINR \(https://www.ninr.nih.gov/\)](https://www.ninr.nih.gov/))

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities ([NIMHD \(https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/\)](https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/))

National Library of Medicine ([NLM \(https://www.nlm.nih.gov/\)](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/))

National Cancer Institute ([NCI \(https://www.cancer.gov/\)](https://www.cancer.gov/))

All applications to this funding opportunity announcement should fall within the mission of the Institutes/Centers. The following NIH Offices may co-fund applications assigned to those Institutes/Centers.

Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Disease Prevention ([ODP \(https://prevention.nih.gov/\)](https://prevention.nih.gov/))

Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research ([OBSSR \(https://obssr.od.nih.gov/\)](https://obssr.od.nih.gov/))

Office of Research on Women's Health ([ORWH \(https://orwh.od.nih.gov/\)](https://orwh.od.nih.gov/))

Funding Opportunity Title

Implementation Science to Advance HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional)

Activity Code

[R61 \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm?text_curr=r61&Search.x=0&Search.y=0&Search_Type=Activity\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm?text_curr=r61&Search.x=0&Search.y=0&Search_Type=Activity)/R33

[/R33 \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm?text_curr=r33&Search.x=0&Search.y=0&Search_Type=Activity\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm?text_curr=r33&Search.x=0&Search.y=0&Search_Type=Activity) Exploratory/Developmental Phased Award

Announcement Type

New

Related Notices

- Check for any recent [Notices of NIH Policy Changes \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.php?id=11163\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.php?id=11163) that may impact application requirements.
- October 6, 2026** - Notice of Informational Webinar for RFA-AI-27-018, Implementation Science to Advance HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional). See Notice [NOT-AI-26-004 \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-26-004.html\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-26-004.html)

Funding Opportunity Number (FON)

RFA-AI-27-018

Companion Funding Opportunity

None

Number of Applications

See Part 2, Section III. 3. Additional Information on Eligibility.

Assistance Listing Number(s)

Funding Opportunity Purpose

The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to support implementation research on strategies to improve the uptake, implementation, sustainment, scale and/or spread of evidence-based prevention, treatment, and care interventions in communities in the U.S. significantly impacted by HIV. Projects should be large in scale with high potential for research and public health impact. Specifically, large single site studies, multi-site studies, and comparative studies are encouraged as scientifically appropriate.

Funding Opportunity Goal(s)

NIH's 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.

Key Dates

Posted Date

October 06, 2026

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)

October 10, 2026

Application Due Dates			Review and Award Cycles		
New	Renewal / Resubmission / Revision (as allowed)	AIDS - New/Renewal/Resubmission/Revision, as allowed	Scientific Merit Review	Advisory Council Review	Earliest Start Date
November 10, 2026	November 10, 2026	Not Applicable	March 2027	May 2027	July 2027
June 21, 2027	June 21, 2027	Not Applicable	November 2027	January 2028	March 2028
October 20, 2027	October 20, 2027	Not Applicable	March 2028	May 2028	July 2028
June 20, 2028	June 20, 2028	Not Applicable	November 2028	January 2029	March 2029
October 20, 2028	October 20, 2028	Not Applicable	March 2029	May 2029	July 2029
June 20, 2029	June 20, 2029	Not Applicable	November 2029	January 2030	March 2030

All applications are due by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Due Dates for E.O. 12372

Not Applicable

Expiration Date

June 21, 2029

Required Application Instructions

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in the Research (R) Instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400), except where instructed to do otherwise (in this NOFO or in a Notice from [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11164\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11164)).

Conformance to all requirements (both in the Application Guide and the NOFO) is required and strictly enforced. Applicants must read and follow all application instructions in the Application Guide as well as any program-specific instructions noted in Section IV. When the program-specific instructions deviate from those in the Application Guide, follow the program-specific instructions.

Applications that do not comply with these instructions may be delayed or not accepted for review.

There are several options available to submit your application through Grants.gov to NIH and Department of Health and Human Services partners. You **must** use one of these submission options to access the application forms for this opportunity.

1. Use the [NIH ASSIST system \(https://public.era.nih.gov/assist/landing.era?tabId=0819b5fc-46b7-4f02-b6b7-127e5a4e19fa\)](https://public.era.nih.gov/assist/landing.era?tabId=0819b5fc-46b7-4f02-b6b7-127e5a4e19fa) to prepare, submit and track your application online.
2. Use an institutional system-to-system (S2S) solution to prepare and submit your application to Grants.gov and [eRA Commons \(https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/\)](https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/) to track your application. Check with your institutional officials regarding availability.
3. Use [Grants.gov \(https://grants.gov/search-grants?oppStatuses=closed|archived|posted|forecasted&fon=PA-25-301\)](https://grants.gov/search-grants?oppStatuses=closed|archived|posted|forecasted&fon=PA-25-301) Workspace to prepare and submit your application and [eRA Commons \(http://public.era.nih.gov/commons/\)](http://public.era.nih.gov/commons/) to track your application.

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Part 2. Full Text of Announcement

Section I. Notice of Funding Opportunity Description

Background

Highly-effective evidence-based interventions (EBIs) are available for HIV prevention, treatment, and care, including new long-acting formulations that could crucially impact the HIV epidemic.

Innovative and impactful approaches are needed to optimize the implementation of EBIs in real-world settings, and to expand their use across large healthcare delivery networks. Implementation science is a rigorous approach for developing strategies that facilitate EBIs' regular use in clinical and community settings, and for evaluating the impact of these strategies on service delivery. These strategies include methods or actions taken to enhance an EBIs' adoption, reach, integration, and sustainment. This type of research includes the assessment of implementation outcomes as well as dual assessments of effectiveness and implementation outcomes (*i.e.*, hybrid designs). This differs from efficacy or effectiveness research which solely focuses on whether EBIs are effective at improving health outcomes. Conducting research across many locations and different settings informs what works in a variety of real-world situations. This makes it easier to apply those lessons more broadly and support nationwide improvements. Better methods for scaling up and sustaining programs help ensure that evidence-based interventions (EBIs) are adapted to fit local needs, built into everyday practice, and continue to work well over time.

