

NCI Full Year Funding Policy for RPG Awards FY 2021

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

Information on the FY 2021 budget can be found on the NCI Office of Budget and Finance website: <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/budget>.

FUNDING STRATEGY

In FY 2021 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 continue its efforts to support early career investigators and give special consideration to applications that fill a significant gap in the cancer research portfolio or propose an especially novel or promising scientific approach.

NON-COMPETING AWARDS

NCI will generally fund both categorical and modular non-competing grants at 100% of the committed levels. Non-competing grants that were awarded under the continuing resolution policy will be revised accordingly.

COMPETING AWARDS

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

Most Traditional (R01) Experienced and New Investigator applications with scores up to and including the 11th percentile and Exploratory Development (R21) applications with scores up to and including the 9th 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 can be viewed at: [Awards of R01 and R21 Grants](#).

Early State Investigators (ESIs)

NCI is strongly committed to supporting early stage investigators (ESIs) and will place special emphasis on supporting these applicants. Most Traditional R01 selections submitted by ESIs with scores up to the 16th percentile will be funded without additional review by the NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL). ESI applications within the regular R01 payline of the 11th percentile will be eligible to convert to R37 Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) Awards: [Merit R37 Conversion notice](#). Traditional R01 applications submitted by New Investigators who are not ESIs will generally be funded up to the 11th percentile (same payline 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

All R01 applications with direct costs over \$1,000,000 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). 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

R01 & U01 Modular Applications: Competing renewals (Type-2s) will generally be funded at 5% below the allowable requested level¹. 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.

R01 & U01 Categorical (Non-modular) Applications: Competing renewals (Type-2s) will generally be funded at 10% below the allowable requested level¹. 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, 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)
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¹ The allowable requested level is the amount that the PI is allowed to request for a competitive renewal (Type-2). For FY 2021 this amount is generally 10% over the final year commitment on the most recent competing award.