

Attachment A.1.2: RFA-RM-13-019**Department of Health and Human Services****Part 1. Overview Information**

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Strategic Coordination (Com m on Fu nd)
Components of Participating Organizations	This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is developed as a Com m on Fund i nitia tive (http://co m m onfund.nih.gov/) through the NIH Office of the NIH Director, Office of Strategic Coordination (http://dpcps.nih.gov/oscl/). The FOA will be administered by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/) on behalf of the NIH.
Funding Opportunity Title	NIH Director's Biomedical Research Workforce Innovation Award: Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) (DP7)
Activity Code	DP7 Director's Biomedical Research Workforce Innovation Award Program
Announcement Type	Reissue of RFA-RM-12-022
Related Notices	January 30, 2014 - See Notice NOT-RM-14-006. Notice of Informational Webinar.
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number	RFA -RM-13-019
Companion Funding Opportunity	None
Number of Applications	See Section III.3 . Add ition al In form a tion on El igibi lity .
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s)	93.310
Funding Opportunity Purpose	The purpose of this FOA is to seek out, identify and support bold and innovative approaches designed to broaden graduate and postdoctoral training, such that training programs reflect the range of career options that Ph.D. graduate students and postdoctoral (regardless of funding source) pursue and that are required for a robust biomedical, behavioral, social and clinical research enterprise. Collaborations with non-academic partners are encouraged to ensure that experts from a broad spectrum of research-intensive and research-related careers contribute to coursework, rotations, internships or other forms of exposure. This program will establish a new paradigm for graduate and postdoctoral training; award institutions will work together to define needs and share best practices.

Key Dates

Posted Date	Jan uary 17, 2 014
Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)	Feb ruary 28, 2014
Letter of Intent Due Date(s)	Feb ruary 28, 2014
Application Due Date(s)	Mar ch 31 , 201 4, by 5:00 PM l ocal tim e of ap plica nt or ganization . App lican ts ar e enc ourag ed to appl y ear ly to allo w ade quate tim e to m ake any corr ectio ns to erro rs fo und i n the appl icati on du ring the s ubm is sion pro ces s by th e due date .
AIDS Application Due Date(s)	Not Appl icabl e
Scientific Merit Review	Jun e/Jul y 201 4
Advisory Council Review	Aug us t 2 014
Earliest Start Date	Sep tem be r 201 4
Expiration Date	Apr il 1, 2014
Due Dates for E.O. 123 72	Not Appl icabl e

Required Application Instructions

It is cr itica l tha t app lican ts fo llow the i ns tru ctio ns in the [S F424 \(R&R\) Appl icati on Gu ide](#) e xcept wher e ins tructed to do o therw is e (in th is FOA or in a Notic e fro m the [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#)). Con form a nce to all requ irem e nts (both in th e App lication Guide and the FOA) is requ ired and s trictly enforced . App lican ts m u s t r ead and fo llow a ll ap plica tion ins tr uctio ns in the Appl icatio n Gui de as well as a ny pro gram - s peci fic i ns tru ctio ns noted in [Section IV](#). Wh en th e pro gram - s peci fic i ns tru ctio ns deviate fro m thos e in the App lication Guid e, fo llow the p rogra m -s pe cific ins tructi ons .

Applicat ions that do not com ply w ith t hese instr uctio ns will not be revie wed

Apply for Grant Electronically

A c om patible vers i on of [Adob e Rea der](#) i s req uired for downl oad. For As s is tance downl oadin g thi s or any Gra nts .g ov ap plica tion packa ge, p leas e contact Grants .gov Cus to m er S uppor t at <http://ww07.grants.gov/contactus/contactus.jsp>.

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Part 2. Full Text of Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

This initiative is funded through the NIH Common Fund, which supports cross-cutting programs that are expected to have exceptionally high impact. All Common Fund initiatives invite applicants to develop bold, innovative, and often-risky approaches to address problems that may seem intractable or to seize new opportunities that offer the potential for rapid progress.

Background

This initiative is developed in response to recommendations provided by the Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD), NIH. The committee studied the current state of the biomedical research workforce, and NIH's support of training for this workforce (http://acd.od.nih.gov/Biomedical_arch_wgreport.pdf). The ACD report confirms that although the vast majority of people holding biomedical PhDs are productively employed, the proportion of PhDs that move into tenure-track or tenure faculty positions represents a minority of the trainee outcomes. An increasing proportion of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows conduct research in non-academic venues such as government or private sector, or are in areas such as science policy. Despite the broad range of career options available to U.S.-trained PhD biomedical scientists, graduate programs and postdoctoral training focus almost exclusively on preparing individuals for careers as academic researchers. The ACD committee recommended that NIH-supported graduate programs and postdoctoral training be broadened to reflect the actual career outcomes of today's PhD graduates and postdoctoral scientists. For the purposes of this FOA, a "research-intensive" career is defined as an occupation in which research is performed in any venue, including industry, academia, government or entrepreneurial pursuits. "Research-related" careers are defined as occupations that directly support the biomedical research enterprise. Please see <http://biomedicalresearchworkforce.nih.gov/> which reflects the current state of NIH's efforts to ward this goal.

Program Objectives

In consideration of the recommendations, this program invites applications that propose the establishment, implementation, and assessment of innovative approaches and activities to broaden and complement traditional research training in biomedical, behavioral, social and clinical (referred to as

'biomedical') sciences. These awards, also called the **Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST)** awards, will provide support for institutions to develop novel ideas in training and workforce development. The goal of this program is to better prepare predoctoral students and postdoctoral scientists for the breadth of careers in the biomedical research workforce and to establish a network to develop, share, evaluate, and disseminate best practices within the training community.

The announcement seeks applications from institutions with established predoctoral programs. If an applicant institution also trains a significant number of postdoctoral scientists, the proposed program designed in response to this FOA must also include a plan to address the needs of the postdoctoral

scientists. We invite bold and innovative applications that leverage existing institutional resources to broaden and enrich training experiences so that participants are exposed to multiple research-intensive and

research-related career paths early in their training. Programs should identify various career paths and develop meaningful opportunities targeting those pathways. Participants (both graduate students and postdoctoral fellows) are expected to have the opportunity to select from among the preparatory

experiences. The program is not meant to train them fully for new career options, but should prepare them for the next steps in their career development.

