Limited Submission Funding Opportunity

NIH Director's Early Independence Awards (DP5)


FOA#: RFA-RM-14-004

Please note that this FOA has a very short timeline.

The NIH Director’s Early Independence Awards provide an opportunity for exceptional junior scientists to accelerate their entry into an independent research career by forgoing the traditional post-doctoral training period. Though most newly graduated doctoral-level researchers would benefit by post-doctoral training, a small number of outstanding junior investigators would benefit instead by launching directly into an independent research career. For these select investigators, who have established a record of scientific innovation and research productivity and who have demonstrated unusual leadership, drive, and maturity, post-doctoral training would unnecessarily delay their entry into performing independent research. The NIH Director’s Early Independence Awards also provide an opportunity for institutions to invigorate their research programs by bringing in the fresh perspectives of the awardees that they host. Prospective candidates should contact appropriate Institutional leaders to seek an appointment in an independent research position.

ELIGIBILITY

- At the time of application, the individual either 1) within the preceding twelve months must have received a terminal doctoral degree or completed medical residency or 2) within the following twelve months must complete all the requirements for a doctoral degree or complete a medical residency.
- At the time of application, the PD/PI must not have served as a post-doctoral fellow following a previous doctoral degree for more than one year.
- The individual must also not be the PD/PI of an NIH R01 or equivalent grant at the time of award.

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION
Two applications per institution are allowed.

KEY DATES

- Internal Letter of Intent Due: November 14, 2014 (by midnight)
- Sponsor Letter of Intent Due (optional): December 30, 2014
- Sponsor Proposal Due: January 30, 2015 (by 5 pm)
SUBMITTING A MANDATORY LETTER OF INTENT
Candidates interested in applying are required to submit a letter of intent (LOI). An LOI is required but not binding. Before submitting an LOI you are required to approach your PI and Department Chair and discuss your potential independent position. Otherwise your LOI will not be considered.

1. Click [here](#) to access the LOI form.
2. Name the LOI as follows: “LastName-FirstInitial-NIH-DP5-2015”, replacing “LastName” with your last name and “First Initial” with your first initial.
3. Click on the Vault ticket: [https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e5852717_1-t_3jTOITBq](https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e5852717_1-t_3jTOITBq)
4. Click the Upload button.
5. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
6. Click the OK button.

Note: You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Cielo [kcieno@northwestern.edu](mailto:kcieno@northwestern.edu) for a confirmation.

CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Fruma Yehiely, Director of ORD, 847-491-1074, [yehiely@northwestern.edu](mailto:yehiely@northwestern.edu)
Limited Submissions web site: [http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/](http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/)