

NCI Funding Policy for RPG Awards FY2018

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: <https://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci>.

BUDGET INFORMATION

The NCI Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget is \$5.96 billion (includes \$300M CURES Act Funding), an increase of approximately \$275 million over FY 2017. Information on the FY 2018 budget can be found on the NIH Office of Budget website: <https://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/index.htm>.

FUNDING STRATEGY

In FY 2018, NCI will not make standard 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 and continue its efforts to support early career investigators.

FUNDING POLICY

NON-COMPETING AWARDS

Both Categorical and Modular non-competing grants will be awarded at 100% of the committed level. No cost of living adjustments (COLA) will be awarded to any FY 2018 non-competing grants. However, adjustments for special needs (such as equipment and added personnel) will be considered. This policy also applies to the SBIR and STTR awards. FY 2018 awards that were issued prior to the implementation of this policy will be revised to adjust the award level accordingly.

COMPETING AWARDS

Traditional Research Grants - Experienced and New Investigator (R01) & Exploratory Development Grants (R21s)

Most Traditional (R01) applications with scores up to and including the 9th percentile and Exploratory Development (R21) applications with scores up to and including the 7th percentile will be funded without additional review. 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 Scientific Program Leader (SPL) review before final funding decisions are made. Information on the outcomes of grant selections from recent years is posted at: [R01 & R21 Grants awarded in FY2016](#).

Early State Investigators (ESIs)

NCI is strongly committed to supporting early stage investigators, and will place special emphasis on supporting these applicants. Most Traditional R01 selections submitted by ESIs with scores up to the 14th percentile will be funded without additional review by the NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL). ESI applications within the regular R01 payline of the 9th percentile will be eligible to convert to R37s, (Method to

Extend Research in Time (MERIT) Award). Traditional R01 applications submitted by New Investigators who are not ESIs will generally be funded up to the 9th percentile (same as the more experienced investigators). Current definitions and additional information regarding New and Early Stage Investigators can be found on the NIH's Office of Extramural Research website at: [New Stage and Early Established Investigator Policies](#).

Program Projects (P01s)

All P01 applications will be individually reviewed for funding selection by the NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL).

Outstanding Investigator Awards (R35)

All R35 applications will be individually reviewed for funding selection by the NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL). There will be no funding policy reductions applied to these grants.

Small Grants (R03s) & AREA Grants (R15)

Small (R03) and AREA (R15) grant applications with scores up to and including 25 will likely be funded with no policy reductions. Applications with higher scores may be individually selected for funding depending on the availability of funds.

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

All Large R01s will be individually reviewed for funding selection by the NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL).

Request for Applications (RFA)

RFA applications are considered for funding by the NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL). NCI is committed to the review of applications submitted in response to RFAs solicited for competition in FY 2018. 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.

Competing RPG Funding Policy Reductions

Traditional R01

Modular Applications: Competing renewals (Type-2s) will generally be funded at 5% below the allowable requested level ¹. New Modular (R01) applications (Type-1s) with a direct cost \$175 thousand or less will generally be funded at a 6.5% reduction from the Initial Review Group (IRG) recommended level and awards with a direct cost over \$175 thousand will generally be funded at an 8.5% reduction. Foreign applications with direct costs under \$250 thousand will be treated as modular grants in applying funding policy reductions.

Categorical (Non-modular) Applications: Competing renewals (Type-2s) will generally be funded at 10% below the allowable requested level ¹. New Categorical Traditional (R01) grants (Type-1s) will generally be funded at a 17% reduction from the Initial Review Group (IRG) recommended level.

Other RPG Reductions (P01, U01, UM1, R21, R33): Competing renewals (Type-2s) will generally be funded at 10% below the allowable requested level¹. New (Type-1) applications requesting \$175 thousand or less will generally be funded at a 13% reduction from the Initial Review Group (IRG) recommended level, and those requesting over \$175 thousand in direct costs will generally be funded at a 17% reduction.

No Policy Reduction: No funding policy reductions will be applied to the following grant awards:

- Outstanding Investigator (R35)
- Small Grant (R03)
- Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15)
- Research Specialist Award (R50)
- Small Business Innovation Research (R43/R44)
- Small Business Technology Transfer (R41/R42)

¹ The allowable requested level is the amount that the PI is allowed to request for a competitive renewal (Type-2). For FY18 this amount is generally 10% over the final year commitment on the most recent competing award.