

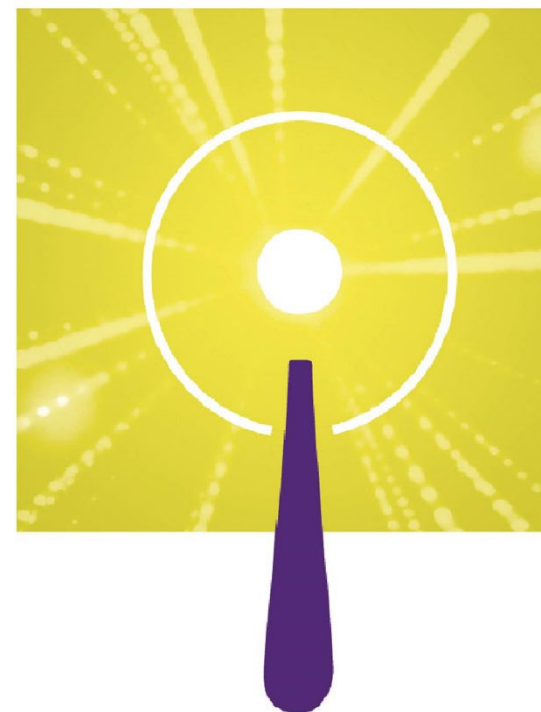
Q&A Webinar

For RFA-RM25-002



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

NIH DIRECTOR'S
NEW INNOVATOR
AWARD



commonfund.nih.gov/newinnovator
NewInnovatorAwards@mail.nih.gov

Panelists

Patricia Labosky, Ph.D.

Program Leader

Office of the Director

Becky Miller, Ph.D.

Program Leader

Office of the Director

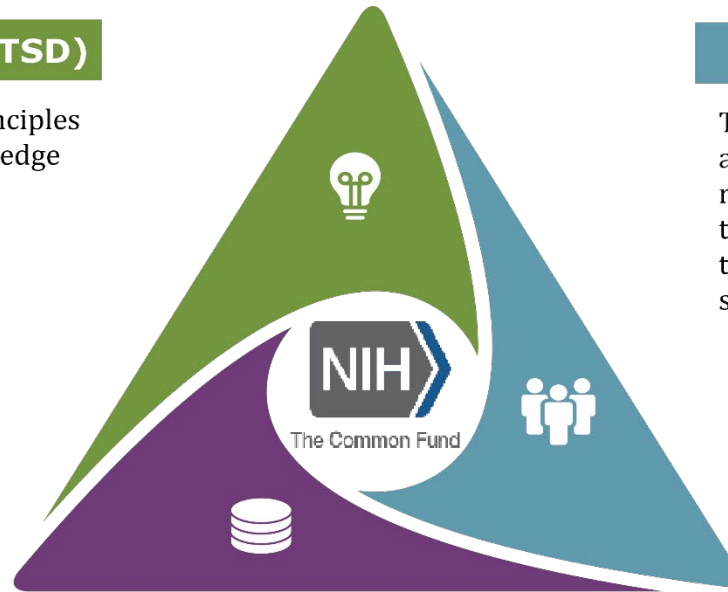
Types of Common Fund Programs as of FY25

Transformational Science and Discovery (TSD)

These **programs** are designed to establish new scientific principles, models, and research resources to transform scientific knowledge and paths to discovery.

- 4D Nucleome
- A2CPS
- CryoEM
- DS-I Africa
- Human Virome
- HRHR
- MoTrPAC
- NIOI
- NPH
- Oculomics
- SMaHT
- SPARC

High-Risk, High-Reward
Research program



Re-Engineering the Research Enterprise (RRE)

These **programs** are designed to transform how we do biomedical and behavioral research, how we make the biomedical workforce as robust as possible to ensure new perspectives and ideas contribute to discovery, how we transition that research into prevention and therapies, and how those successful prevention and therapies can be shared broadly.

