Attachment 2

Applicant Survey with Web Screenshots

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
ACADEMIC RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT AWARD (AREA)
APPLICANT SURVEY

Welcome!

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has contracted with Westat, a social science research firm located in Rockville, Maryland, to conduct a survey about the experiences of researchers—like yourself—who applied for Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA). Your participation will provide valuable information that will assist the NIH in improving the AREA program.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and your responses will remain private under the Privacy Act. Your individual responses to the survey will not be shared with any units of NIH and all analyses will be de-identified. No information or opinions you provide will impact current or future grant applications you may make to NIH.

We anticipate the survey will take less than 20 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Westat at NIHAREAsurvey@westat.com.

By clicking on "Begin Survey" on the next page, you will be agreeing to participate in this survey and will be advanced to the survey instrument.

Next

Begin
Survey

APPLICATION PROCESS

The first part of the survey addresses your experience of the application process.

1. Through which of the following mechanisms did you **first** learn of the NIH's AREA grant program?

   ☐ A colleague or administrator at my institution
   ☐ A colleague or mentor at another institution
   ☐ A conversation with NIH staff
   ☐ A presentation by NIH staff
   ☐ NIH's website
   ☐ A funding opportunities database
   ☐ Other, please specify
   _____

2. Below are reasons why researchers may apply for AREA funding. Please indicate how important each reason was in your decision to apply to the AREA program.

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
A. Funding from my institution was unavailable or insufficient for my research.	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. My institution encourages me to seek external research funding.	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. NIH AREA funding allows me to reduce my teaching or service commitments.	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. NIH AREA funds provide me with salary support beyond the academic year.	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
E. I am expected to supplement my university salary with research funds.	☐	☐	☐	☐
F. My institution's commitment to the project depends on receiving external funding.	☐	☐	☐	☐
G. NIH AREA funding provides external validation for the merit of the project.	☐	☐	☐	☐
H. NIH AREA funding facilitates the training of undergraduates.	☐	☐	☐	☐
I. NIH AREA funding facilitates the training of graduate and health professional students.	☐	☐	☐	☐
J. NIH AREA funding facilitates collaboration within my institution.	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. How useful were each of the following as an information source about the AREA program?

	Very useful	Moderately useful	A little useful	Not at all useful	No experience with this source
A. Colleagues or administrators at your institution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Colleagues or mentors at another	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Very useful	Moderately useful	A little useful	Not at all useful	No experience with this source
institution					
C. NIH's website	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. NIH staff	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

E.   Other information sources, please specify in the box below:

[   ]

4. Did you contact NIH staff with questions regarding your application?

☐ Yes
☐ No [SKIP TO QUESTION 6]
☐ Don't remember [SKIP TO QUESTION 6]

5. If you contacted NIH about the AREA program, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with each of the following?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't recall	Not applicable or not sure
A. Promptness of response	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Helpfulness with locating appropriate NIH	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't recall	Not applicable or not sure
resources							
C. NIH staff input on scientific sections of the application (aims, research strategy)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. NIH staff input on administrative sections of the application (budget, IRB, human subjects)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
E. Assistance interpreting summary statement (reviewers' comments)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
F. Advice about resubmission	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. Did you seek assistance from your institution regarding your application?

☐ Yes
☐ No [SKIP TO QUESTION 8]
☐ Don't remember [SKIP TO QUESTION 8]

7. How useful was your institution's assistance in…

	Very useful	Moderately useful	Not too useful	Not at all useful	Not applicable or not sure
A. ...developing scientific sections of the application (aims, research strategy)?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. ...preparing administrative sections of the application (budget, IRB, human subjects, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. ...locating collaborators?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
D. ...submitting the application or uploading it online?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. How would you rate the NIH AREA review and decision process?

☐	Very fair
☐	Somewhat fair
☐	Neither fair or unfair
☐	Somewhat unfair
☐	Very unfair

9. If you have any comments about the NIH AREA application and review process, please share them with us:

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STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

In order to understand the mentorship responsibilities of our applicants, the next questions ask about the students who may have been involved in your research in the period after submitting your AREA application.