Applications responsive to this FOA should provide opportunities to acquire a working knowledge of the skills necessary for a wide range of successful careers in the biomedical research workforce. The goal

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of this FOA is to broaden both doctoral and postdoctoral traditional training experiences such that the participants are better prepared for careers in a variety of venues, including industry, government, academia, or entrepreneurial enterprises. While it is expected that participants intending to enter academic research careers will benefit from broader experience, programs designed exclusively to target academic research

careers will be considered non-responsive. For individuals seeking careers in research-related areas, such as science policy, technology transfer, management or other areas requiring the research doctorate in biomedical science, NIH seeks applications to provide graduate students and postdoctoral fellows meaningful training experiences so that they are better prepared to enter those occupations as well as for research-intensive careers in the private sector.

Applicants are also encouraged to include the design of positive and attractive exit pathways for those individuals intending careers that do not require a research doctorate. More broadly, NIH seeks innovative business and academic models of how graduate programs in biomedical research sciences define themselves and the ir purposes, how they recruit, admit, support, steer and mentor students to prepare them appropriately for chosen biomedical research-intensive or research-related careers. It is not expected that applicants must provide experiences in all research-intensive or research-related outcomes, but programs should target aspects of training that will enhance their existing programs and add to a more well-rounded approach.

Applicants are encouraged to form partnerships with organizations that employ scientists engaged in the careers for which the training experiences are directed (private sector, publishing, government, etc.). Partner organizations may provide opportunities for internships, their staff may participate in the development and implementation of novel curricula, and/or they may contribute in other ways to the success of the program.

Institutions that are currently exploring novel approaches are encouraged to apply but must carefully explain how support from this award would substantially complement and/or add new dimensions to their existing programs. Applications that request additional support only to maintain an existing program will be deemed non-responsive. Examples of innovative approaches include but are not limited to: exchange arrangements with other schools and programs within the applicant institution (Schools of Business, Economics, Law, Public Policy, Social Sciences, Public Health, Communications, etc.) with the potential for mutual benefits such as learning business skills, specific courses including hands-on training in technology transfer, program or policy development, management and administration at government agencies (Federal, state, and local governments, etc.), and internships or other collaborations with partner companies or other institutions. Applicants should include details on the relationships/partnerships they are proposing with particular attention to what the participants will do during these experiences.

It is expected that the BEST awards will transcend department, program, and disciplinary school boundaries, and be available to biomedical science graduate students and postdoctoral associates disciplines. They should aim to transform the culture of research training in the biomedical sciences for both participants and mentors and disseminate findings widely across the training community. Applications that leverage funds from this program with existing institutional offices and programs, local resources outside the institution, or partners are highly encouraged.

The training period for biomedical careers is already lengthy, and these activities should be integrated with traditional trainings so as not to increase the time to degree for predoctoral students or the length of the postdoctoral period.

The BEST awards are meant to be experiments and therefore rigorous evaluation of each individual award will be required by both the individual awardees and independently by NIH. For NIH's evaluation plan, awardees will be required to provide data including, but not limited to, information specified in the evaluation plan below. NIH expects that approaches that are tested and proven to be successful will be widely

disseminated throughout the biomedical training community. A further expectation is that the newly developed training activities from these awards that are deemed successful will be institutionalized.

In order to prevent undue redundancies and to share information and best practices, the BEST awardees will interact on a regular basis. Each year, awardees will meet to discuss developments, progress and insights gained. Applicants should budget for participation at these meetings. The Program Director/Pr

2/19/2014 RFA-RM-13-019: NIH Directors Biomedical Research Workforce Innovation Award: Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) Principal Investigator (PD/PI) and relevant personnel should be prepared to attend the annual meetings in Bethesda, MD, starting with the second annual meeting October 30-31, 2014. Periodic teleconference calls will augment interactions among the awardees, and site visits from NIH staff will evaluate progress of the program as it develops.

BEST programs may complement ongoing research training and education occurring at the applicant institution, but the proposed BEST experiences must be distinct from those training and education programs currently receiving Federal support. D P7 programs may augment institutional research training programs (e.g., T32, T90) but cannot be used to replace or circumvent Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) programs.

Section II. Award Information

Funding Instrument	Grant: A support mechanism providing money, property, or both to an eligible entity to carry out an approved project or activity.
Application Types Allowed	New The OER Glossary and the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide provide details on these application types.
Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	NIH Commission Fund intends to commit approximately \$3,000,000 in FY 2014. Approximately 7-10 awards are anticipated, contingent upon availability of funds and receipt of a sufficient number of
Award Budget	Awards will be for up to \$250,000 in direct costs per year, plus applicable Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs.
Award Project Period	The requested project period may not exceed five years. The purpose of this award is to support the development of programs but not to maintain the matter 5 years.

Other Award Budget Information

Personnel Costs	Individuals designing, directing, and implementing the BEST program may request salary and fringe benefits appropriate for the months devoted to the program. Salaries requested may not exceed the levels commensurate with the institution's policy for similar positions and may not exceed the congressional mandated cap. (If mentoring interactions and other activities with participants are considered a regular part of an individual's academic duties, the necessary costs associated with the mentoring and other interactions with participants are not allowable costs.)
Participant Costs	Participants are the beneficiaries of this program, namely graduate students and postdoctoral individuals. No funds from this award may be used to cover or supplement wages or stipends of these individuals. Tuition costs of these individuals are also covered by other sources, and the reformer not allowable under this award. However, we will justify travel of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to program sites is allowable.

Other Program-Related Expenses

Consequential costs, equipment, supplies, travel for key persons, and other program-related expenses may be included in the proposed budget. These expenses must be justified as specifically required by the proposed program and must not duplicate items generally available at the applicant institution.