Research Objectives

This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) utilizes a phased award (R61/R33) consisting of a study start-up and planning (R61) phase with possible transition to an implementation (R33) phase. The NOFO solicits applications that focus on U.S. populations facing significantly higher HIV burden, and that propose innovative, large-scale approaches with high potential for research and public health impact, for example:

- Evaluating a selected implementation strategy/strategies across multiple locations, healthcare delivery settings, or other contexts to develop generalizable knowledge about factors contributing to differences in health and implementation outcomes.
- Comparing two or more implementation strategies - to assess how different approaches to implementing EBIs impact outcomes, and to gain insight into which strategies are most effective and cost-effective for different contexts.
- Developing and testing novel strategies at a single site with a broad, 'whole community' approach that engages a breadth of stakeholders.
- Assessing strategies to support scale up and sustainment to advance EBI implementation across large-scale delivery systems

Hybrid Type II or III implementation-effectiveness research designs or full implementation trials accelerate our understanding of how to implement EBIs in real-world settings. Other research approaches, including pragmatic designs and research to advance novel implementation science methodologies may also support the NOFO goals of advancing significant public health and research outcomes.

Multidisciplinary Team Approach-- Partnerships between academic institutions and implementing organizations in the conceptualization, design, and execution of the research will be critical for success, with early integration of implementing partners in the study's leadership team likely to have the highest impact on local public health needs.

Developing a community of practice--Resources and support will be available for funded researchers to form a community of practice for reciprocal learning. Available resources may include (1) an NIH-funded data coordination center (DCC) to assist in harmonizing data collection plans, assessing project characteristics and outcomes, and developing and disseminating shared findings (2) consultation resources for training and technical assistance in implementation science.

Research areas of interest

Examples of specific research areas of interest include (but are not limited to):

Strategies to support the introduction and expansion of novel HIV prevention, treatment, and care tools:

- Advancing innovations such as next-generation antiretroviral therapy (ART) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) formulations, self-testing technologies, or novel data science approaches for public health surveillance and response
- Technology-enabled solutions for healthcare providers such as nurses, pharmacists, dentists, registered dietitians, clinical case workers, and peer navigators
- Expanding access to novel EBIs beyond traditional healthcare settings

Strategies to promote integrated prevention, treatment, and care across the lifespan:

- Advancing tailored care for infants, children, adolescents, young adults, women of reproductive age, and middle-aged and older adults
- Developing care coordination or integrated service delivery models to address HIV alongside a broad range of co-morbidities and co-infections, with the goal of enhancing whole-person health. Relevant co-occurring conditions include but are not limited to: cardiovascular disease, anemia, pulmonary disease, sleep disorders, cancer, metabolic diseases, liver and kidney diseases, HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders, musculoskeletal disorders, oral diseases, skin conditions, hepatitis, and sexually-transmitted infections

Strategies to address data-defined factors impacting HIV prevention and treatment outcomes:

- Addressing behavioral factors such as mental health conditions, tobacco, drug and alcohol use disorders, or intimate partner violence (among others) that impact people with or affected by HIV
- Advancing multi-level approaches to address defined and measurable contextual factors that impact HIV prevention, treatment and care outcomes that can be influenced by the healthcare system

Applications proposing the following research will be considered non-responsive and will not be reviewed:

- Research that is not focused on U.S. populations.
- Studies that are not grounded in implementation science and do not specify implementation science theories, models, or frameworks and how they guide the proposed work.
- Applications that do not include preliminary data from formative work or pilot studies that inform the strategies to be tested.
- Small-scale, pilot, or developmental studies, and applications focused only on understanding barriers and facilitators to implementation.
- Research that does not specify how people or communities affected by HIV will be meaningfully engaged.
- Projects to develop de novo health interventions with a primary aim of testing efficacy.
- Research focused on identifying and characterizing drivers of health outcomes without implementing interventions.

- Research focused only on surveillance to identify people with HIV who are sub-optimally engaged in existing HIV treatment programs.
- Drug or device safety trials with registrational requirements to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Research that has a primary audience of policymakers at the Federal, state, or local levels, as their actions do not directly advance biomedical science.
- Research that is not actionable by researchers, clinicians, and patients to improve health.
- Research that is not derived via methods appropriate to the research question.

Investigators are encouraged to consult with NIH staff (Scientific/Research Contact(s) in Section VII.) before submitting their application.

Webinar

NIH intends to lead a web-based pre-application webinar for applicants. Information on how to attend the optional webinar will be published through a Notice.

Investigators proposing NIH-defined clinical trials may refer to the [Research Methods Resources \(https://researchmethodsresources.nih.gov/\)](https://researchmethodsresources.nih.gov/) website for information about developing statistical methods and study designs.

See Section VIII. Other Information for award authorities and regulations.

Section II. Award Information

Funding Instrument

Grant: A financial assistance mechanism providing money, property, or both to an eligible entity to carry out an approved project or activity.

Application Types Allowed

New
Resubmission

The [OER Glossary \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11116\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11116) and the How to Apply Application Guide provide details on these application types. Only those application types listed here are allowed for this NOFO.

Clinical Trial?

Optional: Accepting applications that either propose or do not propose clinical trial(s).

[Need help determining whether you are doing a clinical trial? \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82370\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82370)

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards

The following NIH components intend to commit the following amounts in FY 2027:

- NIAID, \$20,000,000, 16-18 awards
- OAR, \$1,000,000, 1-3 awards
- NCI, \$750,000, 1-2 awards
- NHLBI, \$3,465,000, 3-4 awards
- NIA, \$1,000,000, 1-2 awards
- NIAAA, \$2,000,000, 1-2 awards
- NIAMS, \$1,000,000, 2-4 awards
- NICHD, \$3,000,000, 3-4 awards
- NIDCR, \$1,500,000, 1-2 awards
- NIDDK, \$2,000,000, 1-2 awards
- NIDA, \$2,000,000, 1-2 awards
- NIMH, \$7,000,000, 5-7 awards
- NINR, \$2,000,000, 1-2 awards
- NIMHD, \$2,500,000 2-3 awards
- NLM, \$750,000, 1-2 awards

Award Budget

Application budgets for the R61 phase are limited to \$750,000 direct costs per year, and must reflect the actual needs of the proposed activities.
Application budgets for the R33 phase are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project.

Award Project Period

The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. Applicants may request up to two years for the R61 phase and up to four years for the R33 phase. The maximum project period for an application submitted in response to this NOFO cannot exceed five years total.

NIH grants policies as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120) will apply to the applications submitted and awards made from this NOFO.

Section III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Organizations

Higher Education Institutions - Includes all types

- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education

Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education

- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)

For-Profit Organizations

- Small Businesses
- For-Profit Organizations (Other than Small Businesses)

Local Governments

- State Governments
- County Governments
- City or Township Governments
- Special District Governments
- Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Federally Recognized)
- Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Other than Federally Recognized).

Federal Governments

- Eligible Agencies of the Federal Government
- U.S. Territory or Possession

Other

- Independent School Districts
- Public Housing Authorities/Indian Housing Authorities
- Native American Tribal Organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Faith-based or Community-based Organizations
- Regional Organizations

Foreign Organizations/International Collaborations

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Organizations) **are not** eligible to apply.

