

NCI Funding Policy for RPG Awards FY2014

NCI MISSION

The National Cancer Institute conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and the families of cancer patients. For more information or to view the Institute's mission statement, please go to the NCI website: <http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci>.

BUDGET INFORMATION

The NCI Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 budget of \$4.9 billion includes an increase of approximately \$128 million from FY 2013. However, this increase only restores about 53% of the sequestration reduction that NCI experienced during FY 2013. With the FY 2014 funds, NCI must pay higher costs related to salaries, infrastructure (rent, utilities, telecommunications, etc.), assessments and other cost adjustments for FY 2014. Information on the FY 2014 budget can be found on the NIH Office of Budget website: <http://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/gbi.html>.

FUNDING STRATEGY

To maintain an FY 2014 funding level to support new and competing renewal research project grants (RPGs), NCI will make reductions in budgets for ongoing (non-competing) grants. Decisions on competing grants will continue to be based on review of individual applications. Peer review evaluation of scientific merit will remain the primary consideration in these funding decisions, which will be made by NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL) following discussions with program staff. The SPL will give special consideration to applications that fill a significant gap in the cancer research portfolio or propose an especially novel or promising scientific approach.

FUNDING POLICY

NON-COMPETING AWARDS

Both Categorical and Modular non-competing grants will be awarded with a 3% reduction from the committed level. No cost of living (COLA) adjustments will be awarded to any FY 2014 non-competing grants. However, adjustments for special needs (such as equipment and added personnel) will continue to be considered. This policy does not apply to SBIR or STTR awards, which will be funded at 100% of the committed level.

FY 2014 awards that were issued prior to the implementation of this policy will be revised to adjust the award level according to this policy.

COMPETING AWARDS

Traditional Research Grants (R01) & Exploratory Development Grants (R21s)

Traditional (R01) and Exploratory Development (R21) applications with scores up to and including the 9th percentile will likely be funded without additional review by the SPL. Final funding decisions on individual grants within this range are based on review of the applications by NCI program staff and grants management specialists and the negotiation of awards. Applications with higher scores require NCI division and SPL review before final funding decisions are made. Outcomes of grant decisions from recent years are posted at: [Awards of R01 and R21 Grants in FY 2013](#).

New Investigators

NCI has a strong commitment to supporting new investigators. As with experienced investigators, R01 applications that receive scores up to the 9th percentile will likely be funded without additional review by the SPL. For Traditional R01 selections beyond the 9th percentile, the SPL will give special consideration to new

investigators, particularly those who are in an early stage of their careers. The current definition of New Investigators can be found on the NIH's Office of Extramural Research website at: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#N4>. The definition of Early State Investigators can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm#E>.

Program Projects (P01s)

All P01 applications will be considered for funding by the SPL on a case-by-case basis. This has been NCI's policy for many years.

Small Grants (R03s) & AREA Grants (R15)

Small (R03) and AREA (R15) grant applications with scores up to and including 25 will likely be funded. Applications with higher scores may be selected for funding on a case-by-case basis.

Large Dollar Amount R01s (\$700,000 or more in direct cost requested in any year)

All Large R01s will be selected on a case-by-case basis by the SPL. This has been NCI's policy for many years.

Request for Applications (RFA)

NCI is committed to the review of applications submitted in response to RFAs solicited for competition in FY 2014. Success rates for RFAs will depend on the scientific merit and programmatic priority of each application, the number of applications submitted, and the amount of funds available. NCI does not consider it obligatory to use all funds set aside for any RFA. Please contact the program director listed on your summary statement if you have questions.

Amended applications submitted for the February/March 2014 receipt dates (September 2014 NCAB), will be considered for funding under FY 2015 budget plans, which have not yet been determined and may be different from the FY 2014 announced levels. FY 2015 begins on October 1, 2014.

Competing Funding Policy

FY 2014 RPG competing renewals (type-2s) will generally be funded at 10% below the allowable requested level. New grants (type-1s) will generally be funded at a 17% reduction from the Initial Review Group (IRG) recommended level.