Guest speakers, outside experts, consultant costs, administrative personnel, and other program-related expenses may be included in the proposed budget. These expenses must be justified as specific

	<p>required by the proposed program and must not duplicate items generally available at the applicant institution.</p> <p>Awardees must budget for attendance of relevant personnel at an annual award meeting starting with the October 30-31, 2014, annual meeting, to be held in Bethesda, MD. Expenses are not to exceed \$1500 per person per trip.</p>
Indirect Costs	<p>Indirect Costs (also known as Facilities and Administrative [F&A] costs) are reimbursed on the basis of a negotiated rate agreement.</p>

NIH grants policies as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#) will apply to the applications submitted and awards made in response to this FOA.

Section III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Organizations

Higher Education Institutions

- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education

The following types of Higher Education Institutions are always encouraged to apply for NIH support as Public or Private Institutions of Higher Education:

- Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
- Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)

Only PhD-degree granting institutions are eligible to apply. Institutions that received a BEST award in fiscal year 2013 are not eligible to apply.

Institutions with existing Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) institutional training grants (e.g., T32) or other Federally funded training programs may apply for a BEST Award provided that the proposed educational experiences are distinct from those training programs receiving federal support. In many cases, it is anticipated that the proposed BEST program will complement ongoing research training occurring at the applicant institution.

Foreign Institutions

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) **are not** eligible to apply. Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations **are not** eligible to apply. Foreign components, as [defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), **are not** allowed.

Required Registrations

Applicant Organizations

Applicant organizations must complete and maintain the following registrations as described in the SF 424 (R&R) Application Guide to be eligible to apply for or receive an award. All registrations must

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be completed prior to the application being submitted. Registration can take 6 weeks or more, so applicants should begin

the registration process as soon as possible. The [NIH Policy on Late Submission of Grant Applications](#) states that failure to complete registrations in advance of a deadline is not a valid reason for late submission.

- [Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System \(DUNS\)](#) - All registrations require that applicants be issued a DUNS number. After obtaining a DUNS number, applicants can begin both SAM and eRA Commons registrations. The same DUNS number must be used for all registrations, as well as on the grant application.
- [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) (for former CCR) – Applicants must complete and maintain an active registration, **which requires renewal at least annually**. The renewal process may require as much time as the initial registration. SAM registrations include the assignment of a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code for domestic organizations which have not already been assigned a CAGE Code.
- [NATO Commercial and Government Entity \(NCAGE\) Code](#) – Foreign organizations must obtain a NCAGE code (in lieu of a CAGE code) in order to register in SAM.
- [eRA Commons](#) - Applicants must have an active DUNS number and SAM registration in order to complete the eRA Commons registration. Organizations can register with the eRA Commons as they are working through their SAM or Grants.gov registration. eRA Commons requires organizations to identify at least one Signing Official (SO) and at least one Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) account in order to submit an application.
- [Grants.gov](#) – Applicants must have an active DUNS number and SAM registration in order to complete the Grants.gov registration.

Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PD(s)/PI(s))

All PD(s)/PI(s) must have an eRA Commons account and should work with their organizational officials to either create a new account or to affiliate an existing account with the applicant organization's eRA

Commons account. If the PD/PI is also the organizational Signing Official, they must have two distinct eRA Commons accounts, one for each role. Obtaining a new eRA Commons account can take up to 2 weeks.

Eligible Individuals (Program Director/Principal Investigator)

Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and women are always encouraged to apply for NIH support.

For institutions/organizations proposing multiple PDs/PIs, visit the Multiple Program Director/Principal Investigator Policy and submission details in the Senior/Key Persons Profile (Expanded) Component of the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

The PD/PI should be an established investigator in the scientific area in which the application is targeted and capable of providing both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the proposed program. The PD/PI will be expected to monitor and assess the program and submit all documents and reports as required.

2. Cost Sharing

This FOA does not require cost sharing as defined in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

3. Additional Information on Eligibility

Number of Applications

Only one application per institution (normally identified by having a unique DUNS number or NIH IPF number) is allowed.

NIH will not accept any application that is essentially the same as one already reviewed with in the past thirty- s even months (as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#)), except for submission:

- To an RFA of an application that was submitted previously as an investigator-initiated application but not paid ;
- Of an investigator -initiated application that was originally submitted to an RFA but not paid ; or
- Of an application with a changed grant activity code.

Program Faculty

Awardees are encouraged to recruit individuals with appropriate experience from diverse backgrounds , including racial and ethnic minorities , persons with disabilities , and women as directors /mentors /teachers /lecturers /receptors . Mentors should have research experience and/or experience relevant to the proposed program and demonstrate history of excellence in this area. Awardees are encouraged to recruit and support individuals acting in the program from partner organizations representing a variety of career options .

Participants

Unless strongly justified on the basis of exceptional relevance to NIH, BEST programs should be used primarily for the education of U.S. citizens and permanent residents . Individuals who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent residents may participate in the BEST program plan activities , but as associated costs must be well justified.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Reque sting an Application Package

Applicants must download the SF424 (R&R) application package associated with this funding opportunity using the “Apply for Grant Electronically” button in this FOA or following the directions provided at [Grants.gov](#).

2. Conte nt and Form of Application Submission

It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in the [S F424 \(R&R\) Appl icati on Gu ide](#) , except where instructed in this funding opportunity announcement to do otherwise. Conformance to the requirements in the Application Guide is required and strictly enforced. Applications that are out of compliance with these instructions will not be reviewed .

For information on Application Submission and Receipt, visit [Fr equen tly As ked Ques tions – App lication Gui de, E lectronic Subm i s s ion of Grant Appli catio ns](#) .

Letter of Intent

Although a letter of intent is not required , is not binding, and does not enter into the review of a subsequent application, the information that it contains allows CSR staff to estimate the potential review workload and plan the review.

By the date listed in [P art 1 .Ove rview Info rm ati on](#), prospective applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent that includes the following information:

- Descriptive title of proposed activity
- Name(s), address(es), and telephone number(s) of the PD(s)
- PI(s) Names of other key personnel
- Participating institution(s)
- Number and title of this funding opportunity

The letter of intent should be sent to :

Dr. Patricia Labosky

Program Leader
 Office of Strategic Coordination
 Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives
 Office of the Director, NIH
 1 Center Drive, Room 21
 4A Bethesda, MD 20892 -
 0189
 Telephone: 301-594-4863
 Email: laboskypa@od.nih.gov

Page Limitations

All page limitations described in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide and the [Table of Page Limits](#) must be followed, with the following additional instructions:

BEST Program Plan (uploaded via Research Strategy): 25 pages.