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations **are not** eligible to apply.

Foreign components, as [defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11118\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11118), **are** allowed.

NIH will no longer issue awards (i.e., new, renewal, or non-competing continuation) to domestic or foreign entities that involve foreign subawards/subcontracts. All NIH-funded research involving foreign subawards/subcontracts must be submitted in response to a NOFO that is specifically designated for funded international collaborations. See [NIH Grants Policy Statement 16.8 Collaborative International Research Awards \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_16/16.8_collab_int_res_awards.htm\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_16/16.8_collab_int_res_awards.htm).

Applications involving foreign subawards/subcontracts submitted in response to this NOFO will be deemed noncompliant and will not be considered for funding. This policy applies to all monetary international collaborations resulting in foreign subawards/subcontracts, however, it does not preclude unfunded international collaborations or [foreign components \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_1/1.2_definition_of_terms.htm\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_1/1.2_definition_of_terms.htm), funding for foreign consultants, or procurement of unique equipment or supplies from foreign vendors.

Required Registrations

Applicant Organizations

Applicant organizations must complete and maintain the following registrations as described in the How to Apply- Application Guide to be eligible to apply for or receive an award. All registrations must be completed prior to the application being submitted. Registration can take 6 weeks or more, so applicants should begin the registration process as soon as possible. Failure to complete registrations in advance of a due date is not a valid reason for a late submission, please reference the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 2.3.9.2 Electronically Submitted Applications \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82423\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82423) for additional information.

- [System for Award Management \(SAM\) \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82390\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82390) – Applicants must complete and maintain an active registration, **which requires renewal at least annually**. The renewal process may require as much time as the initial registration. SAM registration includes the assignment of a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code for domestic organizations which have not already been assigned a CAGE Code. Foreign organizations must obtain a [NATO Commercial and Government Entity \(NCAGE\) Code \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11176\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11176) (in lieu of a CAGE code) in order to register in SAM.
 - Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)- A UEI is issued as part of the SAM.gov registration process. The same UEI must be used for all registrations, as well as on the grant application.
- [eRA Commons \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11123\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11123) - Once the unique organization identifier is established, organizations can register with eRA Commons in tandem with completing their Grants.gov registrations; all registrations must be in place by time of submission. eRA Commons requires organizations to identify at least one Signing Official (SO) and at least one Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) account in order to submit an application.
- [Grants.gov \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82300\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82300) – Applicants must have an active SAM registration in order to complete the Grants.gov registration.

Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PD(s)/PI(s))

All PD(s)/PI(s) must have an eRA Commons account. PD(s)/PI(s) should work with their organizational officials to either create a new account or to affiliate their existing account with the applicant organization in eRA Commons. Obtaining an eRA Commons account can take up to 2 weeks.

All PD(s)/PI(s) must be registered with [ORCID \(https://orcid.org/\)](https://orcid.org/). The personal profile associated with the PD(s)/PI(s) eRA Commons account must be linked to a valid ORCID ID. For more information on linking an ORCID ID to an eRA Commons personal profile see the [ORCID topic in our eRA Commons online help \(https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/Commons/default.htm#orcid.htm%3FTocPath%3D29\)](https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/Commons/default.htm#orcid.htm%3FTocPath%3D29).

Eligible Individuals (Program Director/Principal Investigator)

Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) is invited to work with their organization to develop an application for support.

For institutions/organizations proposing multiple PDs/PIs, visit the Multiple Program Director/Principal Investigator Policy and submission details in the Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Component of the How to Apply-Application Guide.

2. Cost Sharing

This NOFO does not require cost sharing as defined in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 1.2 Definition of Terms \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=11126\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=11126).

3. Additional Information on Eligibility

Number of Applications

Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.

The NIH will not accept duplicate or highly overlapping applications under review at the same time, per [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 2.3.7.4 Submission of Resubmission Application \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82415\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82415). This means that the NIH will not accept:

- A new (A0) application that is submitted before issuance of the summary statement from the review of an overlapping new (A0) or resubmission (A1) application.
- A resubmission (A1) application that is submitted before issuance of the summary statement from the review of the previous new (A0) application.
- An application that has substantial overlap with another application pending appeal of initial peer review (see [NIH Grants Policy Statement 2.3.9.4 Similar, Essentially Identical, or Identical Applications \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82423\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82423)).

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Requesting an Application Package

The application forms package specific to this opportunity must be accessed through ASSIST, Grants.gov Workspace or an institutional system-to-system solution. Links to apply using ASSIST or Grants.gov Workspace are available in Part 1 of this NOFO. See your administrative office for instructions if you plan to use an institutional system-to-system solution.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in the Research (R) Instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) except where instructed in this notice of funding opportunity to do otherwise (in this NOFO, in a [policy notice \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.php?id=11163\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.php?id=11163), or other notice from [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.php?id=11164\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.php?id=11164)). Conformance to the requirements in the Application Guide is required and strictly enforced. Applications that are out of compliance with these instructions may be delayed or not accepted for review.

Page Limitations

All page limitations described in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html) and the [Table of Page Limits \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=61134\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=61134) must be followed.

Instructions for Application Submission

The following section supplements the instructions found in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html) and should be used for preparing an application to this NOFO.

SF424(R&R) Cover

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

SF424(R&R) Project/Performance Site Locations

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

SF424(R&R) Other Project Information

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

SF424(R&R) Senior/Key Person Profile

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

R&R Budget

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

Include budget funds for travel to one two-day meeting of recipients per year, which will take place in the continental United States. PDs/PIs are expected to attend the meeting and may also budget for other key personnel to attend.

Include funds for participation of study team members in community of practice activities with other funded recipients (e.g. virtual meetings with other funded investigators; work on joint collaborative projects).

R&R Subaward Budget

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

PHS 398 Cover Page Supplement

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

PHS 398 Research Plan

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed, with the following additional instructions:

Introduction to Application: For Resubmission applications, an Introduction to Application is required.

Specific Aims: Provide the overall goals for the entire project. Specific Aims need not be separated by the R61 and R33 phases.

