

RESEARCH SUPPLEMENTS TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY IN HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH (DIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTS)

What are Diversity Supplements?

Diversity supplements are administrative supplements sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), intended to help increase the numbers of underrepresented scientists in biomedical and behavioral research. Funding is provided to existing NIH research grants to support a minority, disabled, or disadvantaged student or investigator who wants to pursue a career in the biomedical or behavioral research sciences.

Funding depends on the career level of the applicant, but in most circumstances will cover the candidate's salary. Additional funds for supplies and travel can be requested. Specific funding information can be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-190.html>.

Who can submit a Diversity Supplement (The PI's submit it for the candidate):

You may submit (an) application(s) on behalf of a candidate if you are the Principal Investigator, at a domestic institution, who holds an active R00, R01 (or RL1), R10, R18, R22, R24, R35, R37, R43, R44, R41, R42, DP1, DP2, P01 (or PL1), P20, P30, P40, P41, P50, P51, P60, U01 (or UL1), U10, U19, U41, U42, U54. Because policies may vary among awarding components regarding eligibility of Small Grant Awards (R03), Academic Research Enhancement Awards (R15), Support of Continuous Research Excellence (SC1, SC2, SC3), or Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21) for supplements under this program, grantees holding those awards must check with the appropriate awarding component before submitting an application for a supplement. At the time of a supplemental award, the parent grant must have support remaining for a reasonable period (usually two years or more).

Individuals who are eligible to receive a Diversity Supplement:

Candidates who will increase diversity on a national or institutional basis. Examples include but are not limited to: ethnic or racial groups determined by the NIH to be underrepresented nationally in biomedical or behavioral research, persons with disabilities (physical or mental impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activities). Institutes might vary, see your awarding institute for details.

Awards under this program are limited to citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States or to individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States (i.e., in possession of an Alien Registration Receipt Card or some other legal evidence of admission for permanent residence at the time of application).

An individual who has received previous funding from NIH as an independent Principal Investigator on a regular research grant (e.g., R01, R29), or as the project leader on a component of a program project or center grant (e.g., P01, P50, G12), or as Principal Investigator on an individual research career award (e.g., KO1, K02, K07, K08, and K12) is not eligible for a diversity supplement.

Career Levels that are eligible for Diversity Supplements:

High school students, undergraduate students, post-baccalaureate students and post-master's degree students who have recently graduated, predoctoral students, individuals in postdoctoral training, faculty who wish to further develop their own independent research potential, and established investigators who become disabled are all eligible.

Submission dates

Applications for diversity supplements can be submitted at any time; there are no special deadline dates for submission. Best chances for funding support are available when applications are submitted **before June 1** of the stated year.

How many years of funding do Diversity Supplements provide?

In general, a person is eligible to receive *up to five years total* funding support through the NIH Diversity Supplements program. The time of the supplement is tied to the amount of time of the supporting grant. See specific institute for more details.

Who reviews the supplements?

Generally, proposals are reviewed “in-house” by research staff from the awarding institute. See your specific institute for more details.

General application components and review criteria:

- budget, biosketch, research plan, mentoring plan, candidate’s statement, letters of reference http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424_RR_Guide_Fellowship_VerB.pdf
- quality and extensiveness of the *mentoring plan* for the candidate;
- *quality of the research experience* the candidate will gain during the proposed supplement period and its relation to the parent grant (research experience and responsibilities proposed for the candidate must fall within the scope of research currently performed under the parent grant)
- evidence that the candidate intends to pursue an *independent research career*.

Who to contact if you are interested in applying for a Diversity Supplement:

Contact your institute’s person in charge of Diversity Supplements (See “Contacts by Institute” below). You should also contact the Program Officer of your grant to inform them that you are interested in applying for a Diversity Supplement under your funded grant.

Helpful Websites:

NIH’s Program Announcement for Diversity Supplements: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-190.html>

Application Materials: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

Contacts by Institute: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/contacts/pa-08-190_contacts.htm

NIMH’s website on Diversity Supplements: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/training/frequently-asked-questions-about-nimh-diversity-and-re-entry-supplements.shtml>

NIDA’s website on Diversity Supplements: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/about/organization/spo/faq.html>

NIA’s website on Diversity Supplements: <http://www.nia.nih.gov/grantsandtraining/nih-diversity.htm>