

# The NINDS Research Program Award (R35)

Overview

June 5, 2024

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National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders  
and Stroke

# What We'll Cover Today

## NINDS Research Program Award (R35)

- Overview & Benefits
- Who is Eligible
- Budget Guidance
- Review
- Next Steps
- Q&As

# What is the R35?

## The R35 is a unique NINDS program that:

- Helps investigators make meaningful contributions to neuroscience by providing greater **funding stability, flexibility,** and **support** for overall research projects, without the constraint of specific aims.
- Supports most of your NINDS mission-relevant research by providing stable funding for up to **eight years**
- Your budget will be **commensurate with your 4-year NINDS funding average.** The **R35 Research Program Award** has a minimum of \$350,000, and up to a maximum of \$750,000 DC per year

# Eligibility Criteria

Do you currently...

- Conduct research within the mission of NINDS?
- Have at least **one** of the following types of active NINDS grants within each of the past 5 consecutive years (FY20-24) at the time of submission: **R00, R01, RF1, R37, R56, DP1, DP2, Active R35 in year 7 or 8.**
- One of those years can be in No Cost Extension (NCE)
- Applications with more than one NCE will be considered under exceptional circumstances

# Who Should Apply?

- NINDS is committed to supporting investigators across a **broad spectrum of career stages** and **lab sizes**.
- NINDS places significant value on high-quality **mentorship, service** and **inclusive training environments**
- As scientific progress is best accelerated by leveraging a variety of experiences and perspectives, we encourage **eligible women and individuals from diverse backgrounds to apply**.
- Based on the requirements of the R35, investigators should determine if this research program is the best fit for their research goals

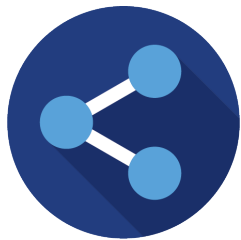
**Requires a Minimum 50% effort for the duration of the award**

# Current R35 Awardees

- To prevent a lapse in funding, current NINDS, R35 grantees can submit a new Type 1 R35 application in years 7-8 of their active R35 award.
- PD/PIs can submit other overlapping applications (e.g., R01s) during this period.
- PD/PIs will have to choose between either the new R35 or one or more of the other non-R35 NINDS awards, if they all receive fundable scores.

# How do you calculate your R35 budget?

- The requested Research Program Award (RPA) budget must be commensurate with your recent level of NINDS support (R35 cap is \$750,000) direct costs per year
- Calculate your level of support by using your average direct costs for the 4 most recent fiscal years (i.e., 2020 – 2023 or 2021 – 2024, whichever is greater).
- If your 4-year average is less than \$350,000
  - One R01 \$218,000 for 5 years: award will be \$350,000
  - **Read the [R35 RPA](#) for eligibility and budget details**



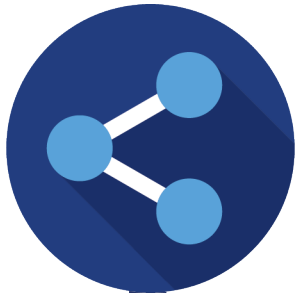
Visit the R35 [FAQs](#) to find a budget template and more details for calculating your R35 budget.

See our [how-to video](#) to check your eligibility and funding on [NIH REPORTER](#)

# Benefits of the R35

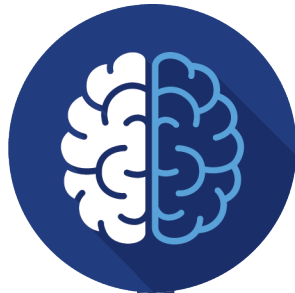
## Funding

Provides **stable funding** of \$350k min. to \$750k max. per year for up to **eight years**



## High Reward Research

Allows you to conduct **long-term, rewarding research** that is not tied to specific aims



## Without Specific Aims

Provides you the **flexibility to pivot** as needed to emerging and timely topics



## Freeing Up Time

Supports your research by **freeing up time** you would otherwise spend applying to multiple grants







# Review



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# R35 Review

R35 Review – Different from Standard R01 NIH Peer Review

- Review of R35s is not like reviews of an R01
- In R01 review, the ‘Approach’ criteria is often score-driving, for R35 the weight is overwhelmingly on the **track record** of the PI and **potential future impact of the ongoing research** - taken together.

# R35 Review

## From Section V. of the FOA:

[https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-22-038.html#\\_Section\\_V\\_Application](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-22-038.html#_Section_V_Application)

Accordingly, reviewers will emphasize the following:

- Evidence of contributions made by the PD/PI **commensurate with the investigator's career stage**, particularly within the past 5 years, that advance his or her respective field
- **Potential for the PD/PI's research impact to continue** at the same level over the course of the Research Program Award (RPA)
- **Suitability of the R35 mechanism**, with its unique flexibility and facilitation of longitudinal continuity to advance the investigator's research program

# R35 Review

**The RFA states...** (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-22-038.html>)

*“Describe the overall vision, conceptual framework and planned strategies for advancing and sustaining the proposed research program for the next eight years.”*

**but**

*“A detailed experimental plan is not expected, nor is preliminary data required.”*

***Only Six Page Research Plans!***

**Reviewers are guided NOT to expect R01-level detail but asked:**

**“Is the research program leading toward major impact(s) for the field?”**

# R35 Review

**Important information you must provide for the review**

**Follow the RFA Section IV**

**Other Project Information**

- Bibliography from the past 5 years
- Mentoring, Service, and Inclusive training environment (3-page max)
- If Basic Experimental Studies Involving Humans (BESH) or Mechanistic Clinical Trial:  
Clinical trial synopsis (6 pages maximum)

NIH SF424- Instructions for “Other Attachments” See p R-45

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/research-forms-g.pdf>



## **Next Steps**

# Interested in Applying?

## Next Steps

1

Review the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and talk with your program director to see if this award is right for you.

2

Visit the NINDS R35 FAQs to learn more and determine the budget you would be eligible to apply for.

3

Review your current research portfolio and begin your application if this is the right fit for you.



**Submit your application on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)  
by July 15, 2024**

# Helpful Resources

- NINDS R35 Information: [bit.ly/NINDS\\_R35](https://bit.ly/NINDS_R35)
- NINDS R35 FAQs: [bit.ly/R35\\_FAQ](https://bit.ly/R35_FAQ)
- NINDS R35 Funding Opportunity Announcement: [bit.ly/R35\\_FOA](https://bit.ly/R35_FOA)
- NINDS R35 Recipient List: [bit.ly/R35\\_Recipients](https://bit.ly/R35_Recipients)



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Useful Links:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-22-038.html>

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/about-funding/ninds-research-program-award-r35>