

NIMHD Loan Repayment Technical Assistance Webinar

September 15, 2016

4:00-5:00 PM

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Vincent Thomas, M.S.W., M.P. A., Xinli Nan, M.D.,
Ph.D., Andru Ciosek, M.B.A.



NIH National Institute
on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

Introductions

Program Officers

Dorothy M Castille, PhD

Adelaida Rosario, PhD

Program Manager

Vincent Thomas, MSW, MPA

Scientific Review Officers

Xinli Nan, MD, PhD

Maryline Laude-Sharp, PhD

Thomas Vollberg, PhD

Division of Loan Repayment

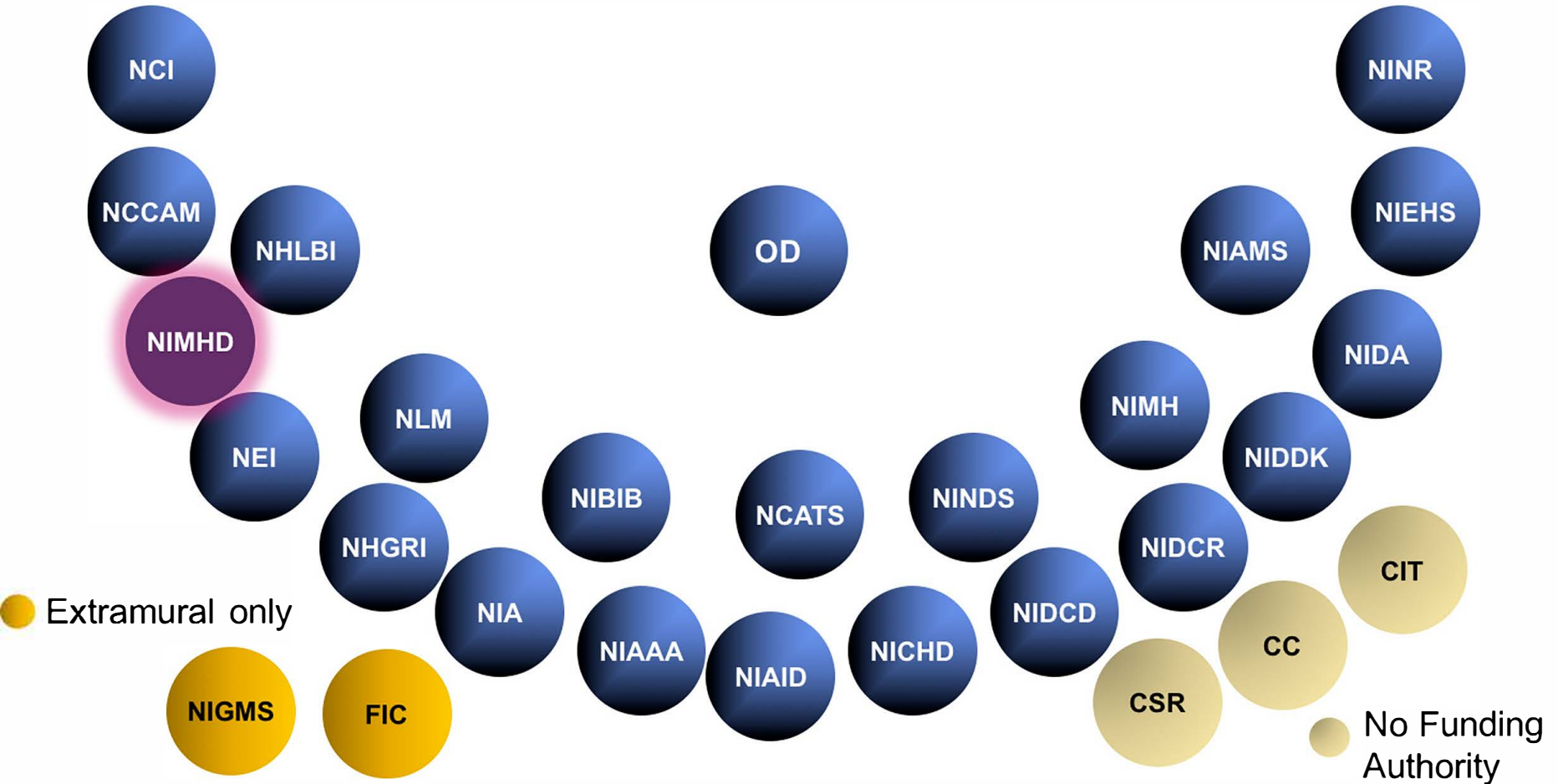
Andru Ciosek



National Institute
on Minority Health
and Health Disparities



The National Institutes of Health



TIP: Know the funding priorities of your NIH Institute or Center. (*On the LRP Web site under the Contact Us tab.*)

