

NIH R21 General Guidelines

About

The R21 grant mechanism is intended to encourage exploratory/developmental research by providing support for the early and conceptual stages of project development.

Learn more: [NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award \(R21\)](#)

Sample Applications: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications>

Helpful Links

- [How to Apply – Application Guide](#)
- [Research Instructions for NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#)
- [Page Limits](#)
- [Format Attachments](#)
- [Use of Hyperlinks in NIH Grant Applications](#)
- [Salary Cap & Stipends](#)

General Information

**If general/project information, required documents, and page limits are different from the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the NOFO wins.*

<i>Application Characteristics</i>	
<i>Project Period</i>	Up to 2 years
<i>Budget</i>	No more than \$200,000 may be requested in any single year. Cumulative budget for the 2 years may not exceed \$275,000 in direct costs

<i>Due Dates</i>			
<i>LOI Due Date</i>	As applicable		
<i>New Grant Applications</i>	February 16	June 16	October 16
<i>AIDS and Aids-related Applications</i>	May 7	September 7	January 7

Uploaded Documents

**If general/project information, required documents, and page limits are different from the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the NOFO wins.*

<i>Project Information</i>		
<i>Project Summary/Abstract</i>	30 lines of text	Required
<i>Project Narrative</i>	2-3 Sentences	Required
<i>Bibliography & References Cited</i>	No page restriction	Required, unless otherwise noted in the FOA
<i>Facilities & Other Resources</i>	No page restriction	Required, unless otherwise noted in the FOA
<i>Equipment</i>	No page restriction	List major items of equipment available for the project.
<i>Other Attachments</i>		As applicable

<i>Senior/Key Personnel</i>		
<i>Biographical Sketch</i>	5 pages each	Required to use SciENCv Template
<i>Current & Pending Support</i>	No page restriction	If required, use SciENCv Template

<i>Budget</i>		
<i>Type/Format</i>	<i>Modular Budget</i>	<i>R&R Detailed Budget</i>
	Use Modular Budget for requests up to \$250,000 of direct costs/year	Use Detailed Budget for requests greater than \$250,000 of direct costs/year.
<i>Budget Justification</i>	Provide personnel justification only, no amounts.	Justify all costs including Data Management and Sharing plan costs.
<i>Additional Narrative Justification</i>	Justify Data Management and Sharing plan costs, if any. If no costs associated, disclose.	

<i>Research Plan</i>		
<i>Introduction to Application</i>	1 page maximum	For resubmission and revision applications only
<i>Specific Aims</i>	1 page	Required
<i>Research Strategy</i>	6 pages and must include the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance • Innovation • Approach 	Required
<i>Progress Report Publication List</i>	No page restriction	For renewal applications only

Other Research Plan Section

<i>Vertebrate Animals</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Select Agent Research</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Consortium/Contractual Agreements</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Letters of Support</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Resource Sharing Plan</i>	No page restriction	Required
<i>Other Plans</i>	No page restriction	As applicable
<i>Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Plan</i>	No page restriction	Required. DMS Plan Guidelines
<i>Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources</i>	1 page maximum	As applicable
<i>Appendix</i>	Refer to FOA guidelines for page restrictions	Only if FOA requests appendix materials
<i>PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information</i>	No page restriction	As applicable