2023 NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute (HDRI)
Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#))

General Information

What is the Health Disparities Research Institute (HDRI)?
The HDRI is NIMHD's flagship training program which is offered annually. The program consists of lectures on minority health and health disparities research, small group discussions, mock grant reviews, and seminars. Program participants will have the opportunity to meet NIH scientific staff engaged in health disparities research related to their interests both at NIMHD and across various NIH Institutes and Centers.

Eligibility

Who qualifies for the HDRI?
At the time of submitting their applications, interested parties must fulfill all 4 of the criteria below:

1. Applicants **must** be *early-stage investigators ([ESI](#))* **who have completed their terminal degree or post-graduate clinical training within the past 10 years**. Visit NIH's [ESI Policies page](#) to see if you qualify. See the list of grant awards that you can receive and still retain your ESI status [here](#).
2. Applicants **must** have a terminal research degree such as a Ph.D., M.D./D.O., Sc.D., Dr.P.H., DrNP, Pharm.D., Psy.D., D.D.S./D.M.D. or equivalent doctoral research degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution.
3. Applicants **must** be post-doctoral fellows, assistant professors, or individuals in comparable research positions.
4. Applicants **must** be individuals who are planning to submit a F, K or R grant to NIH *within the next 12 months*.

Individuals from [diverse backgrounds](#) are encouraged to apply.

Can I get an extension of my ESI status?
- [Extensions](#) may be granted for several reasons as described in [NOT-OD-19-125](#).
- It is the applicant's responsibility to arrange extension of ESI status prior to submitting the HDRI application.
- Information on how to extend your ESI period for **maternity reasons**, please see link: https://era.nih.gov/erahelp/ESIE_ext/Default.htm#cshid=4

Can I apply to the HDRI if I am currently applying for or already have been awarded an NIH grant?

Individuals who currently hold or have been previously *awarded* an R01 or similar grant (annual budgetof $200,000 or more) as PI or MPI are ineligible. Individuals who are in the process of applying for or have been *awarded* Ks, R03s, R21s, or other grants with annual budgets <u>under</u> $200,000 are still eligible to apply. See the list of grant awards that you can receive and still retain your ESI status [here](#).

Can foreign professionals apply?

The HDRI is open to all eligible applicants. However, the NIH cannot provide any financial or travel/visa related assistance beyond the standard acceptance confirmation.

Who are not eligible to apply:

- NIH and HHS staff, including persons engaged in fellowships/training at NIH or an HHS agency.
- Individuals who previously participated in the HDRI or the Translational Health Disparities Course.
- A person holding the rank of Associate Professor at the time of applying, even if still in ESI status.

Application Process

How do I apply to the HDRI?

To apply to the HDRI you must submit your application via the HDRI [application portal](#). You will be asked to log-in using an eRA Commons ID or an open access personal email.

Where can I get login assistance?

Please follow the [help URL](#) for assistance to log in to the HDRI Application form.

Where can I get information about eRA Commons log-in?

For eRA Commons account questions please visit: https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/public/login.do
Also, the eRA Commons Frequently Asked Questions page: https://era.nih.gov/commons/faq_commons.cfm

What do I need to submit as part of my application?

All of the following materials must be submitted *by the applicant* via the HDRI [application portal](#) by the deadline:

1. **An NIH Biosketch**: [Read NIH's Biosketch guidance](#) to learn more about the non-fellowship andfellowship formats.

2. **A personal statement:** The personal statement should outline career goals, reasons for participating in the program, and plans for obtaining NIH funding. The word limit is 350 words (cut and paste).

3. **A Specific Aims page:** The NIH specific aims page should detail the scientific premise/background, aims/hypotheses, and proposed methodology that will form the basis of afuture NIH grant submission. The word limit is 850 words, no citations required (cut and paste).

4. **Two letters of reference/recommendation:** The applicant must submit two letters of reference/recommendation (2-page limit each) documenting support for the candidate and the future NIH grant submission. They must be submitted in PDF format, on letterhead, addressed to the HDRI Selection Committee.

   Note: There is no other specific formatting required for font or spacing.

Can I get an extension on the deadline?
No extensions or late materials via email will be allowed. Late, incomplete, or emailed applications will not be considered. Troubleshoot your application accordingly.

Is HDRI admission first come, first served?
No. All applications submitted will be reviewed by the selection committee and top finalists will be invited to attend the HDRI.

When can I submit my HDRI application?
The HDRI application portal website opens Monday, February 6, 2023, and closes Monday, March 13, 2023 at 5 p.m. ET. Troubleshoot your application accordingly.

When will notification of acceptance to the HDRI be sent?
All applicants will receive notification of their application status (accepted or declined) via email by June 2, 2023.

Can I discuss my application for the HDRI program or have it reviewed by NIMHD program officers?
NIMHD staff cannot provide pre-submission technical assistance or review HDRI applications prior to submission. It is highly encouraged that applicants work with their mentors to develop an HDRI application for submission.

Can I request feedback as to why I was not selected to participate in HDRI?
Due to the large volume of applications, feedback will not be provided to applicants.

Logistics

When will the HDRI be held?
The HDRI will run from Monday, August 7 to Friday, August 11, 2023.

Where will the Health Disparities Research Institute take place?
The HDRI will take place in person on the NIH campus, Bethesda, Maryland

Do I have to attend the entire Institute?
Yes. Applicants are required to attend all HDRI sessions and participate in all activities. Scholars are responsible for adjusting academic and clinical schedules well in advance of the HDRI.

How many Scholars will be accepted to the 2023 HDRI?
Approximately 50 Scholars will be selected to participate in the Institute.

Will HDRI documents (e.g., presentations, reading materials) be available online during the course?
  Presentations and other materials may be distributed to accepted Scholars.

Is there a cost for the HDRI?
  There are no tuition or registration fees for participating in the HDRI. **Participants are responsible for their own transportation, room and board.** Limited **travel scholarships** may be available to help offset travel-related expenses. Applicants selected to attend the HDRI will receive additional information on travel scholarships for which there is no separate application process.

Will CMEs/CEU's be offered?
  No. CMEs/CEUs will not be offered.

Are there any auditing opportunities?
  Auditing is not allowed.