Required and Optional Components

The forms package associated with this FOA includes all applicable components, required and optional. Please note that some components marked optional in the application package are required for submission of applications for this FOA. Follow the instructions in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide to ensure you complete all appropriate "optional" components.

Instructions for Application Submission

The following sections supplement the instructions found in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide and should be used for preparing an application to this FOA.

SF4 24(R&R) Cover

Follow all instructions provided in the SF4 24 (R &R) Application Guide.

SF4 24(R&R) Project/Performance Site Locations

Follow all instructions provided in the SF4 24 (R &R) Application Guide. **SF4**

24 (R &R) Other Project Information Component

Follow all instructions provided in the SF4 24 (R &R) Application Guide with the following additional modifications:

Facilities & Other Resources. Describe the educational and training environment, both at the institution and, where applicable, at other relevant sites, including the facilities, laboratories, participating departments, computer services, and any other resources to be used in the development and implementation of the proposed program. List all thematically related sources of support for research training and education following the format for Current and Pending Support. The sponsoring institution must assure support for the proposed program.

Other Attachments. A plan must be provided for the appointment of an Advisory Committee that will evaluate the proposed program, its implementation and its progress. The Committee should have the authority to recommend any mid-course changes needed to enhance the program. Composition, responsibilities, frequency of meetings, and other relevant information should be included. Describe the composition of the Advisory Committee, identifying the role and the desired expertise of members.

Describe how the Advisory Committee will function in providing oversight of the development, implementation, and evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the program. Note that proposed Advisory Committee members should be named in the application, particularly if they include individual

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The file name provided for each "Other Attachment" will be the name used for the bookmark in the electronic application in eRA Commons.

SF4 24(R&R) Senior/Key Person Profile Expanded

Follow all instructions provided in the SF4 24 (R &R) Application Guide.

R&R Budget

Follow all instructions provided in the SF4 24 (R &R) Application Guide with the following additional modifications:

- Include all personnel other than the PD(s)/PI(s) in the Other Personnel section, including clerical and administrative staff.

PHS 398 Cover Page Supplement

Follow all instructions provided in the SF4 24 (R &R) Application Guide.

PHS 398 Research Plan Component

All instructions in the SF42 4 (R &R) Application Guide must be followed, with the following additional instructions:

Research Strategy

The **Research Strategy** section must be used to upload the **BEST Program Plan**, which must include the following components described below:

- Proposed BEST Program
- Program Director/Principal Investigator
- (s) Program Faculty/Staff
- Program Participants
- Institutional Environment and Committee
- Institutional Diversity Recruitment and Retention Plan
- Evaluation Plan
- Dissemination Plan

BEST Program Plan

Proposed BEST Program. Describe the BEST program's specific purpose, short-term, intermediate, and long-range goals, as well as intended outcomes. Explain the basis and rationale for the program and any evidence of past successes upon which it may be based. Describe the educational level (pre and/or postgraduate degree, if applicable) of the participants, and the amount of their participation (hours spent over how much time). Describe in detail any new businesses and/or academic models that will be utilized to recruit, admit, support, and serve students and postdoctoral scientists to better prepare them for chosen careers. Describe in detail the activities of the program, including any courses to be developed, and how these will be integrated into the existing graduate program. A timeline may be used to clarify how the proposed activities will not adversely impact time to degree or time in the postdoctoral position. If the plan will be started with a smaller number of participants and then expanded, describe how this will be accomplished. Describe how the program will span departmental, center, program and/or school boundaries to potentially reach all biomedical graduate students and postdoctoral individuals. Describe how the program will be evaluated and, specifically, the evidence and data to be collected for this evaluation. In particular, describe the plans for tracking the program participants while in the program, but also the immediate next career step of PhD graduates and scientists completing the postdoctoral experience (usually no more than 5 year duration) and moving into subsequent positions. Describe how individuals will have access to the program across departmental, program, center and/or school boundaries. Describe how the mentors of the participants will be engaged and

how they will impact the program (faculty buy-in). Describe how the activities and “lessons learned” of this program will be disseminated to benefit all biomedical students and postdoctoral fellows at the institution. Describe how successful approaches will be publicized and disseminated to other

institutions. If participants are to travel to partner sites, describe what the participants will do at these sites and describe the external partners' commitments to the participants before, during, and after the off-site training experience.

Institutions that are currently exploring novel approaches are encouraged to apply but must carefully explain how support from this award would substantially complement and/or add new dimensions to the existing program. Applications that request additional support only to maintain an existing

program will be deemed non-responsive. Examples of innovative approaches include but are not limited to: exchange arrangements with other schools and programs within the applicant institution (Schools of Business, Economics, Law, Public Policy, Social Sciences, Public Health, Communications, etc.) with the potential for mutual benefits such as learning business skills, specific courses including hands-on training in technology transfer, program or policy development, management and administration at government agencies (Federal, state, and local governments, etc.), and internships or other collaborations with partner companies or other institutions. Applicants should include details on the relationships/partnerships they are proposing with participating attention to what the participants will do during these experiences.

Program Director/Principal Investigator. Describe arrangements for administration of the program. Provide evidence that the Program Director/Principal Investigator is actively engaged in research, training and/or teaching in an area related to the mission of NIH, and can organize, administer, monitor, and evaluate the BEST program. For programs proposing multiple PDs/PIs, describe the complementary and integrated expertise of the PDs/PIs, the interdisciplinary approach, and governance appropriate for the planned project.

Program Faculty. Researcher from diverse backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and women are encouraged to participate as program faculty. Faculty should have research expertise and experience relevant to the proposed program and demonstrate a history of, or the potential for, their intended roles. Describe the current responsibilities of the participating faculty and other expert staff who will contribute to the success of this program. Provide evidence that the participating faculty support this program and the students and postdocs who will participate in this program; this may be provided via letters of support and/or letters of faculty who will allow their students/postdocs to participate in the BEST program activities.