Research Strategy:

Given the integration of the R61 and R33 phases, only one research strategy section is needed. The R61 phase will support preparatory activities that would inform the full-scale development and testing of the implementation strategies through the R33 phase. Applicants must clearly delineate what will be accomplished in the R61 phase and R33 phase. As applicable, activities in the R61 phase could include solidifying collaboration with implementing partners; finalizing study site participation; refining strategies through additional pilot data and/or implementing partner input; obtaining and integrating existing data sets; conducting health needs assessment; and preparing materials required for conducting a clinical study and obtaining required approvals by relevant governing bodies. Note that the R61 phase should not be used for substantial formative work given the relatively brief nature. The R33

phase will support the proposed hybrid or implementation study. The Research Strategy for the R33 phase is expected to build upon the planning activities during the R61 phase, along with prior formative or pilot work. The implementation research study planned for the R33 phase of the application should be well-developed and described in enough detail for reviewers to evaluate the merit of this section of the application, based on anticipated results. The research strategy should include a description of the approach needed to accomplish the objectives for both the R61 and R33 phases, including the following:

- Describe how the proposed research builds on formative or pilot work to significantly advance the full-scale implementation or sustainment of EBIs with potential for large public health impact.
- Describe any implementation science theories, models, frameworks, and approaches that guide the proposed research, and include strong scientific justification for study design.
- Describe the implementation strategies to be tested in a large-scale hybrid or implementation study. Provide preliminary quantitative and/or qualitative data on the effectiveness and scalability of the proposed strategies. If applicable, describe how strategies will be further refined during the R61 phase prior to full-scale testing during the R33 phase.
- Describe composition of the research team highlighting relevant expertise including collaborators from both academic and implementing partner organizations.
- Include a well-developed, scientifically well-justified proposal for the hybrid or implementation study. Identify, describe, and explain the selection and use of validated measures. As applicable, justify the selection of the control or comparison condition.
- Describe all planned sites. Note that for a single-site study, the chosen study site must have agreed to participate in the research study, as documented in a letter of support. For multi-site research proposals, some sites may be finalized during the R61 phase, but desired characteristics of possible sites should be described.
- Describe how cost analysis (e.g. resources expended, implementation costing, cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness, return-on-investment, budget impact, or other economic outcomes related to dissemination and/or implementation) will be included in the study design.
- Describe plans for collaboration with implementing/community partners (e.g. public health departments, community-based organizations, health care organizations, social service agencies, etc.) during the project period, including plans for dissemination of research findings (e.g. via a playbook or toolkit).
- Describe plans to assess and promote sustainability of the interventions and strategies beyond the project period.
- Describe plans for engaging with an NIH-funded data coordination center on data harmonization and project coordination.
- Discuss how the project team could engage in a community of practice, identifying potential areas of shared learning or collaboration with other funded investigators.

Milestones and Timelines

The R61 to R33 transition is driven by the successful completion of milestones. Milestones are defined as a scheduled event in the project timeline that signifies completion of a major project stage/activity. Applicants must propose timelines with well-defined benchmarks for the entire project, i.e. both the R61 and R33 phases, within the research strategy. In addition, the application must include a section of proposed milestones for the R61 phase that are clearly specified, well-defined, scientifically justified, and include objective measurable criteria to allow for assessment of progress and success. The justification for the milestones and study targets should include the specific ways that reaching these targets will indicate readiness for the R33 implementation phase. The milestone plan should address anticipated challenges to meeting milestones and propose potential mitigation or corrective action strategies to address potential delays. Milestones may be refined and finalized in consultation with NIH Program Staff prior to award, if granted. Examples of milestones to transition to the R33 phase may include, but are not limited to:

- Fully finalized agreements from study sites including, as relevant, Memoranda of Understandings, letters of support, and data sharing agreements.
- Established commitments from all necessary implementing partners to participate in the research activities, and a plan agreed upon by all parties for how stakeholder/community input will be meaningfully incorporated throughout the research project.
- Finalized intervention and research protocols necessary to launch the R33 phase across all participating sites, including necessary regulatory approvals.
- Plans for recruitment of the proposed study population with clear demonstration that the necessary study population is available for appropriate testing of the implementation research strategy.
- Finalization of study-related documents, including consent/assent documents, Manual of Procedures, study procedure documents for practitioners, and study-specific data management plan, and approval by relevant governance bodies to safeguard data and protect participants.

Applications that do not include transition milestones will be deemed incomplete and will not be reviewed.

Letters of Support:

At least one collaborating implementing/community organization must provide letters of support for the proposed research program. For multi-site studies, investigators are encouraged to have some indication of support from all possible participating sites, which can be finalized during the R61 phase. Letters of support should articulate logistic and organizational responsibilities, as well as any commitments, including in-kind, signed by a business official on organizational letterhead.

Resource Sharing Plan: Individuals are required to comply with the instructions for the Resource Sharing Plans as provided in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400).

Other Plan(s):

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed, with the following additional instructions:

- A Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMS Plan) is required for any NIH-funded or conducted research that will generate scientific data. Applicants must submit the DMS Plan at the time of application using the [NIH DMS Plan Format Page \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/data-management-and-sharing-plan-format-page\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/data-management-and-sharing-plan-format-page). The DMS Plan must address the elements in the structured format. Where the DMS Plan Format Page requires a "Yes or No" response, no additional narrative is allowed.

Appendix: Only limited Appendix materials are allowed. Follow all instructions for the Appendix as described in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400).

- No publications or other material, with the exception of blank questionnaires or blank surveys, may be included in the Appendix.

PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information

When involving human subjects research, clinical research, and/or NIH-defined clinical trials (and when applicable, clinical trials research experience) follow all instructions for the PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information form in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400), with the following additional instructions:

If you answered "Yes" to the question "Are Human Subjects Involved?" on the R&R Other Project Information form, you must include at least one human subjects study record using the **Study Record: PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information** form or **Delayed Onset Study** record.

Study Record: PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information

All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

Delayed Onset Study

Note: [Delayed onset \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#DelayedOnsetStudy\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#DelayedOnsetStudy) does NOT apply to a study that can be described but will not start immediately (i.e., delayed start). All instructions in the [How to Apply - Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=82400) must be followed.

PHS Assignment Request Form

All instructions in the How to [Apply- Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400), must be followed.

3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

See Part 2. Section III.1 for information regarding the requirement for obtaining a unique entity identifier and for completing and maintaining active registrations in System for Award Management (SAM), NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) Code (if applicable), eRA Commons, and Grants.gov

4. Submission Dates and Times

Part I. contains information about Key Dates and times. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications before the due date to ensure they have time to make any application corrections that might be necessary for successful submission. When a submission date falls on a weekend or [Federal holiday \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82380\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82380), the application deadline is automatically extended to the next business day.

Organizations must submit applications to [Grants.gov \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11128\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11128) (the online portal to find and apply for grants across all Federal agencies). Applicants must then complete the submission process by tracking the status of the application in the [eRA Commons \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11123\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11123), NIH's electronic system for grants administration. NIH and Grants.gov systems check the application against many of the application instructions upon submission. Errors must be corrected and a changed/corrected application must be submitted to Grants.gov on or before the application due date and time. If a Changed/Corrected application is submitted after the deadline, the application will be considered late. Applications that miss the due date and time are subjected to the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 2.3.9.2 Electronically Submitted Applications \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82423\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82423).