Mission of the NIMHD

TIP: Know the funding priorities of your NIH Institute or Center. *(On the LRP Web site under the Contact Us tab.)*

The mission of NIMHD is to lead scientific research to improve minority health and eliminate health disparities.

To accomplish this, NIMHD:

- Plans, reviews, coordinates, and evaluates all minority health and health disparities research and activities of the National Institutes of Health
- Conducts and supports research in minority health and health disparities
- Promotes and supports the training of a diverse research workforce
- Translates and disseminates research information
- Fosters innovative collaborations and partnerships



NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Programs

NIMHD

- 1. Loan Repayment Program for Health Disparities Research (L60) NOT-OD-16-141**
- 2. Loan Repayment Program for Clinical Researchers from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (L32) NOT-OD-16-142**

Other NIH Programs

3. Loan Repayment Program for Clinical Research
4. Loan Repayment Program for Pediatric Research
5. Loan Repayment Program for Contraception and Infertility Research



NIMHD Loan Repayment Program Purpose

Overall purpose: recruitment and retention of qualified health professionals as research investigators to careers in research

L32 Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds

Objective: recruitment and retention of qualified health professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds to clinical research careers

L60 Extramural Loan Repayment Program for Health Disparities Research

Objective: recruitment and retention of qualified health professionals to research careers that focus on minority health disparities or other health disparity issues

Quick Links to References

DLR FAQs <https://www.lrp.nih.gov/faqs> (

NOTICES (

Health Disparities Research (L60)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-141.html> (

Clinical Research for Disadvantaged Backgrounds (L32)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-142.html> (

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

https://www.lrp.nih.gov/sites/default/files/docs/pdfs/OAS-Instruction-Booklet_508c.pdf



Application Process Timeline

September 1 – November 15: Application Cycle

November 15, 8 p.m. ET: Application Deadline

February – May: Application Peer Review

May: Initial Selection Begins

May – July: Financial Vetting

Mid-July: Final Funding Decisions and Recipient Notification

August – September: Contract Signing

October: First Payment to Lender



Apply online by 8.p.m. ET on November 15 at <http://www.lrp.nih.gov>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | National Institutes of Health

NIH National Institutes of Health
Division of Loan Repayment

Eligibility & Programs | Data & Reports | Contact & Engage | About DLR

Start Your 2017 LRP Application Now!
Download the 2017 Application Guide

APPLY | AWARD | RENEW

Research Supervisors/Mentors | Referees/Recommenders | Institutional Business Officials | For NIH Employees



Important Changes to the LRP Application

REQUIRED:

eRA Commons ID (can take up to 6 weeks)

Single deadline for application and recommender letters

Completely changed Application format and process



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1 Component Parts of the LRP Application

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the LRP application with the following steps: Eligibility (checked), Personal Information (warning), Employment & Affiliation (warning), Education & Training (checked), Research Funding (warning), Research Information (warning), Loan Information (checked), Submit Application (warning), and Application Status (warning). Below the navigation bar, the form fields are: 'You are Applying for:' with radio buttons for 'Intramural' and 'Extramural' (selected); 'Award Type:' with radio buttons for 'New' (selected) and 'Renewal'; 'Award Length:' with radio buttons for 'One Year', 'Two Year' (selected), and 'Three Year'; and 'I am a Mentored Research Scientist' (selected) and 'I am an Independent Investigator' (unselected). The 'LRP:' dropdown menu is set to 'Clinical Research LRP'. There are 'UPDATE' and 'CANCEL' buttons on the right.