- CARE for Health™
- Complement-ARIE
- NBSxWGS
- Replication Initiative
- SCGE
- Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities

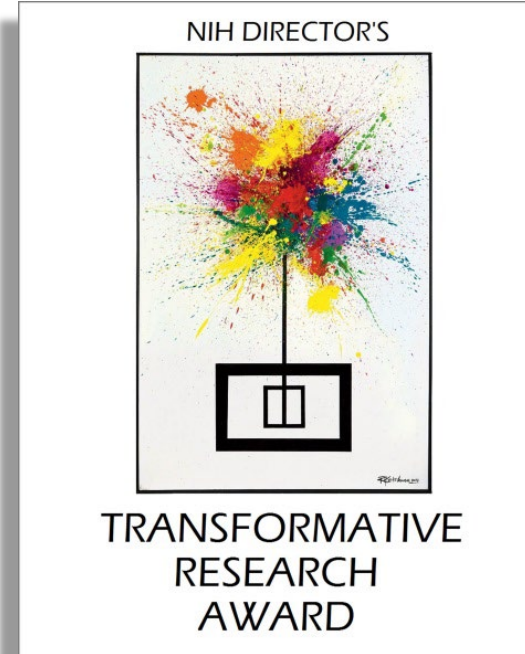
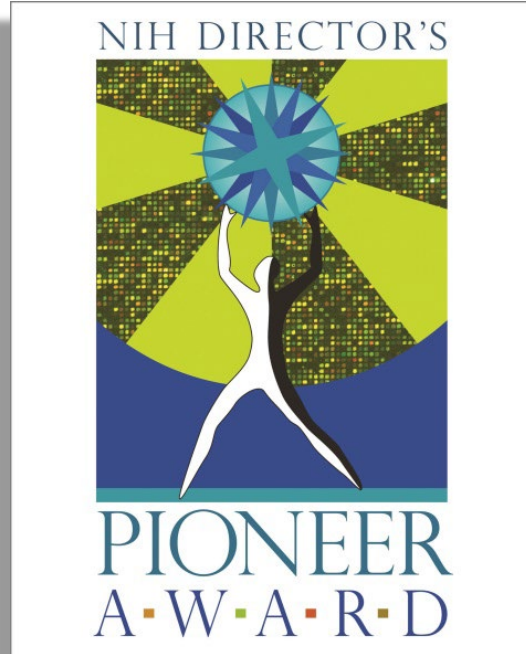
Catalytic Data Resources (CDR)

These **programs** are designed to manage and develop data for scientific discoveries by accelerating research through data resources.

- Bridge2AI
- CFDE
- HuBMAP
- Kids First
- PRIMED-AI
- SysBio

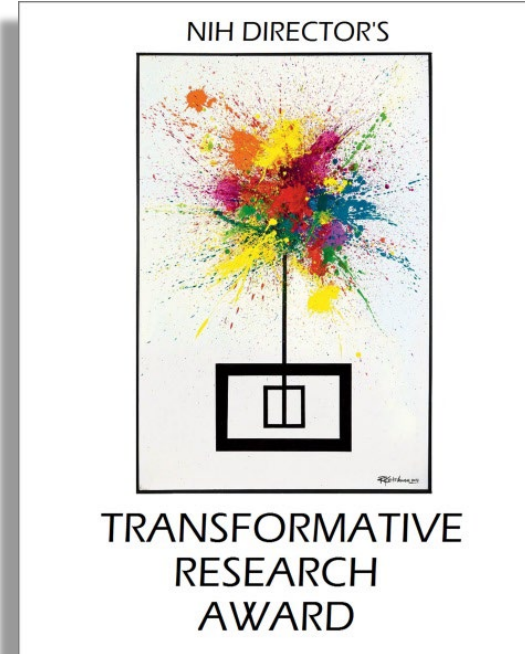
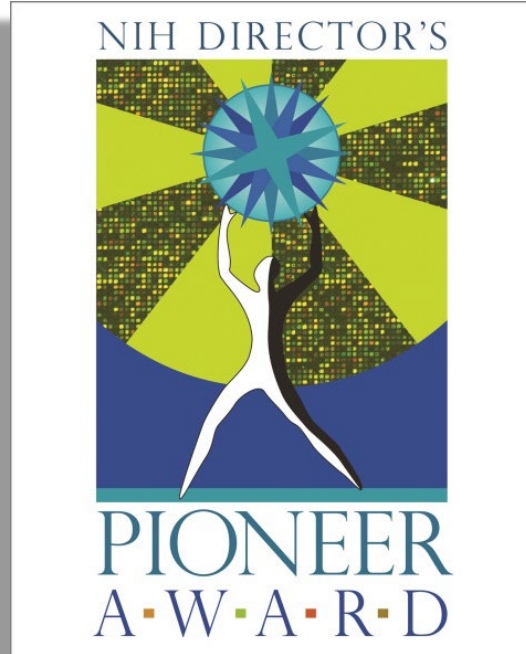
CF programs may be useful for your research: funding opportunities, access to high-end instruments, databases, reagents, protocols....