Program Participants. Application must describe the intended participants, and the eligibility criteria and/or specific educational background characteristics that are essential for participation in the proposed BEST program. Identify the career levels for which the proposed program is planned.

Institutional Environment and Commitment. Describe the institutional environment, reiterating the availability of facilities and educational resources (described separately under “Facilities & Other Resource”), that can contribute to the planned BEST Program. Evidence of institutional commitment to the BEST program is required. A letter of institutional commitment must be attached as part of Letters of Support (see below). Appropriate institutional commitment should include the provision of adequate staff, facilities, and educational resources that can contribute to the planned BEST program. The letter of institutional commitment must also address the long-term commitment to the goals of the program and

anticipated plans for continuation of the novel curricula, internships, etc. after they are developed through this program. Describe how the institutional commitment reflects the expectation that graduate students and postdoctoral fellows (regardless of their salary support mechanism) will be allowed to participate. Describe how institutions will integrate these activities into existing programs for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. If partner organizations are expected to provide long-term support via the participation of their staff and/or the support of internships or other training op

Diversity Recruitment and Retention Plan. The NIH recognizes a unique and compelling need to promote diversity (among US Citizens and permanent residents) in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical

and social sciences research workforce. The NIH expects efforts to diversify the workforce to lead to the recruitment of the most talented researchers from all groups; to improve the quality of the educational and training environment; to balance and broaden the perspective in setting research priorities; to improve the ability to recruit subjects from diverse backgrounds into clinical research protocols; and to improve the Nation's capacity to address and eliminate health disparities. The BEST program will draw from the institution's pool of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows (where applicable). This presents an opportunity for applicants to engage in targeted recruitment efforts to enhance the diversity of the pool of participants in the program. Applicants should describe how they plan to attract students from underrepresented backgrounds to participate in BEST award activities.

Accordingly, the NIH continues to encourage institutions to diversify the student and faculty populations and thus to increase the participation of individuals currently underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences such as: individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; individuals with disabilities; and individuals from socially, culturally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited the ability to pursue a career in health-related research. Institutions are encouraged to identify candidates who will increase diversity on a national basis.

The NIH is particularly interested in encouraging the recruitment of the following classes of participants: A. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science

Foundation

to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis (see data at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/hsowpub.cfm?TopID=2&SubID=27> and the most recent report on [Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering](#)). The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hawaiian Natives, and natives of the U.S. Pacific Islands. In addition, it is recognized that underrepresentation can vary from setting to setting; individuals from racial or ethnic groups that can be convincingly demonstrated to be underrepresented by the grant institutions should be encouraged to participate in this program.

B. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

C. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who are defined as:

- Individuals who come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds. The thresholds are based on family size; published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census; adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index; and adjusted by the Secretary for use in all health professions programs. The Secretary periodically publishes these income levels at [HHS - Poverty Guidelines, Research, and Measurement](#). For individuals from low income backgrounds, the institution must be able to demonstrate that such participants have (1) qualified for Federal disbursement assistance, (2) they have received Health Professions Student Loans (HPSL) or Loans for Disadvantaged Student Program, or (3) they have received scholarships from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Scholarship for Individuals with Exceptional Financial Need.
- Individuals who come from a social, cultural, or educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that have demonstrably and directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research-intensive or research-related career.

Recruitment and retention plans related to a disadvantaged background (C1 and C2) are most applicable to high school and perhaps to undergraduate candidates, but would be more difficult to justify for individuals beyond that level of academic achievement. Under extraordinary circumstances the PHS may, at its discretion, consider an individual beyond the undergraduate level to be from a dis

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RFA-RM-13-019: NIH Directors Biomedical Research Workforce Innovation Award: Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) advancement background. Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, based on appropriate documentation.

New applications must include a description of plans to enhance recruitment of a diverse participant pool and may wish to include data in support of past accomplishments. The plans should be appropriate and reasonable for the nature and duration of the proposed program.

Applications lacking a diversity recruitment and retention plan will not be reviewed.

Evaluation Plan. The BEST awards are meant to be experiments and the rigorous evaluation of each individual award will be required by both the individual awardees and independently by NIH. Applications must include a detailed plan for evaluating the activities supported by the award. The plan should provide information that clearly states what the program intends to do, what it hopes to accomplish, and the intended impact of the program. The application must specify baseline metrics (e.g., numbers, educational levels, and demographic characteristics of participants), as well as measures to gauge the short- or long-term impact of the BEST program on the career outcomes of the participants. As a component of this evaluation, applicants must obtain formal written feedback from participants, faculty, and partners early and often to help identify weaknesses and to provide suggestions for improvements in the program.

Applications must include plans for the collection of data to address the evaluation measures below. In parallel, the NIH will be gathering this information from awardees to conduct independent evaluations of the program. The nature of the proposed program might require additional or different data to be gathered, and the applicants should propose such additional data to be gathered in their applications. Note: data should be gathered at least annually or on a rolling basis as applicable.

Data to be gathered by all awardees:

Graduate Students:

- Aggregate number and demographic characteristics of participants
- Participation in activities contributing to the goals of the program (how many students participate, how many hours on average do they participate over what span of time)
- Attitudes toward, and understanding of, career paths addressed by the program; how attitudes and understanding are affected by the program
- Perception of students regarding faculty attitudes toward student participation in the program
- Productivity of participants (including publications and time to degree)
- (s) Graduate degree(s) obtained
- Subsequent immediate job placement or postdoctoral activity, including postdoctoral mentor
- Information on graduate students who pursued other degree programs as a result of this program's guidance, including when during the training period this change of track took place
- Current funding support (e.g., NIH R01, NRS A, NSF, HHMI, society fellowships)

Postdoctoral Scientists:

- Aggregate number and demographic characteristics of participants
- Degree of participation in activities contributing to the goals of the program
- Attitudes toward, and understanding of, career paths addressed by the program; how attitudes and understanding are affected by the program
- Perception of postdoctoral fellows regarding research faculty attitudes toward participation in the program
- Publications during the postdoctoral experience
- Subsequent competitive career development or research support (F32, K08, K99/R00, foundations, HHMI, etc.), or how participants are currently supported
- Detailed occupational information, including next immediate job after the postdoctoral experience
- Number of years in the postdoctoral experience before obtaining next position