Eligibility

- Chose Award Type (New or Renewal)
- Chose LRP Type (*Extramural*)
- Chose LRP Program (Clinical Research LRP – Disadvantaged Backgrounds/Health Disparities LRP)
- Respond to Eligibility Questions

Personal Information

- Name and contact information
- **Commons ID**
- Race and Ethnicity



2 Component Parts of the LRP Application

The screenshot shows a progress bar with eight steps: Eligibility (checked), Personal Information (warning), Employment & Affiliation (warning), Education & Training (checked), Research Funding (warning), Research Information (warning), Loan Information (checked), and Submit Application (warning). Below the progress bar are form fields for 'You are Applying for:' (radio buttons for Intramural and selected Extramural), 'Award Type:' (radio buttons for selected New and Renewal), 'Award Length:' (radio buttons for One Year, selected Two Year, and Three Year), and 'I am a Mentored Research Scientist' (selected) and 'I am an Independent Investigator' (radio buttons). There is also a dropdown menu for 'LRP:' set to 'Clinical Research LRP'. 'UPDATE' and 'CANCEL' buttons are on the right.

Employment Information

- Your Employer
- Your Mentor/Research Supervisor
- Your Academic Affiliation (if applicable)
- Your Institution's Signing/Business Official

Education & Training

- Your Degree Information
- Training such as Post-Doctoral and Residency information



3 Component Parts of the LRP Application

The screenshot shows a progress bar with the following steps: Eligibility (checked), Personal Information (warning), Employment & Affiliation (warning), Education & Training (checked), Research Funding (checked), Research Information (warning), Loan Information (checked), Submit Application (warning), and Application Status (warning). Below the progress bar, the form fields are: 'You are Applying for:' with radio buttons for 'Intramural' and 'Extramural' (selected); 'Award Type:' with radio buttons for 'New' (selected) and 'Renewal'; 'Award Length:' with radio buttons for 'One Year', 'Two Year' (selected), and 'Three Year'; and 'I am a' with radio buttons for 'I am a Mentored Research Scientist' (selected) and 'I am an Independent Investigator'. There are also 'UPDATE' and 'CANCEL' buttons.

Research Funding

- NIH and other grants supporting your eligible research (

Research Information

- Research Project/Activities
- Career Development Plan
- Research Environment
- NIH Biosketch
- Personal Statement
- Recommenders/Referees



4 Component Parts of the LRP Application

The screenshot shows a progress bar with eight steps: Eligibility (checked), Personal Information (error), Employment & Affiliation (error), Education & Training (checked), Research Funding (error), Research Information (error), Loan Information (checked), and Submit Application (error). Below the progress bar, the form fields are: 'You are Applying for:' with radio buttons for 'Intramural' and 'Extramural' (selected); 'Award Type:' with radio buttons for 'New' (selected) and 'Renewal'; 'Award Length:' with radio buttons for 'One Year', 'Two Year' (selected), and 'Three Year'; and 'I am a:' with radio buttons for 'I am a Mentored Research Scientist' (selected) and 'I am an Independent Investigator'. There are also 'UPDATE' and 'CANCEL' buttons.

Loan Information

- Provide the details of eligible student loans including account numbers and balances

Submit Application

- Online Certification
- Citizenship Verification
- Verification of Disadvantaged Background (L32 only)
- Review IC Assignment
- Submit Application



5 Component Parts of the LRP Application

Supervisor Assessment:

New Applications—accomplishments and developments as a researcher to date—demonstrates detailed and specific knowledge of applicant

Renewal Applications—assessment of the applicant's research accomplishments over the prior contract period

Applicant Responsibility: Supervisor/Mentor will be asked to **concur** or **not concur** with the information on the documents you submit.

TIP: Mentorship plan should be written in very concrete manner, well-described, with a clear timeline and specific deliverables

Provide detailed and strongly supportive letters of recommendation



6 Component Parts of the LRP Application

PI or PD Bio-sketch:

- bio-sketch of the applicant's supervisor
- if the applicant is the PI, this document is included in the applicant bio-

Supervisor Bio-sketch:

- bio-sketch of the faculty/laboratory staff member (if the PI or PD is not directly supervising) who will be involved in the Applicant's mentoring program
- supervisor Bio-sketch is optional

Recommendations:

- **REQUIRED: three recommenders **ONLY**, including the mentor PD/PI**
- Detailed knowledge of you and your work and without reservations

Funding Information:

- NIH and/or non-profit research funding sources

TIP: Ensure a positive overall impression

http://www.lrp.nih.gov/pdf/0310_1_application_tips.pdf



Additional Mentorship Tips

- Dependent vs. Independent applicant
- Tier 1 vs. Tier 3 research environment
- Mentor at same institution vs. at other institutions (
- Research focus—1 project vs. multiple projects
- Number of mentors/number of recommenders