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program



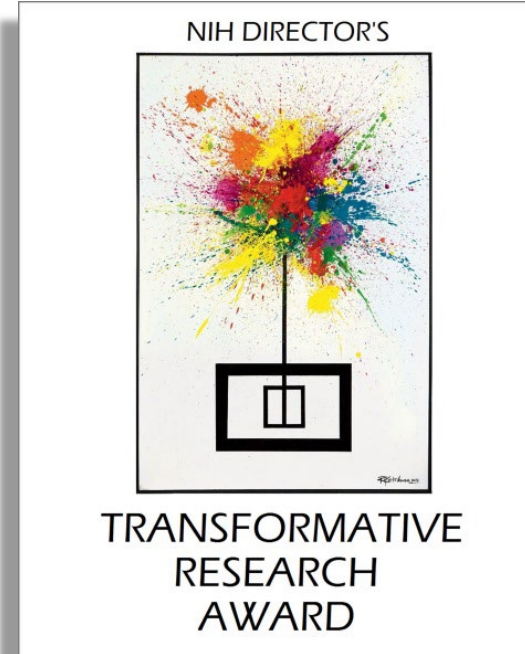
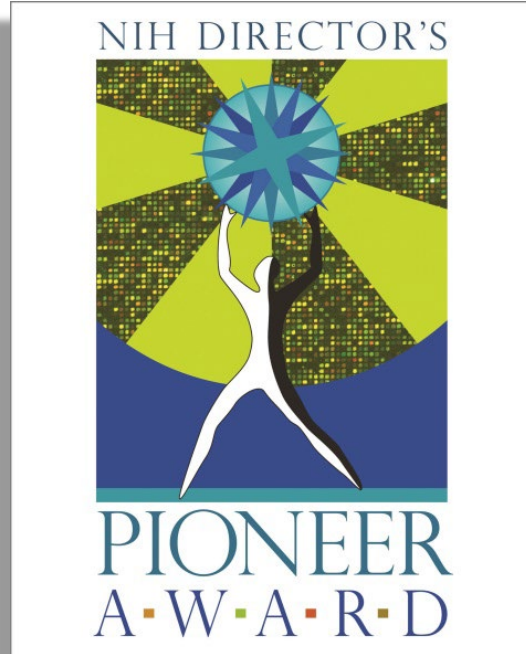
Supporting scientists at all career stages proposing outstanding high-risk, high-impact research

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program



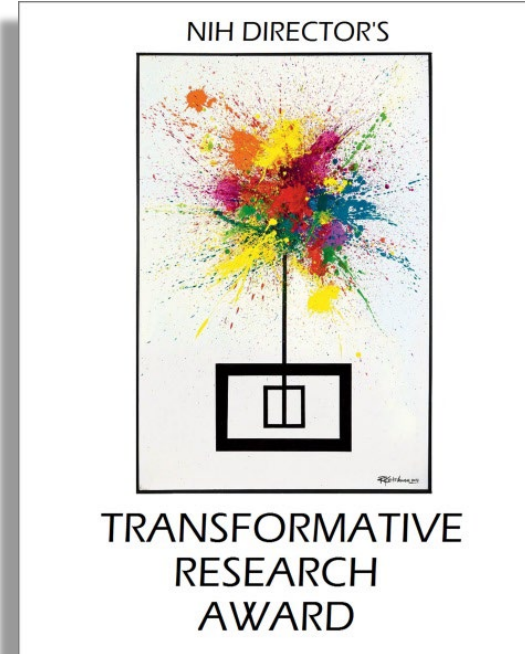
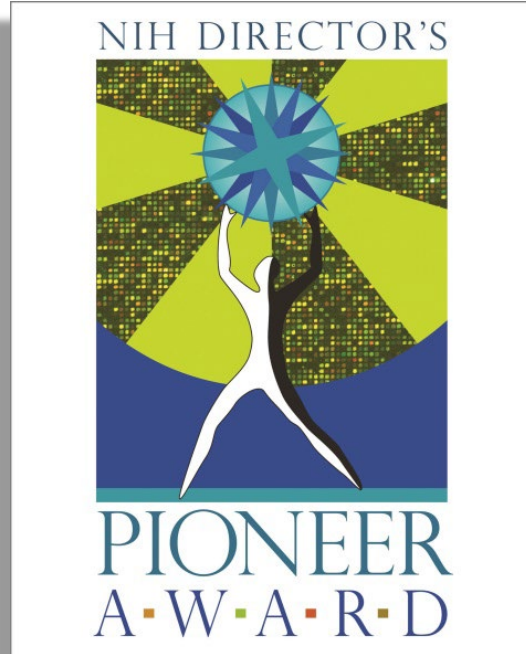
Annual funding opportunities