Applicants are responsible for viewing their application before the due date in the eRA Commons to ensure accurate and successful submission.

Information on the submission process and a definition of on-time submission are provided in the [How to Apply-Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/how-to-apply-application-guide\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/how-to-apply-application-guide).

5. Intergovernmental Review (E.O. 12372)

This initiative is not subject to [intergovernmental review. \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_10/10.10.1_executive_orders.htm\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_10/10.10.1_executive_orders.htm)

6. Funding Restrictions

All NIH awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120).

Pre-award costs are allowable only as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 7.9.1 Selected Items of Cost. \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11143\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11143)

7. Other Submission Requirements and Information

Applications must be submitted electronically following the instructions described in the [How to Apply – Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400). Paper applications will not be accepted.

Applicants must complete all required registrations before the application due date. Section III. Eligibility Information contains information about registration.

For assistance with your electronic application or for more information on the electronic submission process, visit [How to Apply – Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400). If you encounter a system issue beyond your control that threatens your ability to complete the submission process on-time, you must follow the [Dealing with System Issues \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/dealing-with-system-issues.htm\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/dealing-with-system-issues.htm) guidance. For assistance with application submission, contact the Application Submission Contacts in Section VII.

Important reminders:

All PD(s)/PI(s) must include their eRA Commons ID in the Credential field of the Senior/Key Person Profile form. Failure to register in the Commons and to include a valid PD/PI Commons ID in the credential field will prevent the successful submission of an electronic application to NIH. See Section III of this NOFO for information on registration requirements.

The applicant organization must ensure that the unique entity identifier provided on the application is the same identifier used in the organization's profile in the eRA Commons and for the System for Award Management. Additional information may be found in the [How to Apply – Application Guide \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82400).

See [more tips \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11146\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11146) for avoiding common errors.

Upon receipt, applications will be evaluated for completeness and compliance with application instructions by the Center for Scientific Review and responsiveness by components of participating organizations, NIH. Applications that are incomplete, non-compliant and/or nonresponsive will not be reviewed.

Mandatory Disclosure

Recipients or subrecipients must submit any information related to violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. See Mandatory Disclosures, [2 CFR 200.113 \(https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-B/section-200.113\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-B/section-200.113) and [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 4.1.35 \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_4/4.1.35_mandatory_disclosures.htm\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_4/4.1.35_mandatory_disclosures.htm).

Send written disclosures to the NIH Chief Grants Management Officer listed on the Notice of Award for the IC that funded the award and to the [HHS Office of Inspector Grant Self Disclosure Program \(https://oig.hhs.gov/compliance/self-disclosure-info/hhs-oig-grant-self-disclosure-program/\)](https://oig.hhs.gov/compliance/self-disclosure-info/hhs-oig-grant-self-disclosure-program/) at [grantdisclosures@oig.hhs.gov \(mailto:grantdisclosures@oig.hhs.gov\)](mailto:grantdisclosures@oig.hhs.gov).

Post Submission Materials

Applicants are required to follow the instructions for post-submission materials, as described in [the policy \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82299\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82299)

Section V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. Applications submitted to the NIH in support of the [NIH mission \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11149\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11149) are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following scored review criteria and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed). An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have a major scientific impact.

Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will consider Factors 1, 2 and 3 in the determination of scientific merit, and in providing an overall impact score. In addition, Factors 1 and 2 will each receive a separate factor score.

Factor 1. Importance of the Research (Significance and Innovation)**Significance**

- Evaluate the importance of the proposed research in the context of current scientific challenges and opportunities, either for advancing knowledge within the field, or more broadly. Assess whether the application addresses an important gap in knowledge in the field, would solve a critical problem, or create a valuable conceptual or technical advance.
- Evaluate the rationale for undertaking the study, the rigor of the scientific background for the work (e.g., prior literature and/or preliminary data) and whether the scientific background justifies the proposed study.

Innovation

- Evaluate the extent to which innovation influences the importance of undertaking the proposed research. Note that while technical or conceptual innovation can influence the importance of the proposed research, a project that is not applying novel concepts or approaches may be of critical importance for the field.
- Evaluate whether the proposed work applies novel concepts, methods or technologies or uses existing concepts, methods, technologies in novel ways, to enhance the overall impact of the project.

Factor 2. Rigor and Feasibility (Approach)**Approach**

- Evaluate the scientific quality of the proposed work. Evaluate the likelihood that compelling, reproducible findings will result (rigor) and assess whether the proposed studies can be done well and within the timeframes proposed (feasibility).

Rigor:

- Evaluate the potential to produce unbiased, reproducible, robust data.
- Evaluate the rigor of experimental design and whether appropriate controls are in place.
- Evaluate whether the sample size is sufficient and well-justified.
- Assess the quality of the plans for analysis, interpretation, and reporting of results.
- Evaluate whether the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex or age, in the design, analysis, and reporting.
- For applications involving human subjects or vertebrate animals, also evaluate:
 - the rigor of the intervention or study manipulation (if applicable to the study design).
 - whether outcome variables are justified.
 - whether the results will be generalizable or, in the case of a rare disease/special group, relevant to the particular subgroup.
 - whether the study population appropriately models the target population.
- For applications involving human subjects, including clinical trials, assess the adequacy of inclusion plans as appropriate for the scientific goals of the research. Considerations of appropriateness may include disease/condition/behavior incidence, prevalence, or population burden, population representation, and/or current state of the science.

Feasibility:

- Evaluate whether the proposed approach is sound and achievable, including plans to address problems or new challenges that emerge in the work. For proposed studies in which feasibility may be less certain, evaluate whether the uncertainty is balanced by the potential for major advances.
- For applications involving human subjects, including clinical trials, evaluate the adequacy and feasibility of the plan to recruit and retain a study population that appropriately models the target population. Additionally, evaluate the likelihood of successfully achieving the proposed enrollment based on age, race, ethnicity, and sex.
- For clinical trial applications, evaluate whether the study timeline and milestones are feasible.

Specific to this NOFO:

- Evaluate whether the proposed timelines, benchmarks and milestones for the R61 and R33 phases are well-defined, scientifically justified, and include objective criteria to allow for assessment of progress and success.

Factor 3. Expertise and Resources (Investigator(s) and Environment)**Investigator(s)**

Evaluate whether the investigator(s) have demonstrated background, training, and expertise, as appropriate for their career stage, to conduct the proposed work. For Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) applications, assess the quality of the leadership plan to facilitate coordination and collaboration.