Eligibility and Qualifying Loans

Andru Ciosek



National Institute
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Loan Repayment Program Eligibility

- M.D., Ph.D. or equivalent
- research **funded** by a domestic nonprofit, university or state or local government organization
- applicant **employed** by a domestic nonprofit, university or state or local government organization
- educational loan debt equal to at least 20 percent of annual salary
- conduct qualifying research for 50% time or a least 20 hours/week
- U.S. citizen, U.S. national or permanent resident



Loan Repayment Program

Additional Qualifications for L32

An Individual from disadvantaged background means an individual who:

(1) comes from an environment that inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skill and ability required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school; or

(2) comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds according to family size published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary for use in all health professions programs. The Secretary periodically publishes these [income levels in the *Federal Register*](#).



Loan Repayment Program

Qualifying Loans (1)

Individuals are not eligible for the NIH LRPs if they:

- have a Federal judgment lien against their property arising from a Federal debt
- are a full-time Federal government employee or VA Fellow (
- owe an obligation of health professional service to the Federal government, a state, or other entity, unless deferrals are granted for the length of their LRP service obligation
 - *NRSA T32, T90 and F32 awardees are eligible. NIH grants a deferral of the NRSA service obligation.*



Loan Repayment Program

Qualifying Loans (2)

Most student loans qualify

- NIH prioritizes the order in which loans are paid, giving priority to DHHS loans and Federal Loans first. If the debt on government loans is paid down, the NIH will then repay institutional loans. Private Loans have the lowest priority rating.
- NIH issues payments directly to lenders on a quarterly basis.



Loan Repayment Program

Qualifying Loans (3)

NIH will repay:

- educational loans guaranteed by the U.S. Government
- educational loans from accredited U.S. academic institutions and commercial lenders

NIH will not repay:

- non-education loans (e.g., home equity loans)
- loans consolidated with another individual (e.g., spouse or child)
- PLUS loans to parents

EXCEPTION: PLUS loans disbursed to graduate and professional students on or after July 1, 2006, qualify for LRP repayment

- loans that have been converted to a service obligation
- delinquent loans, loans in default, or loans not current in repayment (
- non-US based loans (i.e.; Loans from another country)



Loan Repayment Program

Consolidated Loans

The LRP will repay Consolidated Loans, provided all loans in the Consolidation are eligible for repayment.

- you can consolidate your loans from undergraduate, graduate/medical degree training
- you can not consolidate your loans with loans held by another person
- you can not consolidate your student loans with non-educational loans.



Responsiveness of Application

Adelaida Rosario, PhD



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Loan Repayment Program Responsiveness Criteria—L60

- demonstrates commitment to health disparities research in all areas of application
- research focuses on minority health disparities or other health disparities

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-141.html>

Tips:

- Make application explicitly about health disparities
- Demonstrate that your work focuses on research:
 - Minority health disparities and other health disparities
 - Becoming an independent researcher in the field



Loan Repayment Program Responsiveness Criterion—L32

Clinical Research is defined as

"patient-oriented clinical research"

conducted with **human subjects**, or

research on the causes and consequences of disease in **human populations** involving material of **human origin (such as tissue specimens and cognitive phenomena)**

for which an investigator or colleague **directly** interacts with **human subjects** in an **outpatient or inpatient setting**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-142.html>



Loan Repayment Program Responsiveness Criterion—L32 Clinical Research

To clarify:

- a problem in human physiology, pathophysiology or disease, or
- epidemiological or
- behavioral studies, outcomes research or health services research, or
- developing new technologies, therapeutic interventions, or clinical trials.



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Loan Repayment Program

Tips Specific to NIMHD L32

- Adhere to the NIH definition of Clinical Research
- Conduct research for which an investigator or colleague directly interacts with human subjects



LRP Review Process

Xinli Nan, M.D., Ph.D.



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Loan Repayment Program Peer Review at NIMHD

How are extramural applications assigned to an NIH Institute or Center (IC) for review?

Applications for the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research LRP (L60) and Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (L32) go directly to NIMHD for review.

Who reviews the applications?

At least two scientists from outside NIH review each extramural LRP application.



Loan Repayment Program Peer Review at NIMHD

How are NIH LRP applications evaluated?