10. Think back to the year you proposed to begin the project presented in your most recent AREA application. In the subsequent three (3) years, how many of each type of student worked in your lab?

TYPE OF STUDENT	NUMBER	DON'T REMEMBER
High School students		
Undergraduate students		
Graduate students (MA, MS, PhD)		
Health professional (MD, PharmD, DDS, etc.) students		

11. Of the totals above, how many of each of the following types of students disseminated findings from their work via publications, presentations, or posters?

TYPE OF STUDENT	NUMBER	DON'T REMEMBER
High School students		
Undergraduate students		
Graduate students (MA, MS, PhD)		
Health professional (MD, PharmD, DDS, etc.) students		

Undergraduate Student Involvement

12. Did the **undergraduate** students counted as working in your lab during that 3-year period…

   a. …contribute ideas to research design or experimental design?

   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

   b. …develop materials or resources needed to conduct research?

☐ Yes
☐ No

c. ...perform experiments, data collection, or data analysis?

☐ Yes
☐ No

d. ...plan next steps (for example: decided relevant experiments or data analyses) to address research questions?

☐ Yes
☐ No

13. Please describe any other ways that **undergraduate** students were involved in your research:

14. Of the **undergraduate** students who worked in your lab during that 3-year period, how MANY...

a. ...pursued graduate education related to the same general field as your research interests?

Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

b. ...pursued graduate education in a DIFFERENT biomedical or behavioral field?

Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

c. ...pursued education as a health professional?

Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

d. ...sought employment in a biomedical or behavioral field immediately after graduation?

Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

e. …sought employment or graduate/professional education in a scientific field other than biomedical or behavioral science?

Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

f. Please specify any other research, training, or employment outcomes for your undergraduate students below:

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Graduate or Professional Student Involvement

15. Did any **graduate (MA, MS, PhD) and health professional (MD, PharmD, DDS, etc.)** students counted as working in your lab during that 3-year period…

a. …contribute ideas to research design or experimental design?

	Yes
	No

b. …develop materials or resources needed to conduct research?

	Yes
	No

c. …perform experiments, data collection, or data analysis?

	Yes
	No

d. …plan next steps (for example: decided relevant experiments or data analyses) to address research questions?

	Yes
	No

16. If graduate and health professional students were involved in your research in other ways, please describe:

```
[                                                                    ]
```

17. After graduation, HOW MANY of the **graduate and health professional** students who worked in your lab during that 3-year period...

    a. ...pursued research in a biomedical or behavioral field?

       Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

    b. ...attained employment in academia or in research?

       Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

    c. ...attained employment as a clinician?

       Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

    d. ...attained employment outside of the biomedical or behavioral sciences?

       Number: ☐☐   Don't remember: ☐

    e. Please specify any other research, training, or employment outcomes for your **graduate and health professional** students below:

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[                                                                    ]
```

RESEARCH

The next questions are about the specific line of research represented by your proposed AREA project.

18. Did you remain active as a researcher after submitting your AREA application?

    ☐ Yes
    ☐ No [SKIP TO QUESTION 23]

19. Since you submitted the AREA application, have you done any research related to the work you proposed in that application?

☐ Yes
☐ No [SKIP TO QUESTION 23]

20. Which of the following best describes the scale of effort of the project in comparison with that proposed in your AREA application?

☐ Larger than proposed to AREA
☐ About the same as proposed
☐ Smaller than proposed

21. In the **five** (5) years following **submission** of your most recent application to the AREA program, about how much funding was committed to the AREA project's line of research? ? (include personnel support but **not** tuition waivers)

Your best estimate is fine.

a.   Funding from sources **within** my institution: $_____   ☐ million
☐ thousand
☐ none

b.   Funding from sources **outside** my institution: $ _____   ☐ million
☐ thousand
☐ none [SKIP to

Q23]

22. In the **five** (5) years following your most recent AREA **application submission**, did you receive funding from the following external sources for the line of research represented in your AREA application?

a.   Federal government programs (other than AREA)

☐ Yes, specify agency and program name: _____
☐ No
☐ Don't know

b.   State or local government programs

☐ Yes, specify agency and program name: _____
☐ No
☐ Don't know

c.   Private foundations or organizations

	Yes, specify organization name: _____
	No
	Don't know

FUTURE AREA APPLICATIONS

23. How likely is it that you will apply again to the AREA program?

	Very likely [GO TO END OF SURVEY]
	Somewhat likely [GO TO END OF SURVEY]
	Somewhat unlikely
	Very unlikely
	Don't know

24. What are the reasons you are unlikely to seek AREA funding in the future?
Select all that apply:

	My current institution is not AREA-eligible.
	I am no longer conducting research that is AREA-eligible.
	I will be leaving an AREA-eligible institution soon.
	I am—or will be—retiring shortly.
	Other funding sources are a better fit for my research.
	The application and review process was too burdensome.
	My teaching and service responsibilities do not allow enough time for research.
	My other faculty responsibilities do not allow enough time for mentorship of individual students.
	Students at my institution are not appropriate for AREA-program participation.
	Other (specify): _____

END OF SURVEY

Thank you for completing the AREA survey.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH ACADEMIC RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT AWARD (AREA) APPLICANT SURVEY

Welcome!

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has contracted with Westat, a social science research firm located in Rockville, Maryland, to conduct a survey about the experiences of researchers—like yourself—who applied for Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA). Your participation will provide valuable information that will assist the NIH in improving the AREA program.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and your responses will be private under the Privacy Act. Your individual responses to the survey will not be shared with any units of NIH and all analyses will be de-identified. No information or opinions you provide will impact current or future grant applications you may make to NIH.

We anticipate the survey will take less than 20 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Westat at NIHAREAsurvey@westat.com.

By clicking on "Begin Survey" on the next page, you will be agreeing to participate in this survey and will be advanced to the survey instrument.

Next

NIH⟩ Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)
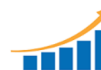
PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE TEXT BELOW.

Begin Survey

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

APPLICATION PROCESS

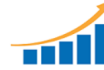The first part of the survey addresses your experience of the application process.

1. Through which of the following mechanisms did you *first* learn of the NIH's AREA grant program?

- ○ A colleague or administrator at my institution
- ○ A colleague or mentor at another institution
- ○ A conversation with NIH staff
- ○ A presentation by NIH staff
- ○ NIH's website
- ○ A funding opportunities database
- ○ Other, please specify

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Next] button below.

| Next » | Save and Continue Later |

1:101

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

2. Below are reasons why researchers may apply for AREA funding. Please indicate how important each reason was in your decision to apply to the AREA program.

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
A. Funding from my institution was unavailable or insufficient for my research.	○	○	○	○
B. My institution encourages me to seek external research funding.	○	○	○	○
C. NIH AREA funding allows me to reduce my teaching or service commitments.	○	○	○	○
D. NIH AREA funds provide me with salary support beyond the academic year.	○	○	○	○
E. I am expected to supplement my university salary with research funds.	○	○	○	○
F. My institution's commitment to the project depends on receiving external funding.	○	○	○	○
G. NIH AREA funding provides external validation for the merit of the project.	○	○	○	○
H. NIH AREA funding facilitates the training of undergraduates.	○	○	○	○
I. NIH AREA funding facilitates the training of graduate and health professional students.	○	○	○	○
J. NIH AREA funding facilitates collaboration within my institution.	○	○	○	○

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

1:102

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

