

ACADEMIC RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT AWARD

NIH GUIDE, Volume 23, Number 1, January 7, 1994

PA NUMBER: PA-94-022

P.T. 34

Keywords:

Grants Administration/Policy+

National Institutes of Health

Application Receipt Date: June 22, 1994

PURPOSE

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is making a special effort to stimulate research in educational institutions that provide baccalaureate training for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists, but historically have not been major recipients of NIH support. Since Fiscal Year (FY) 1985, Congressional appropriations for the NIH have included funds for this initiative, the Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program. The AREA funds are intended to support new research projects or expand ongoing research activities proposed by faculty members of eligible institutions in areas related to the health sciences. Applications received in June 1993 for AREA grants to be awarded this year (FY 1994) have been reviewed for scientific merit and program relevance. Approximately \$13.2 million will be available for the NIH AREA program in FY 1994. As a result, about 130 AREA grants will be made from the applications received June 1993. Since it is anticipated that additional funds will be available next year, the NIH is inviting grant applications at this time for AREA grants to be awarded competitively in FY 1995.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicant Institutions

- o All domestic health professional schools and other academic institutions offering baccalaureate or advanced degrees in the sciences related to health are eligible, EXCEPT those that have received research grants and/or cooperative agreements from the NIH totaling more than \$2 million per year (direct and indirect costs) in each of four or more years during the period from FY 1987 through FY 1993.

- o For purposes of eligibility for the AREA program, "research grants and cooperative agreements" include the following activity codes ONLY: K01, K02, K04, K05, K06, K08, K11, K12, K14, K15, K16, K20, K21, P01, P40, P41, P42, P50, P60, R01, R03, R10, R21, R22, R23, R24, R29, R35, R37, R55, U01, U10, U24, U41, U42, and U54.

- o "Health professional schools" (schools of medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary medicine, public health, optometry, allied health, and podiatry) means an accredited public or non-profit private school in a State that provides training leading to a degree granted by that school, for example, a doctor of medicine, a doctor of dentistry, or equivalent degree. The term "accredited" means a school or program that is accredited by a recognized body or bodies approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education.

- o "Other academic institutions" means, as a SINGLE eligible component, all other schools, departments, colleges and free-standing institutes of the institution, EXCEPT the health professional schools.

- o Several applications proposing different research projects may be submitted by an applicant institution.

Proposed Principal Investigators

- o Must not have active research grant support at the time of award of an AREA grant.

- o May not submit a regular NIH research grant application for essentially the same project as a pending AREA application.

- o Are expected to conduct the majority of their research at their own institution, although limited access to special facilities or equipment at another institution is permitted.

- o May not be awarded more than one AREA grant at a time nor be awarded a second AREA grant to continue the research initiated under the first AREA grant.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications for the AREA program will be accepted under the application submission procedures of the Division of Research Grants (DRG), NIH. The research grant application form PHS 398 (rev. 9/91) is to be used in applying for an AREA grant.

Applicants must obtain the AREA Program Guidelines containing supplemental instructions for AREA applications from the Grants Information Office, DRG, NIH (see address below). These instructions must be followed in preparing an application.

AREA grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants may request support for up to \$75,000 for direct costs (plus applicable indirect costs) for a period not to exceed 36 months.

No more than \$35,000 may be requested for direct costs for any one year. Although this award is non-renewable, it will enable qualified individual scientists within the eligible institutions to receive support for feasibility studies, pilot studies, and other small-scale research projects preparatory to seeking more substantial funding from the NIH research grant programs.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

Applications for the AREA program will be subjected to the standard peer review process involving two sequential levels of review. The first level of review is performed by initial review groups composed primarily of non-Federal scientists selected for their competence in particular scientific fields. The second level of review is made by the National Advisory Council or Board of the NIH awarding component to which the grant application has been assigned by the DRG for potential funding. These groups are composed of both scientific and lay representatives who are chosen for their expertise, interest, or activity in matters related to the mission of the individual awarding component. Council or Board recommendations are based on both scientific merit and relevance to awarding component program goals. In general, the NIH may award a grant only if the corresponding application has been recommended for funding by both levels of review.

AWARD CRITERIA

Funding decisions will be based on the proposed research project's scientific merit and relevance to NIH programs and the institution's contribution to the undergraduate preparation of doctoral-level health professionals. Among projects of essentially equivalent scientific merit and program relevance, preference will be given to those submitted by institutions that have granted baccalaureate degrees to 25 or more individuals who have obtained academic or professional doctoral degrees in the health related sciences during the period 1984-1993. Scientists working in eligible minority and women's educational institutions are encouraged to participate in this program. Since a primary purpose of the AREA program is to furnish support to those undergraduate institutions that provide student training in the sciences, principal investigators are encouraged to include the participation of students in the proposed Research Plan to the extent practicable.

INQUIRIES

Supplemental instructions/application forms

Those individuals and institutions meeting the eligibility requirements may contact the office named below to receive the AREA Program Guidelines and/or form PHS 398 application kit.

Academic Research Enhancement Award

Office of Grants Information

Division of Research Grants

Westwood Building, Room 449

Bethesda, MD 20892

Telephone: (301) 435-0714

FAX: (301) 594-7045

Questions regarding eligibility, policies, procedures, and other administrative aspects of the NIH AREA program should be referred First to the Office of Sponsored Programs at the institution. Issues that remain AFTER consultation with the institutional Office of Sponsored Programs and that are NOT ADDRESSED in the AREA Program Guidelines may be addressed to:

Research Training and Special Programs Office

Office of Extramural Research

National Institutes of Health

Building 31, Room 5B44

Bethesda, MD 20892

Telephone: (301) 496-1968

FAX: (301) 496-0166

AUTHORITY AND REGULATIONS

This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, No. 93.390. Grants will be awarded under authority of the Public Health Service Act, Title III, Section 301 (Public Law 78-410, as amended; 42 USC 241) and administered in accordance with the PHS Grants Policy Statement and Federal Regulations at 42 CFR Parts 52 and 74.

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