

## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR APPLICANTS

OMB# EXP. DATE:

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0476). Do not return the completed form to this address.

If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this survey, please email [NIH-EIA-applicants-survey@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIH-EIA-applicants-survey@mail.nih.gov)

### Introduction

Thank you for accessing the customer satisfaction survey for junior scientists who have applied to the Early Independence Award Program (EIA) as announced in RFA-RM-11-007 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-11-007.html>). The purpose of this survey is to gather opinions about the EIA program. This is an opportunity for you to share your experiences and provide feedback. The information collected may be used to make adjustments to the EIA program in subsequent announcements.

The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. There are no right or wrong answers, and you may skip any questions that you do not wish to address.

**The website for the survey will be open from [INSERT START DATE] to [INSERT START DATE] (11:59 pm Eastern Daylight Time).**

### Privacy and Participation

Your participation is voluntary and non-participation will have no impact on you or your institution. Your responses will be kept private. If you choose to participate, your privacy will be protected to the extent permitted by law, and will not be disclosed to anyone but the researchers conducting this study, except as otherwise required by law. You will not be identified by name and information from the study will only be reported in the aggregate. Your responses will be combined with those of other respondents in the final report. Responses will be used solely for the purpose of program improvement. Any identifiers (e.g., names, institutions, e-mail addresses, etc.) will be removed when responses are compiled. No proprietary, classified, confidential, or sensitive information should be included in your responses.

### Agree to Participate

Press "START SURVEY" if you agree to participate. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Start Survey



# NIH Director's Early Independence Award (EIA) Program

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Please note that you can stop at any time and return to complete the survey at a later day. The submission deadline is (insert date) (11:59pm EST).

If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this survey, please email [NIH-EIA-applicants-survey@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIH-EIA-applicants-survey@mail.nih.gov)

### Section I. Background

#### 1. How did you first learn about the Early Independence Award (EIA) program? Please check all that apply

- The NIH website (webpage, e-newsletter posting, blog, etc.)
- An NIH-sponsored listserv email or notice
- Your institution's listserv email or notice
- A notice from a professional society
- A faculty mentor
- Other (please specify):

#### 2. Which option below best describes your situation? Please note that "current institution" refers to the institution at which you are completing your doctoral degree or medical residency, or have a position/appointment. Please select only one option.

- A. The institution with which I applied for the NIH EIA program was the same as my current institution at the time of application
- B. The institution with which I applied for the NIH EIA program was different from my current institution at the time of application

#### 3. Which option below best describes your degree status at the time of application? Please select only one option.

- A. Within the following 12 months, I will complete all the requirements for a doctoral degree
- B. Within the following 12 months, I will complete my medical residency
- C. Within the preceding 12 months, I received my terminal doctoral degree
- D. Within the preceding 12 months, I completed my medical residency

Save and Continue



# NIH Director's Early Independence Award (EIA) Program

## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR APPLICANTS

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VERSION A: APPLICANTS WHO ARE COMPLETING THEIR DEGREE

STOP: Only continue if you WILL COMPLETE your medical residency or all the requirements for a doctoral degree within the following 12 months. If this is not the case, please return to Question 3 and select either C or D.

[Back to Question 3](#)

**4. Since the EIA grant application must be submitted by the institution hosting the Early Independence Awardee, how many institutions did you apply to in order to be selected as Principal Investigator for the EIA application? Please note that "current institution" refers to the institution at which you are completing your doctoral degree or medical residency. Please select only one option.**

- A. I ONLY applied to my current institution
- B. I applied to institution(s), INCLUDING my current institution  
Please indicate the number of institutions (including your current institution) you applied to  (Please provide only numeric values)
- C. I applied to institution(s), and DID NOT apply to my current institution  
Please include the number of institutions you applied to  (Please provide only numeric values)

### Section II: Seeking an Institution to receive support for the EIA Program

**5. Please indicate how you would prioritize each of the following factors when seeking an institution to receive support through the NIH EIA program.**

Factors	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority/ Not Applicable
a. Scientific fit to my own research at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Familiarity with program and faculty at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Access to collaborators at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Reputation of the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Clear and comprehensive picture of support environment from the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Financial support from the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Likelihood of being accepted at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Confirmed appointment/position at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Desirability of geographic location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Personal, family reasons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Other (please specify):	<input type="text"/>			

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6. If you **ONLY** applied to receive support for consideration as a candidate for the NIH EIA program at your current institution, which of the following factors were considered in your decision process?