3. How useful were each of the following as an information source about the AREA program?

	Very useful	Moderately useful	A little useful	Not at all useful	No experience with this source
A. Colleagues or administrators at your institution	○	○	○	○	○
B. Colleagues or mentors at another institution	○	○	○	○	○
C. NIH's website	○	○	○	○	○
D. NIH staff	○	○	○	○	○

E. Other information sources, please specify in the box below:

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

1:103

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)
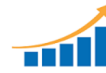
4. Did you contact NIH staff with questions regarding your application?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't remember

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

| « Previous | Next » | Save and Continue Later |

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

5. If you contacted NIH about the AREA program, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with each of the following?
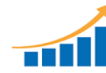
	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't recall	Not applicable or not sure
A. Promptness of response	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
B. Helpfulness with locating appropriate NIH resources	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
C. NIH staff input on scientific sections of the application (aims, research strategy)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
D. NIH staff input on administrative sections of the application (budget, IRB, human subjects)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
E. Assistance interpreting summary statement (reviewers' comments)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
F. Advice about resubmission	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

| « Previous | Next » | Save and Continue Later |

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

6. Did you seek assistance from your institution regarding your application?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't remember

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

« Previous	Next »	Save and Continue Later

1:106

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

7. How useful was your institution's assistance in…

	Very useful	Moderately useful	Not too useful	Not at all useful	Not applicable or not sure
A. …developing scientific sections of the application (aims, research strategy)?	○	○	○	○	○
B. …preparing administrative sections of the application (budget, IRB, human subjects, etc.)?	○	○	○	○	○
C. …locating collaborators?	○	○	○	○	○
D. …submitting the application or uploading it online?	○	○	○	○	○

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

« Previous	Next »	Save and Continue Later

1:107

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)
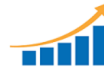
8. How would you rate the NIH AREA review and decision process?

○ Very fair

○ Somewhat fair

○ Neither fair or unfair

○ Somewhat unfair

○ Very unfair
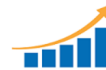
NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

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NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

9. If you have any comments about the NIH AREA application and review process, please share them with us:
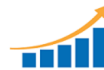
NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

| « Previous | Next » | Save and Continue Later |

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

In order to understand the mentorship responsibilities of our applicants, the next questions ask about the students who may have been involved in your research in the period after submitting your AREA application.

10. Think back to the year you proposed to begin the project presented in your most recent AREA application. In the subsequent three (3) years, how many of each type of student worked in your lab?

Type of Student	Number	Don't Remember
High School students		☐ Don't Remember
Undergraduate students		☐ Don't Remember
Graduate students (MA, MS, PhD)		☐ Don't Remember
Health professional (MD, PharmD, DDS, etc.) students		☐ Don't Remember

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

« Previous | Next » | Save and Continue Later

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

11. Of the totals above, how many of each type of the following types of students disseminated findings from their work via publications, presentations, or posters?

Type of Student	Number	Don't Remember
High School students		☐ Don't Remember
Undergraduate students		☐ Don't Remember
Graduate students (MA, MS, PhD)		☐ Don't Remember
Health professional (MD, PharmD, DDS, etc.) students		☐ Don't Remember

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

« Previous | Next » | Save and Continue Later

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

Undergraduate Student Involvement

12. Did the *undergraduate* students counted as working in your lab during that 3-year period…

	Yes	No
a. …contribute ideas to research design or experimental design?	○	○
b. …develop materials or resources needed to conduct research?	○	○
c. …perform experiments, data collection, or data analysis?	○	○
d. …plan next steps (for example: decided relevant experiments or data analyses) to address research questions?	○	○

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

« Previous   Next »   Save and Continue Later

2:212

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

13. Please describe any other ways that *undergraduate* students were involved in your research:

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

« Previous   Next »   Save and Continue Later

2:213

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

14. Of the *undergraduate* students who worked in your lab during that 3-year period, how MANY…

	Number	Don't Remember
a. …pursued graduate education related to the same general field as your research interests?		☐ Don't Remember