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program



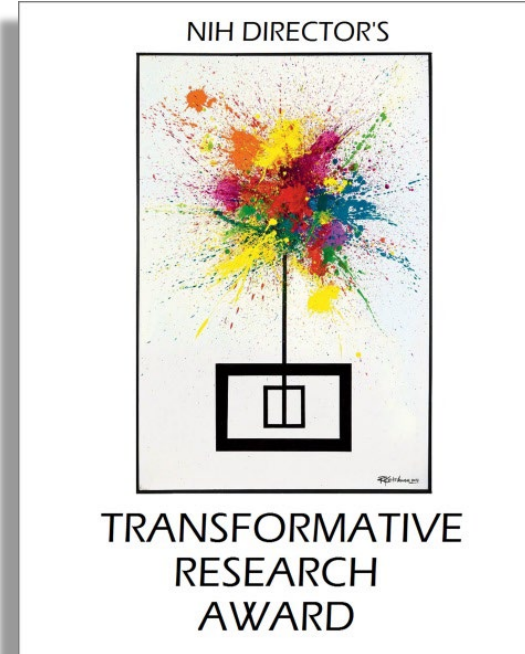
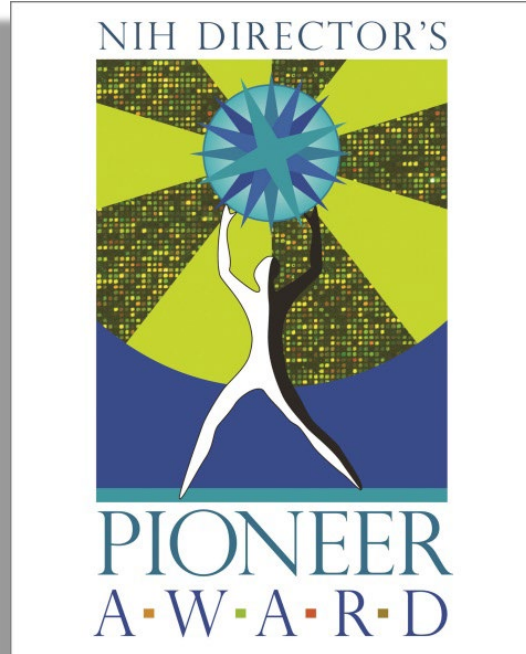
High-risk, high-impact ideas

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program



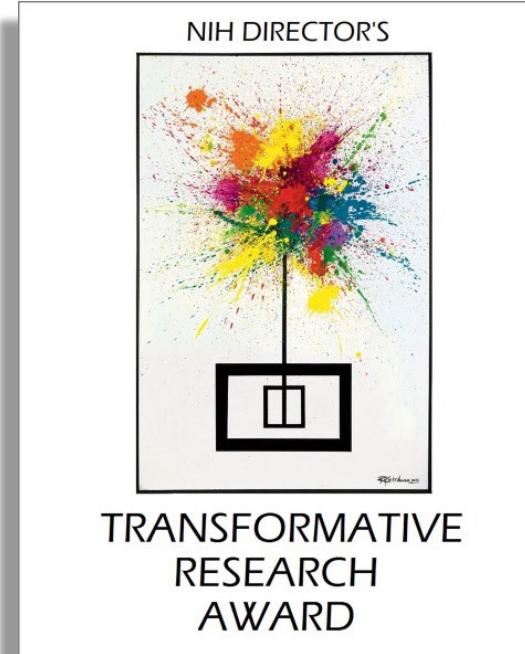
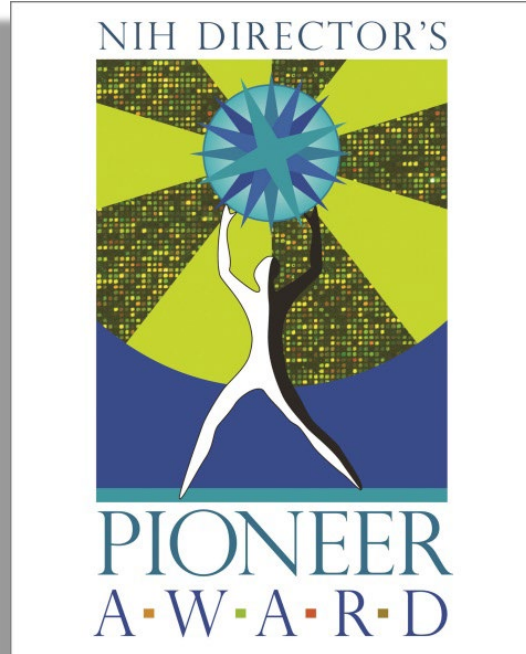
No preliminary data or detailed experimental plan required