Factors	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Beneficial to research goals to stay at current institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Resources (staff, equipment, etc.) provided by my current institution meet the needs of my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to collaborators at my current institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Established relationships at my current institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Already have a position at my current institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient time to search for other institutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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7. What difficulties did you encounter due to the time allowed after the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) RFA-RM-11-007 was released to actually submit an application?

8. What was the process you went through to be selected/nominated by the institution(s)?

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Please describe the review/approval process, including the selection criteria and materials requested:

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## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR APPLICANTS

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### Section III. NIH EIA Grant Application

9. What challenges did you encounter in preparing the content of the NIH grant application to comply with the RFA instructions for the EIA program?

### Section IV. Plans

10. In addition to submitting the NIH grant application for the EIA program, have you applied for other position(s)/appointment(s)? For example, postdoctoral position, faculty position, fellowship for a medical specialty, etc.

- I have NOT applied for any other position/appointment  
 I have applied for other position(s)/appointment(s). Please list the types of appointments below:

11. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of "skipping the post-doc or clinical fellowship" in terms of your career?

### Section V. Suggestions

12. What are alternative methods for matching host institutions and candidates that might be more effective than the current method? Examples may include, awarding grants to institutions which then find suitable candidates, or allowing NIH to match host institutions and candidates.

13. How could NIH improve the EIA program (e.g., eligibility requirements, RFA instructions, letters of recommendations, review criteria and process, length of time, size and number of awards, etc.)?

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**4. Since the EIA grant application must be submitted by the institution hosting the Early Independence Awardee, how many institutions did you apply to in order to be selected as Principal Investigator for the EIA application? Please note that "current institution" refers to the institution at which you are completing your doctoral degree or medical residency. Please select only one option.**

- A. I ONLY applied to my current institution
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### Section II: Seeking an Institution to receive support for the EIA Program

**5. Please indicate how you would prioritize each of the following factors when seeking an institution to receive support through the NIH EIA program.**

Factors	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority/ Not Applicable
a. Scientific fit to my own research at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Familiarity with program and faculty at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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d. Reputation of the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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i. Desirability of geographic location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Personal, family reasons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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**6. If you sought support through institutions other than your current institution, what strategies did you use to seek an institution to receive support through the NIH EIA program? Please select all that apply.**

- I focused on institutions where I had long-term relationship with mentor(s) and/or collaborator(s)
- I focused on institutions based on my personal and family situation
- I focused on institutions based on networking with other colleagues
- I focused on institutions that advertised an open position
- I focused on institutions that were specifically recruiting for the EIA program
- I focused on the institutions where I have been offered a position
- I focused on the institution where I have accepted a position
- Other (please specify):

**7. What difficulties did you encounter due to the time allowed after the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) RFA-RM-11-007 was released to actually submit an application?**

**8. What was the process you went through to be selected/nominated by the institution(s)?**

- I DID NOT undergo a competitive selection process

Please explain:

- I DID undergo a competitive selection process

Please describe the review/approval process, including the selection criteria and materials requested:

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### Section III. NIH EIA Grant Application

9. What challenges did you encounter in preparing the content of the NIH grant application to comply with the RFA instructions for the EIA program?

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- I have NOT applied for any other position/appointment  
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11. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of "skipping the post-doc or clinical fellowship" in terms of your career?

### Section V. Suggestions

12. What are alternative methods for matching host institutions and candidates that might be more effective than the current method? Examples may include, awarding grants to institutions which then find suitable candidates, or allowing NIH to match host institutions and candidates.

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VERSION B: APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED THEIR DEGREE AND HAVE A POSITION OR APPOINTMENT

STOP: Only continue if you HAVE COMPLETED your medical residency or RECEIVED your terminal doctoral degree within the preceding 12 months at the time of application. If this is not the case, please return to Question 3 and select either A or B.

[Back to Question 3](#)

**4. What position/appointment do you have at your current institution at the time of application? For example, postdoctoral position, tenure-track faculty position, non-tenure track faculty position, etc.**

**5. Did you seek to receive support for the NIH EIA program through an institution other than your current one?**

- A. I ONLY sought support through my current institution
- B. I sought support through institution(s), INCLUDING my current institution  
Please indicate the number of institutions (including your current institution) through which you sought support  (Please provide only numeric values)
- C. I sought support through institution(s), but NOT my current institution  
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### Section II: Seeking an Institution to receive support for the EIA Program

**6. Please indicate how you would prioritize each of the following factors when seeking an institution to receive support through the NIH EIA program.**

Factors	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority/ Not Applicable
a. Scientific fit to my own research at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Familiarity with program and faculty at the institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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**10. What challenges did you encounter in preparing the content of the NIH grant application to comply with the RFA instructions for the EIA program?**

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