Applications for the Extramural LRP are evaluated for likelihood to continue a research career, based on the following criteria:

Applicant's potential to pursue a career in research, including:

- Appropriateness of the applicant's previous training and experience to prepare for a research career;
- Appropriateness of the proposed research activities during the LRP award period to foster a career in research;
- Commitment to a research career, as reflected by the personal statement of long-term career goals and plan to achieve those goals; and
- Strength of the reference letters (recommendations) attesting to the applicant's potential for a successful career in research.



Loan Repayment Program Peer Review at NIMHD

Quality of the overall environment to prepare the applicant for a research career, including:

- Quality and availability of appropriate scientific mentors and colleagues to help achieve or enhance the applicant's research independence, including the mentors' record in mentoring researchers, funding history and research productivity; and
- Quality and appropriateness of institutional resources and facilities.

How are renewal applications evaluated?

For renewal award applications, progress under the previous project period is an additional evaluation criterion:

- Assessment of the renewal applicant's research accomplishments during the previous LRP support period; and
- Assessment of the renewal applicant's development as an independent investigator.



Loan Repayment Program Peer Review at NIMHD

How are results of LRP peer review communicated?

LRP peer review results go directly to NIMHD program staff. Applicants can receive feedback on reviewer comments by contacting the Program Officers.

Scores and Summary Statements are not released because the Loan Repayment Program is a CONTRACT not a grant.



Loan Repayment Program Peer Review at NIMHD

The following conditions often weaken an applicant's competitiveness.

Weak or lukewarm *letters of recommendation*.

Questionable *research commitment*.

Mediocre *research plan*, such as unclear or incremental goals

Rushed application (*grantsmanship*). *Start early and submit with time to check for errors.*

Inadequate *research environment* that is not conducive to applicant's research aspirations.

Very modest *publication* record without explanation.



Loan Repayment Program Peer Review at NIMHD

Division of Loan Repayment--Contact at any time Program
Officer

- To submit for the current application cycle-May to November 15, 2016
- For feedback after review is completed—late July, 2017 or later

Scientific Review Officer

- To address issues once the application has been submitted—November 16, 2016 –May 1, 2017



Selected FAQs—2017 Application cycle

Question: Is research with international populations allowable? Does a global health disparity count under NIMHD's mission? Can I do research in an international population?

- **Answer:** Yes. However, research must be directed toward building a career as a Health Disparities researcher for the L60 and the issues must be explicitly applicable to US health disparity populations.

Question: I am also working on a project with people living with physical and cognitive disabilities. While participants in these projects are racially diverse, the “disparity focus” is disabilities; however, it looks to me as if the LRP does **not** include people living with disabilities in its scope of disparity populations. Is this true?

- **Answer:** Yes, you are correct. People with disabilities are not included in the legal definition of Health Disparity populations.

Question: Do most people who apply for the LRP work on a single research project for at least 50% of their time during the contract period?

- **Answer:** Many applicants work on more than 1 project. If you describe more than 1 project, be sure to discuss how the work is related so you do not appear scattered and unfocused.



Selected FAQs

Question: What is the basis for the extensive time of review for applications (November submission and August notification), when other grants are reviewed on a very different time scale?

- **Answer:** Depending on the program, the Loan Repayment Program receives from hundreds to more than a thousand applications. Reviews are conducted in writing over a period of months not in a one or two day session. The time allocated for the program includes many processes conducted by both Program and Review. Overall the time scale for the LRP review is very similar to that of other mechanisms.

Question: How can an applicant receive feedback once an application is reviewed?

- **Answer:** Feedback is provided by contacting the Program Officer.



Questions?

Question: Where on the website can I locate information regarding expectations for each of the sections (Research Project/Activities, Career Development Plan, Research Environment, and Personal Statement) such as page limits, etc?

Answer: APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

https://www.lrp.nih.gov/sites/default/files/docs/pdfs/OAS-Instruction-Booklet_508c.pdf

Question: Am I accurate in my understanding of a mentored research scientist versus an independent researcher in considering my role as a post-doctoral fellow to be a mentored research scientist?

Answer: Yes, that is accurate. A researcher is not independent until he/she is PI on an R level grant or receives external funding of more than \$100,000/year.