b. …pursued graduate education in a DIFFERENT biomedical or behavioral field?		☐ Don't Remember
c. …pursued education as a health professional?		☐ Don't Remember
d. …sought employment in a biomedical or behavioral field immediately after graduation?		☐ Don't Remember
e …sought employment or graduate/professional education in a scientific field other than biomedical or behavioral science?		☐ Don't Remember

f. Please specify any other research, training, or employment outcomes for your undergraduate students below:

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

« Previous   Next »   Save and Continue Later

2:214

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

Graduate or Professional Student Involvement

15. Did any *graduate (MA, MS, PhD) and health professional (MD, PharmD, DDS, etc.)* students counted as working in your lab during that 3-year period…

	Yes	No
a. …contribute ideas to research design or experimental design?	○	○
b. …develop materials or resources needed to conduct research?	○	○
c. …perform experiments, data collection, or data analysis?	○	○
d. …plan next steps (for example: decided relevant experiments or data analyses) to address research questions?	○	○

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

« Previous   Next »   Save and Continue Later

2:215

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

16.If graduate and health professional students were involved in your research in other ways, please describe:

[   ]

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

[« Previous] [Next »] [Save and Continue Later]

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

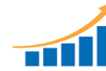17.After graduation, HOW MANY of the *graduate and health professional* students who worked in your lab during that 3-year period…

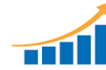|	Number	Don't Remember
a. …pursued research in a biomedical or behavioral field?		☐ Don't Remember
b. …attained employment in academia or in research?		☐ Don't Remember
c. …attained employment as a clinician?		☐ Don't Remember
d. …attained employment outside of the biomedical or behavioral sciences?		☐ Don't Remember

e. Please specify any other research, training, or employment outcomes for your *graduate and health professional* students below:

[   ]

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

[« Previous] [Next »] [Save and Continue Later]

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

RESEARCH

The next questions are about the specific line of research represented by your proposed AREA project.

18.Did you remain active as a researcher after submitting your AREA application?

○ Yes

○ No

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

| « Previous | Next » | Save and Continue Later |

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

19.Since you submitted the AREA application, have you done any research related to the work you proposed in that application?

○ Yes

○ No

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

| « Previous | Next » | Save and Continue Later |

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

20. Which of the following best describes the scale of effort of the project in comparison with that proposed in your AREA application?

○ Larger than proposed to AREA
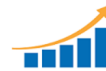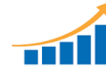
○ About the same as proposed

○ Smaller than proposed

NOTE: Please do not use your browser buttons to navigate the survey. Instead, please click on the [Previous] or [Next] buttons below.

| « Previous | Next » | Save and Continue Later |

3:320

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)
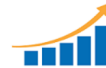
21. In the *five* (5) years following *submission* of your most recent application to the AREA program, about how much funding was committed to the AREA project's line of research? (include personnel support but *not* tuition waivers)

Your best estimate is fine.

| a. Funding from sources *within* my institution: | $ | | ⌄ |

| b. Funding from sources *outside* my institution: | $ | | ⌄ |

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22. In the *five* (5) years following your most recent AREA *application submission*, did you receive funding from the following external sources for the line of research represented in your AREA application?

a. Federal government programs (other than AREA)

[dropdown ▼]

If Yes, specify agency and program name

[   ]

b. State or local government programs

[dropdown ▼]

if Yes, specify agency and program name

[   ]

c. Private foundations or organizations

[dropdown ▼]

if Yes, specify organization name

[   ]

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FUTURE AREA APPLICATIONS

23. How likely is it that you will apply again to the AREA program?

○ Very likely

○ Somewhat likely

○ Somewhat unlikely

○ Very unlikely

○ Don't know

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24.What are the reasons you are unlikely to seek AREA funding in the future?
Select all that apply:

- ☐ My current institution is not AREA-eligible.
- ☐ I am no longer conducting research that is AREA-eligible.
- ☐ I will be leaving an AREA-eligible institution soon.
- ☐ I am—or will be—retiring shortly.
- ☐ Other funding sources are a better fit for my research.
- ☐ The application and review process was too burdensome.
- ☐ My teaching and service responsibilities do not allow enough time for research.
- ☐ My other faculty responsibilities do not allow enough time for mentorship of individual students.
- ☐ Students at my institution are not appropriate for AREA-program participation.
- ☐ Other (specify):

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Thank you for completing the AREA survey.

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Please contact NIHAREAsurvey@westat.com if you need to make changes to your responses or have questions or concerns.