Environment

Evaluate whether the institutional resources are appropriate to ensure the successful execution of the proposed work.

Additional Review Criteria

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit, but will not give criterion scores for these items, and should consider them in providing an overall impact score.

Protections for Human Subjects

For research that involves human subjects but does not involve one of the categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, evaluate the justification for involvement of human subjects and the proposed protections from research risk relating to their participation according to the following five review criteria: 1) risk to subjects; 2) adequacy of protection against risks; 3) potential benefits to the subjects and others; 4) importance of the knowledge to be gained; and 5) data and safety monitoring for clinical trials.

For research that involves human subjects and meets the criteria for one or more of the categories of research that are exempt under 45 CFR Part 46, evaluate: 1) the justification for the exemption; 2) human subjects involvement and characteristics; and 3) sources of materials. For additional information on review of the Human Subjects section, please refer to the [Guidelines for the Review of Human Subjects \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11175\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11175).

Vertebrate Animals

When the proposed research includes Vertebrate Animals, evaluate the involvement of live vertebrate animals according to the following criteria: (1) description of proposed procedures involving animals, including species, strains, ages, sex, and total number to be used; (2) justifications for the use of animals versus alternative models and for the appropriateness of the species proposed; (3) interventions to minimize discomfort, distress, pain and injury; and (4) justification for euthanasia method if NOT consistent with the

AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. For additional information on review of the Vertebrate Animals section, please refer to the [Worksheet for Review of the Vertebrate Animals Section \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/redirect.htm?id=11150\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/redirect.htm?id=11150).

Biohazards

When the proposed research includes Biohazards, evaluate whether specific materials or procedures that will be used are significantly hazardous to research personnel and/or the environment, and whether adequate protection is proposed.

Resubmissions

As applicable, evaluate the full application as now presented.

Renewals

As applicable, evaluate the progress made in the last funding period.

Revisions

As applicable, evaluate the appropriateness of the proposed expansion of the scope of the project.

Additional Review Considerations

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items, and should not consider them in providing an overall impact score.

Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources

For projects involving key biological and/or chemical resources, evaluate the brief plans proposed for identifying and ensuring the validity of those resources.

Budget and Period of Support

Evaluate whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.

2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate Scientific Review Group(s), convened by CSR, in accordance with [NIH peer review policies and practices \(https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/peer-review\)](https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/peer-review), using the stated review criteria. Assignment to a Scientific Review Group will be shown in the eRA Commons.

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will receive a written critique.

Applications may undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit (generally the top half of applications under review) will be discussed and assigned an overall impact score.

[Requests for reconsideration of initial peer review \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_2/2.4.2_appeals_of_initial_scientific_review.htm\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_2/2.4.2_appeals_of_initial_scientific_review.htm) will not be accepted for applications submitted in response to this NOFO.

Applications will be assigned on the basis of established PHS referral guidelines to the appropriate NIH Institute or Center. Applications will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications submitted in response to this NOFO. Following initial peer review, recommended applications will receive a second level of review by the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council. The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review.
- Availability of funds.
- Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities.

If the application is under consideration for funding, NIH will request "just-in-time" information from the applicant as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 2.5.1. Just-in-Time Procedures \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/redirect.htm?id=82418\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/redirect.htm?id=82418). This request is not a Notice of Award nor should it be construed to be an indicator of possible funding.

Prior to making an award, NIH reviews an applicant's federal award history in SAM.gov to ensure sound business practices. An applicant can review and comment on any information in the Responsibility/Qualification records available in SAM.gov. NIH will consider any comments by the applicant in the Responsibility/Qualification records in SAM.gov to ascertain the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and performance record of managing Federal awards per 2 CFR Part 200.206 "Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants." This provision will apply to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements except fellowships.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

After the peer review of the application is completed, the PD/PI will be able to access his or her Summary Statement (written critique) via the [eRA Commons \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/redirect.htm?id=11123\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/redirect.htm?id=11123). Refer to Part 1 for dates for peer review, advisory council review, and earliest start date.

Information regarding the disposition of applications is available in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 2.4.4 Disposition of Applications \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/redirect.htm?id=82416\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/redirect.htm?id=82416).

Section VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

A Notice of Award (NoA) is the official authorizing document notifying the applicant that an award has been made and that funds may be requested from the designated HHS payment system or office. The NoA is signed by the Grants Management Officer and emailed to the recipient's business official.

In accepting the award, the recipient agrees that any activities under the award are subject to all provisions currently in effect or implemented during the period of the award, other Department regulations and policies in effect at the time of the award, and applicable statutory provisions.

Recipients must comply with any funding restrictions described in [Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions](#). Any pre-award costs incurred before receipt of the NoA are at the applicant's own risk. For more information on the Notice of Award, please refer to the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 5. The Notice of Award](#)

(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_5/5_the_notice_of_award.htm) and NIH Grants & Funding website, see [Award Process. \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/pre-award-process.htm#award\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/pre-award-process.htm#award)

Individual awards are based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the NIH and are subject to the IC-specific terms and conditions identified in the NoA.

ClinicalTrials.gov: If an award provides for one or more clinical trials. By law (Title VIII, Section 801 of Public Law 110-85), the "responsible party" must register and submit results information for certain "applicable clinical trials" on the ClinicalTrials.gov Protocol Registration and Results System Information Website (<https://register.clinicaltrials.gov> (<https://register.clinicaltrials.gov/>)). NIH expects registration and results reporting of all trials whether required under the law or not. For more information, see <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials/reporting/index.htm> (<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials/reporting/index.htm>).

Institutional Review Board or Independent Ethics Committee Approval: Recipient institutions must ensure that all protocols are reviewed by their IRB or IEC. To help ensure the safety of participants enrolled in NIH-funded studies, the recipient must provide NIH copies of documents related to all major changes in the status of ongoing protocols.

Data and Safety Monitoring Requirements: The NIH policy for data and safety monitoring requires oversight and monitoring of all NIH-conducted or -supported human biomedical and behavioral intervention studies (clinical trials) to ensure the safety of participants and the validity and integrity of the data. Further information concerning these requirements is found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/hs/data_safety.htm (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/hs/data_safety.htm) and in the application instructions (SF424 (R&R) and PHS 398).

Investigational New Drug or Investigational Device Exemption Requirements: Consistent with federal regulations, clinical research projects involving the use of investigational therapeutics, vaccines, or other medical interventions (including licensed products and devices for a purpose other than that for which they were licensed) in humans under a research protocol must be performed under a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigational new drug (IND) or investigational device exemption (IDE).