Faculty:

- Number of faculty from applicant and partner institutions who participate as mentors, instructors, preceptors for the training activities developed through program

- Number of faculty from applicant institutions who participated by virtue of having students and/or postdocs from their laboratories engaged in training activities of the program
- Degree of faculty participation in activities contributing to the goals of the program
- Attitudes toward program training goals and time of students spent outside the laboratory; how attitudes change as a result of the program

Projects in which an investigator obtains data through intervention or interaction with an individual or obtains identifiable private information, such as with surveys or by tracking participants, is defined as human subjects research. These activities require that the application claim Human Subjects, even though it is quite likely that the project falls into one of the Exempt Human Research categories. Applicants should work with their institutional Review Board (IRB) to obtain the required exemptions or approvals.

Dissemination Plan. A specific plan must be provided to disseminate nationally any findings resulting from materials developed under the auspices of the BEST program, e.g., sharing course curricula web postings, presentations or exhibit booths at scientific meetings, workshops, teacher professional development programs or Information Sharing Environment (ISE)/media events.

Letters of Support

A letter of institutional commitment must be attached as part of Letters of Support (see section above: **"Institutional Environment and Commitment."**) Letters from partners must also be included. Appropriate institutional commitment to the program includes the provision of adequate staff, facilities, and educational resources that can contribute to the planned program. The institution must clearly state

the ir support of graduate student and postdoctoral fellow participation, regardless of salary support mechanisms.

Resource Sharing Plans

Individuals are required to comply with the instructions for the Resource Sharing Plans (Data Sharing Plan, Sharing Model Organizations, and Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS)) as provided in the SF4 24 (R & R) Application Guide, with the following modifications:

When relevant, applications are expected to include a software dissemination plan if support for development, maintenance, or enhancement of software is requested in the application. There is no prescribed single license for software produced. However, the software dissemination plan should address, as appropriate, the following goals:

- Software source code should be freely available to biomedical researchers and educators in the non-profit sector, such as institutions of education, research institutions, and government laboratories. Users should be permitted to modify the code and share the modifications with others.
- The terms of software availability should permit the commercialization of enhanced or customized versions of the software, or incorporation of the software or pieces of it into other software packages. To preserve utility to the community, the software should be transferable such that another individual or team can continue development in the event that the original investigators are unwilling or unable to do so.

Appendix

Do not use the Appendix to circumvent page limits. Follow all instructions for the Appendix as described in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

Planned Enrollment Report

When conducting clinical research, follow all instructions for completing Planned Enrollment Reports as described in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

PHS 398 Cumulative Inclusion Enrollment Report

When conducting clinical research, follow all instructions for completing Cumulative Inclusion Enrollment Report as described in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

3. Submission Dates and Times

[Part I. Overview Information](#) contains information about Key Dates. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications before the due date to ensure they have time to make any application corrections that might be necessary for successful submission.

Organizations must submit applications to [Grants.gov](#) (the online portal to find and apply for grants across all Federal agencies). Applicants must then complete the submission process by tracking the status of the application in the [eRA Commons](#), NIH's electronic system for grants administration.

Applicants are responsible for viewing their application before the due date in the eRA Commons to ensure accurate and successful submission.

Information on the submission process and a definition of on-time submission are provided in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

4. Intergovernmental Review (E.O. 12372)

This initiative is not subject to [intergovernmental review](#).

5. Funding Restrictions

All NIH awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

Pre-award costs are allowable only as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

6. Other Submission Requirements and Information

Applications must be submitted electronically following the instructions described in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Applicants must complete all required registrations before the application due date. [Section III. Eligibility Information](#) contains information about registration.

For assistance with your electronic application or for more information on the electronic submission process, visit [Applying Electronically](#).

Important reminders:

All PD(s)/PI(s) must include their eRA Commons ID in the Credential field of the Senior/Key Person Profile Component of the SF424(R&R) Application Package. Failure to register in the Commons and to include a valid PD/PI Commons ID in the credential field will prevent the successful submission of an electronic application to NIH.

The applicant organization must ensure that the DUNS number it provides on the application is the same number used in the organization's profile in the eRA Commons and for the System for Award Management (SAM). Additional information may be found in the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide.

See [more tips](#) for avoiding common errors.

Upon receipt, applications will be evaluated for completeness by the Center for Scientific Review and responded to by [components of participating organization](#), NIH. Applications that are incomplete and/or

non responsive will not be reviewed.

Post Submission Materials

Applicants are required to follow the instructions for post-submission materials, as described in [NOT-OD-13-030](#).

Section V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. As part of the [NIH mission](#), all applications submitted to the NIH in support of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

For this particular announcement, note the following: The goal of this BEST program is to support research-related training activities that broaden graduate and postdoctoral training, such that training programs reflect the range of career options that these individuals (regardless of funding source) ultimately may pursue and that are required for a robust biomedical, behavioral, social and clinical research enterprise. Collaborations with non-academic partners are encouraged to ensure that experts from a broad spectrum of research-intensive and research-related careers contribute to coursework, rotations, internships or other forms of exposure.

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to strongly advance research education by fulfilling the goal of this BEST Program, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria, as applicable for the project proposed.

Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Significance

Does the proposed program address a key audience and an important aspect or important need in research education? Is there convincing evidence in the application that the proposed program will significantly advance the stated goal of the program?

Investigator(s)

Is the PD/PI capable of providing both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the proposed program? Is there evidence that an appropriate level of effort will be devoted by the program leadership to ensure the program's intended goals are accomplished? If applicable, is there evidence that the participating faculty have experience in mentoring students and teaching science? If applicable, are the faculty good role models for the participants by nature of their scientific accomplishments? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approaches, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project? Does the Advisory Committee include individuals and careers outside of academic organizations?

