



National Institutes of Health  
Office of Strategic Coordination – The Common Fund

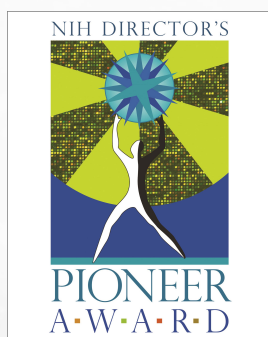
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- > PIONEER AWARD
- > NEW INNOVATOR AWARD
- > TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH AWARD
- > EARLY INDEPENDENCE AWARD

# NIH Common Fund High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program

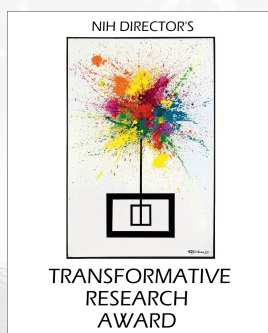
The NIH Common Fund has created four unique initiatives housed under the High-Risk, High-Reward Research program (<http://commonfund.nih.gov/highrisk>). These initiatives are designed to support exceptionally creative scientists pursuing unusually innovative research with broad potential impacts.



The Pioneer Award complements the NIH's traditional, investigator-initiated grant programs by supporting individual scientists of exceptional creativity who propose bold approaches to address major challenges in biomedical and behavioral research.



The New Innovator Award supports unusually creative early career stage investigators with highly innovative research ideas with the potential for broad impact.



The Transformative Research Award supports exceptionally innovative and/or unconventional research projects that have the potential to create or overturn fundamental paradigms using research teams and flexible research budgets.



The Early Independence Award provides a mechanism for outstanding early career scientists to move rapidly into independent research positions at U.S. institutions by omitting the traditional postdoctoral training period.



	Pioneer Award	New Innovator Award	Transformative Research Award	Early Independence Award
<b>Target Group</b>	Individuals of exceptional creativity proposing paradigm-shifting research	Individual early stage investigators of exceptional creativity proposing research of uncommonly high potential impact	Individuals or teams proposing transformative research with perhaps very large budgets	Outstanding junior scientists wishing to “skip the post-doc” and immediately begin independent research
<b>Eligibility</b>	Open to all career stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receipt of most recent doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., Pharm.D., or equivalent) or completion of medical internship and residency no more than 10 years prior to application receipt date</li> <li>• Must be a “new investigator” (never been awarded an R01 or equivalent NIH grant)</li> </ul>	Open to all career stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate must receive terminal research degree or complete medical residency within 12 months (before or after) of application submission date</li> <li>• Maximum of two applications per institution (or grant submitting entity)</li> <li>• Candidate must be in non-independent position at time of application</li> </ul>
<b>Preliminary Data</b>	Not required; may be included	Not required; may be included	Not required; may be included	Not as stringent as conventional R01
<b>Research Strategy</b>	5-page essay includes response to questions about the challenge, potential impact, suitability for the Pioneer Award program, and how research qualifies as new research direction	10-page essay addresses significance and potential impact, innovativeness of approaches, how risks and challenges will be addressed, and investigator qualifications for the award	12-page limit; respond to questions about the challenge, potential impact, and appropriateness for the Transformative Research Awards program	12-page limit; in addition, host institution must provide details of commitment
<b>Reference Letters</b>	3 letters required	None accepted	None accepted	3–5 letters required
<b>Effort</b>	Minimum of 51% (major portion) of research effort must be devoted to activities supported by the award	Minimum of 25% of research effort must be devoted to activities supported by the award	Effort should be commensurate with project needs and follow general guidelines for other NIH projects of similar size, complexity, and duration	Large fraction of total effort
<b>Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No detailed budget information submitted</li> <li>• Awards will be for up to \$700,000 per year for each of 5 years, plus standard F&amp;A (indirect) costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No detailed budget information submitted</li> <li>• Awards will be for \$1,500,000 dispersed in the first year of the 5 year project period, plus standard F&amp;A (indirect) costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No limits up to maximum funds available for the program as a whole</li> <li>• No prior approvals required for budgets over \$500,000 per year for direct costs</li> </ul>	Up to \$250,000 per year for up to 5 years, plus standard F&A (indirect) costs
<b>Multiple PIs</b>	Only one PD/PI may be designated on the application	Only one PD/PI may be designated on the application	More than one PD/PI allowed	Only one PD/PI may be designated on the application
<b>Review Format</b>	Multi-phased, interview of finalists	Multi-phased, “editorial board”	Multi-phased, “editorial board”	Multi-phased, “editorial board,” interview of finalists

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