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The following Federal wide and HHS-specific policy requirements apply to awards funded through NIH:

- The rules listed at [2 CFR Part 200 \(https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.
- All NIH grant and cooperative agreement awards include the [NIH Grants Policy Statement \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120) as part of the terms and conditions in the Notice of Award (NoA). The NoA includes the requirements of this NOFO. For these terms of award, see the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Part II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards, Subpart A: General \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11120) and [Part II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards, Subpart B: Terms and Conditions for Specific Types of Grants, Recipients, and Activities \(http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11159\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=11159).

All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 4 Public Policy Requirements, Objectives and Other Appropriation Mandates. \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_4/4_public_policy_requirements_objectives_and_other_appropriation_mandates.htm\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_4/4_public_policy_requirements_objectives_and_other_appropriation_mandates.htm)

By applying for or accepting federal funds from HHS, recipients certify compliance with all federal antidiscrimination laws and these requirements and that complying with those laws is a material condition of receiving federal funding streams. Recipients are responsible for ensuring subrecipients, contractors, and partners also comply.

Applicants and recipients are strongly encouraged to refer to the [NIH Director's Statement of Priorities \(https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/nih-director/statements/advancing-nih-mission-through-unified-strategy\)](https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/nih-director/statements/advancing-nih-mission-through-unified-strategy), entitled "Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy."

Recipients are responsible for ensuring that their activities comply with all applicable federal regulations. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.340, by accepting an NIH award, the recipient agrees that continued funding for the award is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds, recipient satisfactory performance, compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the award, and may also otherwise be terminated, to the extent authorized by law, if the agency determines that the award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities, in line with 2 CFR 200.340(a)(4).

Pursuant to the Cybersecurity Act of 2015, Div. N, § 405, Pub. Law 114-113, 6 USC § 1533(d), the HHS Secretary has established a common set of voluntary, consensus-based, and industry-led guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes.

Successful recipients under this NOFO agree that:

When recipients, subrecipients, or third-party entities have:

- ongoing and consistent access to HHS owned or operated information or operational technology systems; and
- receive, maintain, transmit, store, access, exchange, process, or utilize personal identifiable information (PII) or personal health information (PHI) obtained from the awarding HHS agency for the purposes of executing the award.

Cybersecurity plans and procedures **must** at minimum include the following:

- Develop cybersecurity plans and procedures, modeled after the [NIST Cybersecurity framework \(https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework\)](https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework), to protect HHS systems and data:
 - **Identify:**
 - Develop an inventory of all assets and accounts with access to HHS owned and operated information or operational technology systems or which obtain PII or PHI for the purposes of the award.
 - **Protect:**
 - Limit access to HHS owned and operated systems to only those in need of access to complete reward activities.
 - Require all staff to complete annual cybersecurity and privacy awareness training. Visit [405\(d\): Knowledge on Demand \(hhs.gov\) \(https://405d.hhs.gov/kod/five-threats\)](https://405d.hhs.gov/kod/five-threats) to obtain free trainings, if needed.
 - Enable multifactor authentication for all employees, subrecipients, and third-party entities to access HHS owned and operated information or operational technology systems.
 - Regularly backup sensitive data and test backups.
 - **Detect:**
 - Install anti-virus or anti-malware software on all devices, servers, and accounts used to connect to HHS owned and operated systems.
 - **Respond:**
 - Develop an incident response plan. See [Incident-Response-Plan-Basics_508c.pdf \(cisa.gov\) \(https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Incident-Response-Plan-Basics_508c.pdf\)](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Incident-Response-Plan-Basics_508c.pdf) to learn about developing incident response plans.
 - Have cybersecurity incident reporting procedures that ensure the relevant HHS awarding agencies are notified of a cybersecurity incident within 48 hours of discovery. A cybersecurity incident is defined as an unplanned interruption to a technology service or reduction in the quality of a technology service, or an occurrence that actually or potentially jeopardizes the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system or the information the system processes, stores, or transmits.
 - **Recover:**
 - Investigate incidents and plug any security gaps identified.

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations and applicable judicial holdings. Accordingly, discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate; racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; denial by the recipient of the sex

binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; illegal immigration; or any other initiatives that compromise public safety. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.

For applications involving substance abuse, the application must not support harm reduction. Please see [Updated Funding Guidance for Recipients on Supplies and Services](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dear-colleague-letter-updated-hr-funding-guidance.pdf) (<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dear-colleague-letter-updated-hr-funding-guidance.pdf>).

For applications involving funding Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) or medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), this funding should be used to provide comprehensive treatment and recovery support services rather than medication-only models for opioid use disorder. Services should include medications, where clinically indicated, in conjunction with psychosocial and other treatment and recovery support services. Funding can also be used to support individualized tapering and discontinuation of medications when clinically indicated. Please see [Updated Funding Guidance for Recipients on MAT/MOUD](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dear-colleague-letter-mat-moud-guidance.pdf). (<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dear-colleague-letter-mat-moud-guidance.pdf>)

Recipients of both Clinical Trial Required and Clinical Trial Optional awards subject to this term shall report standardized clinical trial activation and enrollment performance data for any [interventional](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-063.html) (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-063.html>) clinical trial supported under the award. These metrics are intended to assess trial startup efficiency, site activation, and post-activation performance and to support continuous quality improvement in clinical trial operations (see supplemental guidance). Recipients shall report required data annually at the time of Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) submission on clinical trial activation and enrollment performance milestone dates as calendar dates; NIH will calculate standardized interval metrics from these dates.

Institutions are expected to maintain capabilities that support efficient clinical trial startup, participant enrollment, and performance monitoring, including streamlined workflows and systems for electronic tracking of milestones. Recipients are encouraged to implement and evaluate approaches that improve trial efficiency and the participant experience.

As of October 1, 2025, HHS has adopted [2 CFR Part 200](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200) (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>), with some modifications included in 2 CFR Part 300. These regulations replace those in 45 CFR Part 75. However, for NIH, under the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2026, ([P.L. 119-75](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th/congress/house-bill/7148) ([https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th-congress/house-bill/7148](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th/congress/house-bill/7148)), Division B, Title II, Sec. 224), the provisions relating to indirect costs in 45 CFR 75 continue to apply to NIH awards. Consistent with the statute, NIH will not apply updated thresholds outlined within 2 CFR Part 200, at this time.