Innovation

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Taking into consideration the nature of the proposed research education program, does the applicant make a strong case for this program effectively reaching an audience in need of the program's

offering s ? Wh ere a pprop riate , is the p ropo sed pr ogram deve lopin g or utili zing innovat ive appr oache s and late s t be s t pr actic es to im pr ove the kn owled ge an d/or s kill s of the i ntend ed au dienc e? D oes the pro gram clea rly pr opos e to g o beyond the tr aditi onal train ing a ctivi ties exper ienc ed by gradu ate s tuden ts and pos tdocto ral s cientis ts ? Does the appli cant clea rly di s ting uis h what is no vel i n thi s BES T pro gram ?

Approach

Doe s the prop os ed progr am clea rly s tate its goal s and obje ctive s , in cludi ng th e educatio nal l evel of th e aud ience to b e rea ched, the conte nt to be c onveyed, a nd th e intend ed outc om e? Is there evide nce that the prog ram i s bas ed on a s ound r ation ale, as we ll as s ound educatio nal c oncep ts an d pri ncipl es ? If the prop os ed progr am wi ll re cruit participa nts , are the pl anned recr uitm e nt, r etention, and follow -up (if app licab le) a ctivi ties adequ ate to ens ure a high ly qu alifi ed pa rtici pant pool?

Is the p lan for evaluatio n s ound and i s it likel y to provi de in form ation on th e effectivenes s of the pr ogram . Wil l the prop os ed evalu ation plan provide i nform ation that will be u seful for im pro vem en ts in the tim in g

or natur e of the p ropo sed ac tivities ? Does the e valua tion plan inclu de th e data ele ments outli ned in thi s FOA incl uding but not l imite d to: trai nee c areer choi ces , train ee s a tis fa ction with care er tr ainin g and job pla cem en t, fa culty atti tudes towa rd ca reer plans of traine es , i ns titutio nal s u ppor t of n ew tr ainin g, cha nges in in s titutio na l pol icies and/or ch anges in m entor ing pol icies , e tc. Is the dis s em inatio n plan adequ ate ly de taile d? Is ther e a r obus t plan for facul ty buy-in for the BE ST pr ogram , and will the

pro pos ed eval uatio n pla n reveal w hether the prop os ed level of facul ty buy-in w as ac hieve d? If the pro gram s tarts with a s ubs et of p articip ants , is ther e a p lan for in creasin g the s i ze of the progr am to ach ieve acces sibil ity to all thos e at the i ns titutio n who wis h to pa rtici pate? Is there a pla n (or tim e line) pro vided that will ens ure th at th e tim e to degre e, or pos tdocto ral tenure will not be ad vers e ly affecte d by the BEST prog ram a ctivi ties ? Is there an ap propr iate plan for di s sem inatio n of s ucc es s fu l and

uns ucc es s ful practices ?

Environment

Wil l the s cie ntifi c and educ ation al en viron m ent of th e pro pos ed prog ram c ontri bute to its intend ed goa ls ? Is the re a plan to ta ke ad vanta ge of thi s envi ronm e nt to enha nce the educati onal value of the pro gram ? Is there tang ible evide nce o f both s ho rt-ter m an d lon g-ter m ins titutio nal com m itm en t? Is the re evide nce tha t the facul ty h ave s u ffic ient ins ti tutio nal s u ppor t to create a s ound educa tio na l environm ent for th e par ticip ants ? Wh ere ap propr iate, is there evide nce o f col labor ation and buy-in am on g pa rtici patin g pro gram s , dep artm en ts , and i ns titutio ns ? If partners h ips a re in clude d in the B EST pro gram plan, are they appro priate and will they provide n ovel exper ience s ? (N ote: partn ers h ips a re not req uired but a re s trong ly en coura ged a s app ropri ate.) Are the p artne r environm ents well des cri bed, s u ppor tive an d lik ely to con tribu te to the progr am go als ? Is there evide nce o f the prop os ed exte rnal par tners ' wil ling nes s to col labor ate a nd pa rtici pate?

Additional Review Criteria

As appli cable for the p rojec t pro pos ed , reviewe r s wil l eva luate the follo wing additio nal item s whi le determ inin g s cientifi c and techni cal m erit, and in pr ovidin g an over all i m pact s core , bu t wil l not give s epa rate s cores for th es e i tem s .

Protections for Human Subjects

Gen erall y not appli cabl e. Re viewe r s s hould bring any conce rns to the atte ntion of the Sc ienti fic R eview Officer

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children

Vertebrate Animals

Generally not applicable. Reviewers should bring any concerns to the attention of the Scientific Review Officer.

Biohazards

Generally not applicable. Reviewers should bring any concerns to the attention of the Scientific Review Officer.

Resubmissions

Not Applicable

Renewals

Not Applicable

Revisions

Not Applicable

Additional Review Considerations

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items, and should not consider them in providing an overall impact score.

Recruitment & Retention Plan to Enhance Diversity

Peer reviewers will separately evaluate the recruitment and retention plan to enhance diversity after the overall score has been determined. Reviewers will examine the strategies to be used in the recruitment and retention of individuals from underrepresented groups. The review panel's evaluation will be included in the summary statement. Plans will be rated as **acceptable** or **unacceptable**, and the summary statement will provide the consensus of the review committee.

Training in the Responsible Conduct of

Research Not Applicable

Applications from Foreign Organizations

Not Applicable

Select Agent Research

Generally not applicable. Reviewers should bring any concerns to the attention of the Scientific Review Officer.

Resource Sharing Plans

Reviewers will comment on whether the following Resource Sharing Plans, or the rationale for not sharing the following types of resources, are reasonable: 1) [Data Sharing Plan](#); 2) [Sharing Model Organizations](#); and 3) [Genome Wide Association Studies \(GWAS\)](#). If support for development, maintenance, or enhancement of software is requested in the application, the reviewers will comment on the proposed software dissemination plan.

Budget and Period of Support

Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified

2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by (an) appropriate Scientific Review Group(s) convened by the Center for Scientific Review, in accordance with [NIH peer review policy and procedures](#), using the stated [review criteria](#). As significant to a Scientific Review Group will be shown in the eRA Comments.

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications:

- May undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit (generally the top half of applications under review) will be discussed and assigned an overall impact score.
- Will receive a written critique.