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program



Any topic relevant to NIH mission welcome
Behavioral, social, biomedical, applied, and formal sciences,
and basic, translational, or clinical research

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program



Encourage applications from all eligible institutions

HRHR Working Group

Chair

Nicole Kleinstreuer (OD)

Program Leader

Patricia Labosky (OD)

Members

Geetha Bansal (FIC)

Alexey Belkin (NIAMS)

Sangeeta Bhargava (NEI)

David Bollweg (OD)

Gene Carstea (CSR)

Jennifer Collins (NIEHS)

Christine Colvis (NCATS)

Bill Duval (NINR)

Emmeline Edwards (NCCIH)

Zeynep Erim (NIBIB)

Marcus Ferrone (CSR)

Asanté Forde (OD)

Nancy Freeman (NIDCD)

April Harrison (NIDCR)

Gabriel Hidalgo (NIDCR)

Dana Hill (CSR)

Sharon Isern (CSR)

Ray Jacobson (CSR)

Sarah Leinwand (NIMH)

James Li (CSR)

Roger Little (NIDA)

Brittany Mason-Mah (CSR)

Becky Miller (OD)

Brett Miller (NICHD)

David Miller (NCI)

Michael Morse (OD)

Imoh Okon (CSR)

Vivian Ota Wang (OD)

Michael Pazin (NHGRI)

Steven Pittenger (NCATS)

Dena Procaccini (OD)

Raul Rojas (CSR)

Ananda Roy (OD)

Diana Rutberg (NIDCR)

John Satterlee (NIDA)

Dana Schloesser (OD)

Kristen Schlotman (OD)

Johanna Schneider (NIAID)

Carol Shreffler (NIEHS)

Corinne Silva (NIDDK)

Elena Smirnova (CSR)

Barbara Sorkin (OD)

RV Srinivas (NIAAA)

Nathaniel Stinson (NIMHD)

William Tyler (NINDS)

Scott Verbridge (NIDCR)

Stephanie Webb (NHLBI)

Jean Yuan (NIA)

Ariel Zane (NIGMS)

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program



Supports unusually creative early career investigators proposing innovative, high-impact research

- Started in 2007
- Single PI application only
- Early Stage Investigator (no substantial NIH grant and within 10 years of doctoral degree or clinical training)
- Commit 25% research effort
- Awards of **\$475,000** per year for 5 years
- DP2 activity code

DP2 Application

Follow instructions in SF424 application guide unless specific guidance is provided in the RFA

Specific Aims Page	Do not use
Research Strategy Essay	10 pages (primary component of the application; see later slide for more information)
Biosketch	Only PI's biosketch allowed
Bibliography & References Cited	Do not use; include essential in references in Essay and within 10-page limit
Budget	Do not use
Equipment	Do not use
Letters of support	Do not use
Other components/forms	Use when appropriate, such as Authentication of Key Biol./Chem. Resources; Vertebrate Animals; Human Subjects; Biohazards

Budget Information

- Request \$2,375,000 in total project funds on SF424 (R&R) Form
- No detailed budget information required
- Do not use or submit a budget form
- Funds will be disbursed in annual increments of \$475,000 per year for up to 5 years
- No-cost extensions are allowed

Research Strategy Essay

In 10 pages, use the following headings or subsections:

- ***Project science areas*** – 1 digit code and abbreviation for primary and secondary areas
- ***Project Description*** – Describe scientific importance of topic; overall approach to be taken; preliminary data not required, but accepted; state that to comply with the funding opportunity, a detailed and extensive experimental plan is not being provided; however, provide sufficient evidence that proposal has been deeply considered and will be pursued in a robust and rigorous manner
- ***Innovativeness*** – Provide argument of why proposal is exceptionally innovative
- ***Investigator qualifications*** – Support your claim of innovativeness in prior research
- ***Suitability for the New Innovator Award program*** – Describe why proposal is “HRHR”
- ***Statement of research effort commitment*** – State will commit at least 25% research effort toward project
- ***Bibliography/citations*** – Include critical citations; may be in an abbreviated form as long as identifier is unique

Research Strategy Essay - Points to Consider

- Given review process used, be sure that what you write can be easily appreciated by people well outside the field for exceptional innovation and potential for unusually broad impact
- May be helpful to begin with a description of the landscape of the field and current state-of-the-art or boundaries; provide proper context for proposal and why it is so innovative and potentially impactful
- Ease the reader into the jargon of the field
- Though no data or detailed experimental plan are required, convince the reviewer that you have thought deeply about the project – identify risky aspects, how they will be mitigated, alternate approaches
- Also, convince the reviewer that the research will be performed in a robust and rigorous manner – validate new approaches, provide estimates of numbers of human or animal subjects (if used) and why, include that sex will be considered as a biological variable (if appropriate)

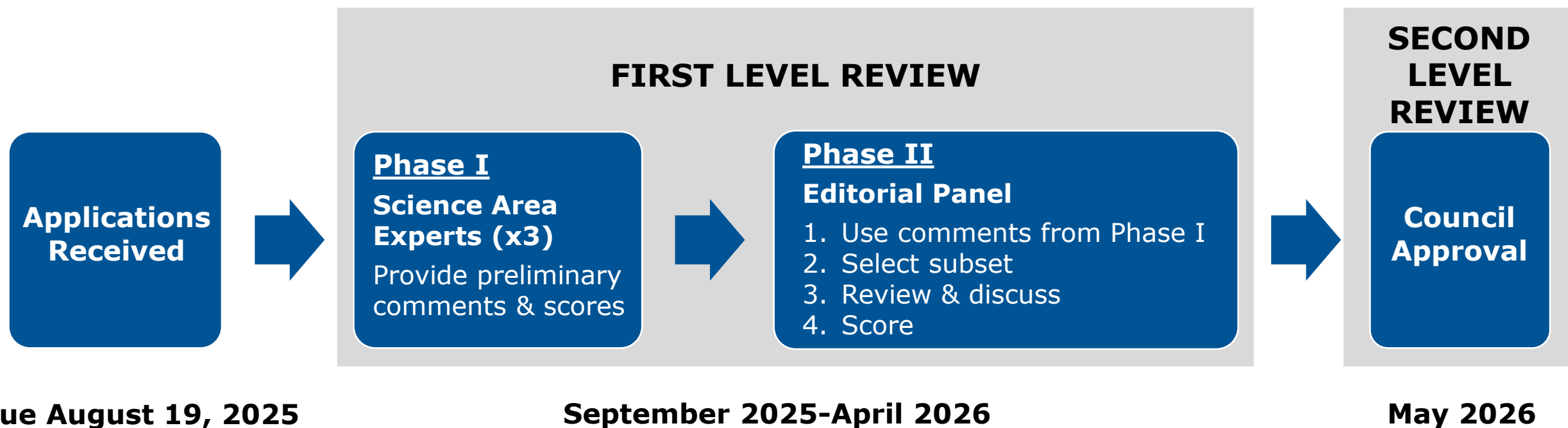
Check out FAQs and Examples

We have a detailed FAQ page at
<https://commonfund.nih.gov/newinnovator/faq>

We have detailed Application and Award Guidance:
<https://commonfund.nih.gov/newinnovatorawards/guidance>

We even have sample applications:
<https://commonfund.nih.gov/newinnovatorawards/sample>
(note that these budget/face page will look different – these were under old policies)