Question: Based on the definitions on your website who is considered my Research Supervisor? Would this person be the PI for the T32 that I am under for my post-doc or my assigned research mentor? So then, would my research mentor be considered my primary mentor?

Answer: The Research Supervisor is the person who verifies that you are doing the work you committed to do in your LRP application. That person could be the PI for the T32 or your research mentor and could be considered your primary mentor.



Questions?

Question: Who is an institutional business official? This is a required field and I do not see my University listed, therefore, I checked "Other". It seems as though mostly medical centers are listed. My institution is an academic institution. Would the contact person be someone from my School's grants office or the director of the financial office?

Answer: The institutional business official is the person in the Sponsored Projects office responsible for signing off on all applications submitted by the institution.



Questions?

Question: Regarding the definition of research funding, would a postdoc on a NIH funded T32 that is supplemented by their academic institution be considered eligible?

Answer: You are required to devote 50% time to research. Research support from a T32 with or without institution supplementation is acceptable.

Question: Does the applicant need to demonstrate two years for protected research *funding* from the time of application or the time of contract initiation? Or is it 2 years of a research *plan*?

Answer: You must demonstrate a funded position for 2 years from the date of contract award. You can change institutions and take the LRP contract with by requesting a Change of Institution.



Questions?

Question: Am I required to submit only a research project that I am leading as a PI, or may I submit my work that I am conducting on another PI's project?

Answer: You should submit descriptions of the research on which you plan to work during the LRP period.

Question: As a research faculty but not a PI on my own project, am I considered independent, or mentored?

Answer: If you have not received an R level grant from the NIH or a grant from another federal agency for \$100,000 or more you are still considered to be in a mentored position.



Questions?

Question: I understand that a researcher is eligible for the LRP if they work 50% as an employee for a non-profit organization. However, they become ineligible if they receive any research funds or any type of salary from a for-profit organization.

My question: If this is correct, are there any circumstances where exceptions have been granted? Is there any way I could I be a p-t employee of this non-profit (which meets the criteria) and receive some income from my consulting?

Answer: There is no mechanism for a waiver or exemption from the required employment with a non-profit organization.



Questions?

Question: How does one obtain an eRA Commons ID? Is the eRA Commons ID the same as the eRA Person ID we see on the Personal Profile Summary of eRA Commons?

Answer: For instructions on how to obtain an eRA Commons account, please see:
https://era.nih.gov/registration_accounts.cfm.

The eRA Commons ID and eRA PersonID are the same.

Question: I thought I had read Perkins loans are not included.

Answer: Perkins loans are included as eligible loans for the Loan Repayment Loan as long as they have not been consolidated with other prohibited loans.

Question: Do we not need to submit promissory notes anymore? Only the loan account statement?

Answer: Promissory Notes are still required. If an applicant is unable to get a Promissory Note, additional Disclosure Statements/Disbursement Reports will be required to satisfy the promissory note requirement.



Questions?

Question: I understand that we must be funded for our research. What if we are in the process for applying for funding to cover the proposed project that related to the LRP? Are we then ineligible?

Answer: The academic institution must verify that the applicant is covered by research funding from the date of award through the two years of the initial award.

Question: Can individuals with master degree qualify for the program?

Answer: To qualify for both of the NIMHD Loan Repayment programs, a doctorate degree is required.

Question: Does "minority health disparity" only refer to racial and ethnic minority or do other minority populations such as sexual and gender minorities also fit?

Answer: The following populations have been designated as health disparity populations: Blacks/African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, sexual/gender minority populations, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, and rural populations. The addition of SGM populations was recently approved and is now permitted.

Question: Are individuals with disabilities considered a health disparities population under NIH guidelines?

Answer: At this time, individuals with disabilities are not considered a health disparities population under NIH guidelines.



Questions?

Question: Can you clarify whether a project that is a secondary data analysis that is supported by salary and start-up funds (i.e., faculty position) would be considered an eligible project for this award despite not being a project funded by an NIH grant?

Answer: As long as research is supported by funding from not-for-profit agencies, the research is permissible. Secondary data analysis is acceptable. However, research questions must focus on minority health or health disparities.

Question: "Clinical Research" must be conducted in "inpatient and outpatient settings" but traditional epi methods and other approaches are not conducted in patient settings. Could you clarify?