In administering programs under this and all funding announcements, NIH prioritizes:

- Research involving rigorous scientific methods, including for studies related to children and adolescents, where NIH is committed to approaches that reflect the highest standards of clinical care and child safety.
- Biological and physiological integrity: Recognizing the relevance of biological sex to health outcomes, NIH encourages applicants to account for sex-based health factors in program design, data collection, and service delivery where scientifically appropriate.
- NIH will implement these priorities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court orders, and all required administrative procedures. Applicants are encouraged to describe how their proposed programs align with these priorities in their project narratives. Funded activities must advance NIH's vision of protecting and improving the health and well-being of Americans. The particular focus is on those who are medically vulnerable, or live in areas with limited access to care. NIH's duty is to serve wisely, effectively, and with measurable results that justify every taxpayer dollar invested.

Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions of Award

Not Applicable

3. Data Management and Sharing

A Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMS Plan) is required for any NIH-funded or conducted research that will generate scientific data. Applicants must submit the DMS Plan at the time of application using the [NIH DMS Plan Format Page](https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/data-management-and-sharing-plan-format-page) (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/data-management-and-sharing-plan-format-page>). The DMS Plan must address the elements in the structured format. Where the DMS Plan Format Page requires a "Yes or No" response, no additional narrative is allowed.

4. Reporting

When multiple years are involved, recipients will be required to submit the [Research Performance Progress Report \(RPPR\)](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/index.htm) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/index.htm>) annually and financial statements as required in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 8.4.1 Reporting](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML/5/section_8/8.4.1_reporting.htm). (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML/5/section_8/8.4.1_reporting.htm) To learn more about post-award monitoring and reporting, see the NIH Grants & Funding website, see [Post-Award Monitoring and Reporting](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.php?id=82428) (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.php?id=82428).

A final RPPR, invention statement, and the expenditure data portion of the Federal Financial Report are required for closeout of an award, as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Section 8.6 Closeout](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82420) (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm?id=82420). NIH NOFOs outline intended research goals and objectives. Post award, NIH will review and measure performance based on the details and outcomes that are shared within the RPPR, as described at 2 CFR Part 200.301.

5. Evaluation

For transition to the R33 phase, recipients must submit a transition package no less than two months before the negotiated timeframe for the completion of the R61 phase. The transition plan must include the R61 progress report describing in detail the progress towards the R61 milestones; all information typically included in the annual Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) and a description of how research proposed for the R33 phase will be supported by the completion of the R61 phase milestones. A transition package will be evaluated by NIH program staff to determine if the milestones were met. Achieving the R61 milestones is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for transition to the R33 phase. R33 funding decisions will be based on both programmatic assessments and availability of funds. If awarded, the proposed benchmarks for the R33 phase may be revised based on activities during the R61 phase. In the event of an award, the Principal Director(s) or Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) and NIH staff will negotiate proposed changes and a list of appropriate benchmarks for each year of support. The R33 phase may include a clinical trial if appropriate for the research questions and study design. The overall design of the R33 may be modified based on findings from the R61 phase, if appropriate. Any such modifications must be discussed in advance with NIH program staff and will include discussions of relevant changes to the proposed benchmarks.

Milestones may be renegotiated by NIH prior to award, which will be included as Terms and Conditions of the R61/R33 grant, if awarded. *Note:* The use of a no-cost extension at the end of the R61 period could impact the award of the R33.

Section VII. Agency Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants.

Application Submission Contacts

[eRA Service Desk](https://www.era.nih.gov/need-help) (<https://www.era.nih.gov/need-help>) - Questions regarding ASSIST, eRA Commons, application errors and warnings, documenting system problems that threaten submission by the due date, and post-submission issues.

[Grants.gov Support Center](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgrants.gov%2Fsupport&data=05%7C02%7Cantoine.caliman%40nih.gov%7Caf6dde64d644478d4e8b08dde6700581%7C14b77578977342d58507251ca2dc2b) (<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgrants.gov%2Fsupport&data=05%7C02%7Cantoine.caliman%40nih.gov%7Caf6dde64d644478d4e8b08dde6700581%7C14b77578977342d58507251ca2dc2b>)

- Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and services (e.g., Workspace, subscriptions).

Scientific/Research Contact(s)

Email: OD-OARHIVISRA27-018@nih.gov (<mailto:OD-OARHIVISRA27-018@nih.gov>)

Peer Review Contact(s)

Examine your eRA Commons account for review assignment and contact information (information appears two weeks after the submission due date).

Financial/Grants Management Contact(s)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Email: NIAIDFinancial-GrantsContact@mail.nih.gov (<mailto:NIAIDFinancial-GrantsContact@mail.nih.gov>)

Office of AIDS Research (OAR)

E-mail: OARinfo@nih.gov (<mailto:OARinfo@nih.gov>)

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Email: NCIFinancialContact@nih.gov (<mailto:NCIFinancialContact@nih.gov>)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Email: NHLBIOGMInbox@nhlbi.nih.gov (<mailto:NHLBIOGMInbox@nhlbi.nih.gov>)

Subject: RFA-AI-27-018

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Email: NIA-NOFO-Grants@nih.gov (<mailto:NIA-NOFO-Grants@nih.gov>)

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

Email: NIAAA-GMB@mail.nih.gov (<mailto:NIAAA-GMB@mail.nih.gov>)

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)

E-mail: niamsg Grantsmanagement@mail.nih.gov (<mailto:niamsg Grantsmanagement@mail.nih.gov>)

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Email: nichd Grantsmanagement@mail.nih.gov (<mailto:nichd Grantsmanagement@mail.nih.gov>)

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

Email: deeranotifications@nidcr.nih.gov (<mailto:deeranotifications@nidcr.nih.gov>)

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

Email: NIDDKGMBManagementTeam@niddk.nih.gov (<mailto:NIDDKGMBManagementTeam@niddk.nih.gov>)

National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Email: nidagmbemail@nida.nih.gov (<mailto:nidagmbemail@nida.nih.gov>)

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Email: NIMHNOFOGrantsManagement@mail.nih.gov (<mailto:NIMHNOFOGrantsManagement@mail.nih.gov>)

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

Email: NIMHD-CGMO@mail.nih.gov (<mailto:NIMHD-CGMO@mail.nih.gov>)

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

Email: NINRProgram@mail.nih.gov (<mailto:NINRProgram@mail.nih.gov>)

National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Email: NLMGrants@nih.gov (<mailto:NLMGrants@nih.gov>)

Section VIII. Other Information

Recently issued trans-NIH [policy notices](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=11163) (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=11163) may affect your application submission. A full list of policy notices published by NIH is provided in the [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=11164) (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=11164). All awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=11120) (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/uri_redirect.htm?id=11120).

Authority and Regulations

Awards are made under the authorization of Sections 301 and 405 of the Public Health Service Act as amended (42 USC 241 and 284) and under Federal Regulations 42 CFR Part 52 and 2 CFR Part 200.