New Innovator Review Process



Peer-Review Process – Phase I

- Applications will be assigned to one of two equivalent panels in a Review Branch in the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) – it may not match your area of science – do not worry about this!
- Administrative review will check for completeness and ESI eligibility
- Applications are grouped based on areas of science, as identified by applicant
- Potential conflicts of interest will be considered for each application (e.g., institutional, collaborative, etc.)
- Science area experts (“mail” reviewers) will be recruited to cover all representative areas of science

Peer-Review Process – Phase I

Recruit science
area reviewers



Match
application with
reviewers by
science area



Reviewers
evaluate
applications



Reviewers score
& write
paragraph on
overall impact

Each application reviewed
by three reviewers

Evaluation criteria:

- Importance and potential impact of the scientific problem
- Novelty/innovativeness of approach
- Creative potential of PI

Selection of “Finalist” Applications for Phase II

- Applications selected for Phase II
 - Based on rank score order from Phase I review
 - Selected by Editorial Panel members based on their evaluation and Phase I scores and impact statements
- ~20% of all submitted applications advance to Phase II

Peer-Review Process – Phase II

- Review conducted by Editorial Panel of ~15-20 members
 - Senior members of the scientific community
 - Experts with broad scientific understanding
- Each finalist application assigned to three reviewers
 - Reviewers have access to Phase I critiques
 - All finalist applications are discussed
- Scoring focused on impact & innovation

Following the Review

- Applicants receive scores within 3-5 business days in eRA Commons.
 - For *discussed* applications, a final score will be listed.
 - For *non-discussed* applications, no score will be listed; it will say “Not Discussed.”
- All applicants receive Summary Statements within 30 days.
 - *Discussed* applications receive a resume/summary of the Editorial Panel discussion and critiques from Phase I reviewers.
 - *Non-discussed* applications receive the critiques from Phase I reviewers.

Advisory Council Review

- Council of Councils (OD) performs second level of review
- Assesses the first level of review for fairness and uniformity in the application of review criteria
- Not tasked with reviewing the applications for scientific or technical merit
- Council concurrence needed to make awards

Q&A Webinar

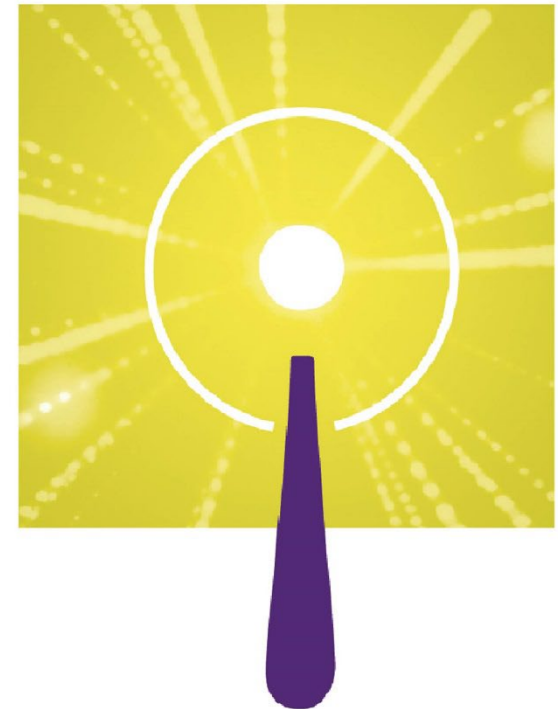
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Eligibility



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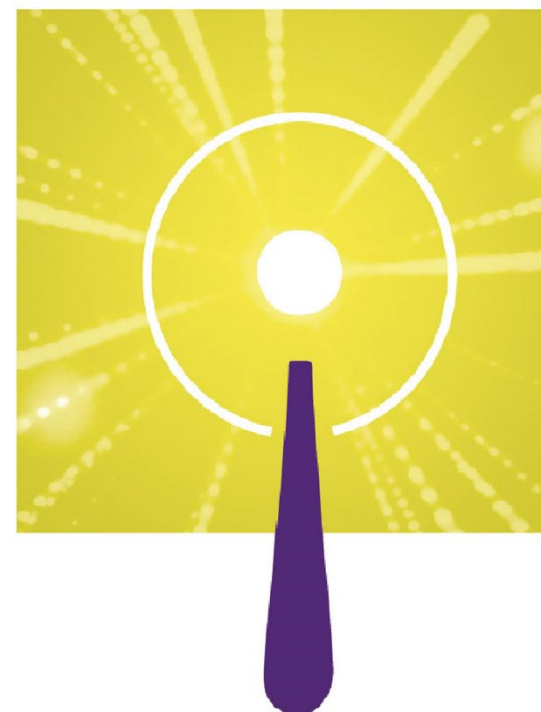
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Application & Submission



