

ORDE "KNOW YOUR AGENCY" SERIES: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES & DIGESTIVE & KIDNEY DISEASES

Agency Site: <http://www.niddk.nih.gov>

OVERVIEW

The National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is the fifth largest component out of 27 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Located in Bethesda, MD, NIDDK's dual mission is to 1) support research, both internal and external to the Institute, and 2) serve as a trusted information source for the medical community and the US public.

Formed in 1950, it was originally called the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Disease. The Institute went through several name changes over the next decades; in 1986, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases was created and NIDDK received its current moniker. (*Source: NIDDK 60 Years of Research to Advance Health, p. 1*)

Specific Interests

NIDDK supports basic, clinical, and translational research in diabetes, digestive disease, nutrition, obesity, endocrine/metabolic diseases, hematologic disease, kidney disease, liver disease, and urological disease.

Approach

NIDDK supports external research efforts, providing research funding to universities, medical institutions, non-profit, and for-profit organizations. NIDDK advertises specific interests using requests for applications (RFAs), program announcements, request for proposals (RFPs), and general program descriptions. NIDDK also supports internal research efforts within their labs and clinics.

AGENCY ORGANIZATION

Within the structure of NIH, NIDDK has its own Director and Deputy Director. The Director, with his leadership team, sets the vision for the Institute and deploys budget resources responsive to that vision. The NIDDK Advisory Council provides guidance on the Institute's research portfolio. Advisory Council members are drawn from both scientific and lay communities, serve 4-year terms and represent all Institute research areas.

Programmatic Divisions are:

- Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases
- Digestive Diseases and Nutrition
- Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Diseases

Divisions dedicated to managing the NIDDK research enterprise are Extramural Activities (responsible for grants management, scientific review, and evaluation), and Intramural Research (responsible for oversight of research and training conducted by government scientists in NIDDK labs and clinical centers).

NIDDK GRANTS PROCESS

NIDDK offers a range of funding mechanisms including research project grants (R01), small grants (R03), exploratory/developmental research projects (R21) and program project grants (P01). Career (K) awards are also offered as are individual and institutional training grants. Applications are submitted electronically. Funding ranges depend on the grant mechanism and RFA/program announcement requirements. Most grants last 3 to 5 years. While K Awards require US citizenship or permanent residency, most NIH grants are open to investigators employed in the US regardless of citizenship.

NIDDK receives funding through the congressional appropriations process that funds NIH. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 NIDDK budget was \$1.7 billion with an additional \$150 million appropriation for Type 1 Diabetes that NIDDK administers (*Source: NIDDK FY2015 Award Funding Policy*).

FY 2014 Awards/Success Rates

NIDDK received 3,116 applications, and funded 715 for a success rate of 22.9% in FY 2014. New grant applications had an 18.8% success rate while the competing continuation success rate was 44.9%. By grant mechanism, FY2014 success rates were:

R01 21.4% **R03** 26.3% **R21** 13.7%
(*Source: NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools*)

Contact with Agency Program Staff:

NIDDK encourages principal investigators to have open discussions with Program Directors from an early stage of project development on topics including how your proposed project relates to NIDDK priorities, questions about your budget, and how to choose the most appropriate study section. Following peer review, Program Directors can often provide more specific detail about particular reviewer comments on your Summary Statement.

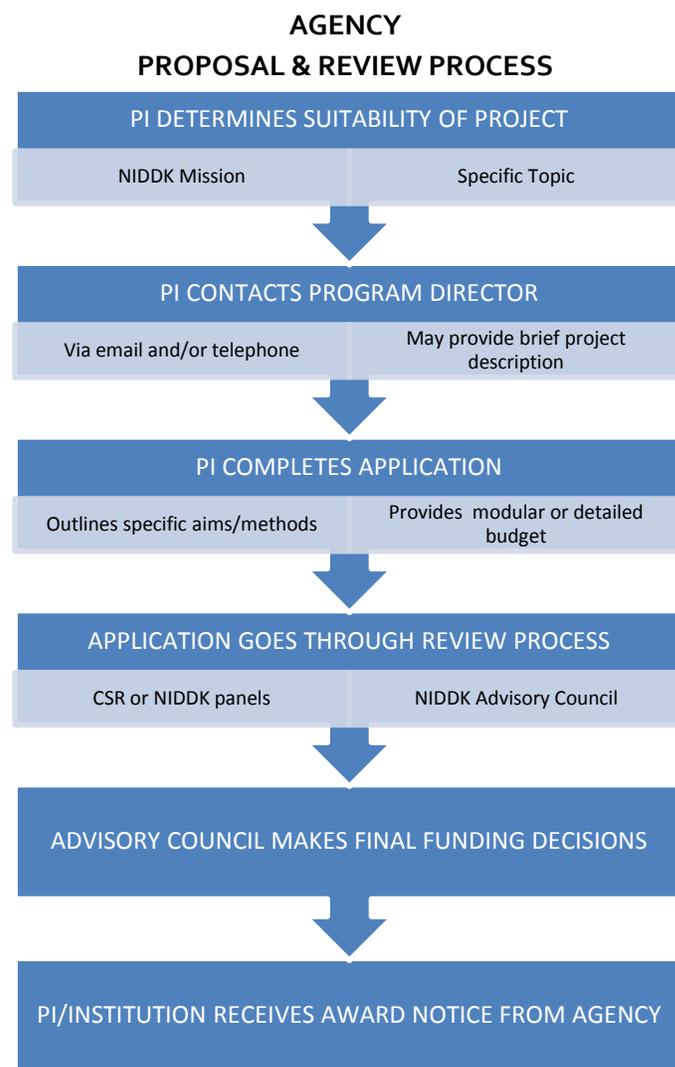
Typical NIDDK Application Process:

- 1) PI determines suitability of proposed project to NIDDK mission and specific topic area(s)
- 2) PI contacts Program Director with questions
- 3) PI completes application
- 4) Application goes to NIH Center for Scientific Review or is reviewed by NIDDK special review panels, depending on grant mechanism; primary, secondary, and tertiary reviewers are assigned applications for review
- 5) Assigned reviewers provide preliminary impact scores and review comments; scores determine if application is discussed at review meeting
- 6) Peer review meeting takes place, led by Scientific Review Officer (SRO); top applications are discussed and study section members provide impact scores for each discussed application
- 7) Best scored applications are reviewed by the NIDDK Advisory Council (second tier review)
- 8) Advisory Council makes final funding decisions
- 9) Successful PI/institution receive award notice

Application Review Process:

Most NIDDK applications are reviewed by Scientific Review Groups (aka study sections) organized by the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR). NIDDK staff members organize an alternate review process for applications submitted in response to RFAs, fellowships, program projects, training/career awards, and multi-center clinical trials. Review criteria include significance, investigator(s), innovation, approach, and environment. Up to 3 reviewers are assigned to read/evaluate an application, and provide a preliminary impact score. Preliminary scores determine which applications are discussed at the study section meeting. Each application discussed receives a final impact score from all study section members.

Applications that score within funding limits set for that round then go through a second tier peer review process performed by the NIDDK's Advisory Council.



What Happens Next?

PIs may follow review process results via the NIH electronic grants management system, e-Commons. Once initial peer review has concluded, PIs receive Summary Statements. Those who are within or close to the funding parameters of the Institute will be asked to provide additional information concerning current support levels, and human or animal subjects as applicable (known as Just in Time). PIs then receive award notifications.

Those who are not funded will review their Summary Statements, begin to think about how best to address reviewer concerns, and then talk with Program Directors to ascertain further details about the review. Discussing results with mentors and colleagues will be helpful in determining if resubmission is a good choice.