[Appeals](#) of initial peer review will not be accepted for applications submitted in response to this

FOA. Applications will be assigned to the appropriate NIH Institute or Center. Applications will

compete for

available funds with all other recommended applications submitted in response to this FOA. Following initial peer review, recommended applications will receive a second level of review by the National Advisory Dental and Craniofacial Research Council. The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review. Availability of funds.
- Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

After the peer review of the application is completed, the PD/PI will be able to access his or her Summary Statement (written critique) via the [eRA Comments](#).

Information regarding the disposition of applications is available in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

Section VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

If the application is under consideration for funding, NIH will request "just-in-time" information from the applicant as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

A formal notification in the form of a Notice of Award (NoA) will be provided to the applicant organization for successful applications. The NoA signed by the grants management officer is the authorizing document and will be sent via email to the grantee's business official.

Awardees must comply with any funding restrictions described in [Section IV.5. Funding Restrictions](#). Selection of an application for award is not an authorization to begin performance. Any costs incurred before receipt of the NoA are at the recipient's risk. These costs may be reimbursed only to the extent considered allowable pre-award costs.

Any application awarded in response to this FOA will be subject to the DUNS, SAM Registration, and Transparency Act requirements as noted on the [Award Conditions and Information for NIH Grants](#) <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/awardconditions.htm> website.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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oA. For these terms of award, see the [NIH Grants Policy Statement Part II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards, Subpart A: General](#) and [Part II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards, Subpart B: Terms and](#)

[Conditions for Specific Types of Grants, Grantees, and Activities](#). More information is provided at [Award Conditions and Information for NIH Grants](#).

3. Reporting

The Non-Competing Continuation Grant Progress Report ([PHS 2590](#) or [RP PR](#)) and financial statements as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#) are required annually. Continuation support will not be provided until the required forms are submitted and accepted. Programs that involve participants should report on education in the responsible conduct of research and complete a [Training Diversity Report](#), in accordance with the PHS 2590 [Additional Instructions for Preparing a Progress Report for an Institutional Research Training Grant, Including Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards](#).

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Transparency Act), includes a requirement for awardees of Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards issued in FY2011 or later. All awardees of applicable NIH grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at www.fsrs.gov on all subawards over \$25,000. See the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#) for additional information on this reporting requirement.

Failure by the grantee institution to submit required forms in a timely, complete, and accurate manner may result in an expenditure disallowance or a delay in any continuation funding for the award.

Other Reporting Requirements

A final progress report and the expenditure data portion of the Federal Financial Report are required for closeout of an award as described in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

4. Evaluation

In carrying out its stewardship of human resources-related programs, the NIH or its Institutes and Centers will periodically evaluate their BEST programs, employing the measures identified below. In assessing the effectiveness of its research education investments, NIH may request information from databases, P D/PIs, and from participants themselves. Where necessary, P D/PIs and participants may be contacted after the completion of a research education experience for periodic updates on participants' subsequent educational or employment history and professional activities.

Section VII. Agency Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants.

Application Submission Contacts

eRA Commons Help Desk (Questions regarding eRA Commons registration, submitting and tracking an application, documenting system problems that threaten submission by the due date, post submission issues) Telephone: 301-402-7469 or 866-504-9552 (Toll Free)

Web ticketing system: <https://pub.lic.e-ra.nih.gov/commons/help>

TTY: 301-451-5939

Email: commons@od.nih.gov

[Grants.gov Customer Support](#) (Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages)

Contact Center Telephone: 800-518-4726

Web ticketing system: <https://grants-portal.ps.c.gov/contactUs.aspx>

Email: support@grants.gov

Grants Info (Questions regarding application instructions and process, finding NIH grant resources) Telephone 301-435-0714

TTY: 301 -451- 5936

Em a il: [Grants Info@ nih.g ov](mailto:GrantsInfo@nih.gov)

Scientific/Research Contact(s)

Dr. Patr icia Labos ky

Divis ion of P rogra m Coo rdina tion, Plan ning and S trate gic Initia tives

Office o f the Dire ctor, NIH

Tel ephon e: 30 1-594 -

4863

Em a il: [labos k ypa@o d.nih .gov](mailto:laboskypa@od.nih.gov)

Peer Review Contact(s)

Lar ry Bo erboo m , Ph .D.

Cen ter for Sc ienti fic R eview (CSR

) Tel ephon e: 30 1-435 -8367

Em a il: [boerbo ol@m a il.ni h.gov](mailto:boerbool@mai.nih.gov)

Financial/Grants Management Contact(s)

Ded e Rutberg, MBA

National Ins titute of D ental and Crani ofaci al Re s earc h

(NIDCR) Tel ephon e: 30 1-594 -4798

Em a il: [rutber gd@m a il.ni h.gov](mailto:rutbergd@mai.nih.gov)

Mic hael Mors

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Divis ion of P rogra m Coo rdina tion Plann ing a nd Strateg ic In itiatives

Office o f the Dire ctor, NIH

Tel ephon e: 30 1-435 -

5446

Em a il: [m ors em @od.n ih.go](mailto:morsem@od.nih.gov)

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Section VIII. Other Information

Rec ently is su ed trans -N IH [po licy notic es](#) m a y affect your a pplic ation s ubm is sion. A full lis t of po licy notic es pub lis he d by NIH is pro vid ed in the [NIH Guide de fo r Gra nts a nd Co ntrac ts](#). All aw ards are s ubjec t to the term s and cond ition s , co s t pr incip les , and o ther cons iderations des cr ibed in the [NIH Gran ts Po licy State m ent](#).

Authority and Regulations

Awa rds a re m a de un der the au thori zatio n of Secti ons 3 01 an d 405 of the Pu blic Health Ser vice Act a s am e nded (42 U SC 24 1 and 284) and under Fede ral R egula tions 42 C FR Pa rt 52 and 45 CFR Par ts 74 and 92.

[Wee kly TOC fo r thi s Ann ounce m ent](#)

[NIH Fund ing Opportuniti es an d Notices](#)



Department
of Health
and Human
Services
(HHS)



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health

Note: For help accessing PDF, RTF, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Audio or Video files, see [Help Downloading Files](#).