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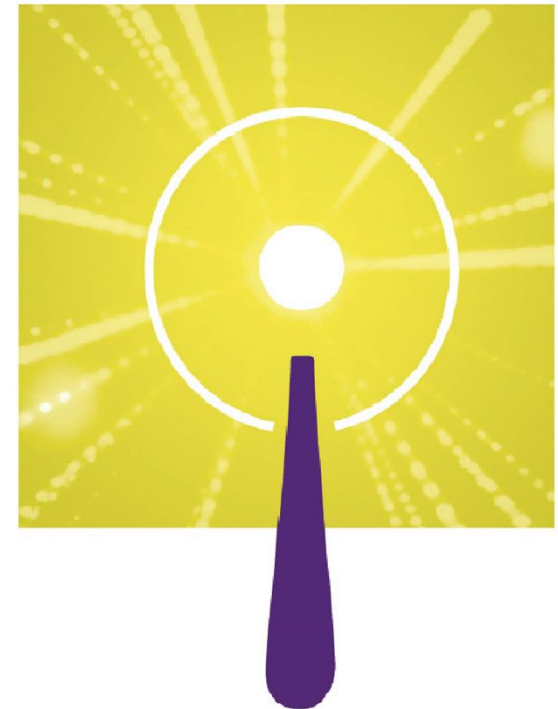
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Budget



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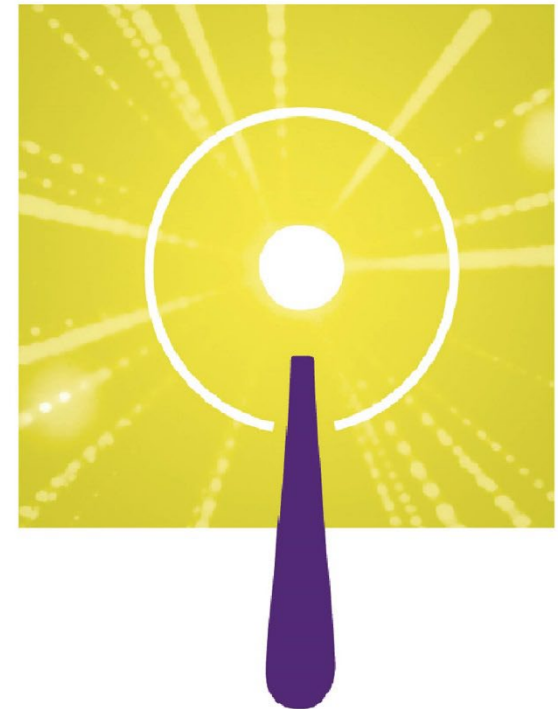
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Review



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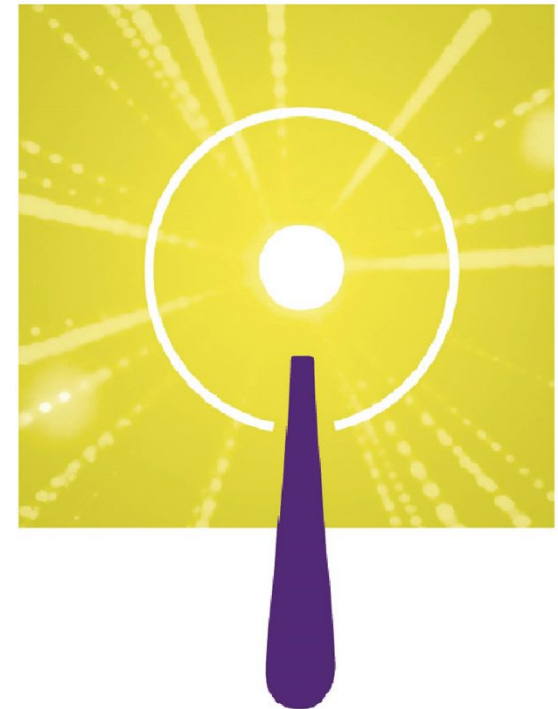
Thank you for watching!

Webinar recording & slides will be posted on
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For additional questions, email us at
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