Answer: For the L32 Clinical Research for Persons from Disadvantaged Backgrounds:

NIH defines Clinical Research as patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects, or research on the causes and consequences of disease in human populations involving material of human origin (such as tissue specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator or colleague directly interacts with human subjects in an outpatient or inpatient setting to clarify a problem in human physiology, pathophysiology or disease, or epidemiological or behavioral studies, outcomes or health services research, or developing new technologies, therapeutic interventions, or clinical trials.

Epidemiological research is permitted if the investigator or a colleague directly interacts with human subjects.



Questions?

Question: I'm in the process of ending a project and will be working on grant and additional projects. In my application, is it ok to discuss in my research plan projects that are not currently in the works?

Answer: It is appropriate to discuss projects on which you will be working during the funding period of the LRP. However, if you discuss more than one project, you should take care to show how the projects are related and build on each other and you should discuss them in a manner that gives evidence that you know how to do and talk about research.

Question: I submitted an LRP application last year and was unsuccessful. Will I receive a summary of areas where the reviewers felt my application was weak?

Answer: The Loan Repayment Program awards contracts, not grants. To receive feedback, the applicant must call and speak with a Program Official.



Questions?

Question: How many mentors do you need when applying for the LRP?

Answer: There is no requirement for a specific number of mentors; however, a mentorship team is an important contributor to successful career development. We recommend that, as with a K (career development) award, applicants develop a mentorship team to work with them in specific areas they determine to be crucial to career development. Mentor strengths should complement each other and the applicant should address that complementarity in the mentorship plan along with a clear, detailed and specific timeline of when meetings will take place and dates for deliverables. Training or mentoring plan (when appropriate) should include a detailed discussion of the training or mentoring plan, including a discussion of the research methods and scientific techniques to be taught.

Question: Do all mentors have to be NIH funded? Is an applicant still competitive if mentors are funded from other organizations besides NIH?

Answer: All mentors do not have to have NIH funding. An applicant with mentors funded by other organizations can still be successful; however, the purpose of the program is to support scholars to become independently funded NIH researchers. Therefore, it is important that at least 1 mentor have NIH funding.

Question: Do all mentors have to be health disparities researchers?

Answer: All mentors do not have to be health disparities researchers. However, the purpose of the program is to support scholars to become independent Health Disparities researchers. Therefore, it is important that at least 1 mentor have publications relevant to Health Disparities.



Questions?

Question: What specific information are you looking for from mentors, in terms of how they plan to help the applicant?

Answer: The applicant should discuss the mentors' record in mentoring researchers, funding history, and research productivity. Mentors should know the applicant well enough to comment on the research skills and the abilities of the applicant. This includes the applicants' research supervisor or most recent mentor and includes the following:

- Rate the applicant with respect to previous training and experience to prepare for a research career
- Commitment to a career in Health Disparities research
- Potential for a successful career in Health Disparities research
- Applicant's research related strengths and weaknesses
- Overall recommendation

Question: For mentored applicants, are we required to report the source of funding if we are funded by the department or our PI's grant? Can we leave the funding section unanswered if we are mentored applicants?

Answer: Whether mentored or independent, the applicant must state the source of funding for the research. The LRP contract does not support research; therefore, how the research is supported must be addressed.



Questions?

Question: Since only 3 recommenders are required this year, is it better to have recommenders who are senior level faculty and NIH funded vs. a colleague who you have several publications with, but who is junior faculty?

Answer: Mentors and recommenders must have the experience necessary to assist the applicant in developing a career trajectory to become an independent health disparity researcher. (

Question: If I am working 50% on a Health Disparities project and 50% on another project is there any need to mention the non health disparities project in my application?

Answer: The application should explicitly address health disparity or minority health issues and should reflect the applicant's understanding of how to write and talk about science. For that reason, we recommend following the format of an R level grant to give evidence of knowledge about how to present scientific ideas.

Question: If I received a research supplement several years ago as a postdoc (exceeding \$100,000) but am currently not a PI but work more in a research administrative role, am I still considered independent?

Answer: The PI on an administrative supplement is the PI of the parent grant to which the applicant was a supplement. If the applicant was not the PI on the parent grant and has not received an R level grant of at least \$100,000, he/she is not considered independent. The applicant must be engaged in minority health or health disparity research to be eligible for the NIMHD LRP.



Questions?

Question: If I am serving in the role of director for a non-profit health disparities organization, and manage several research projects, am I eligible for this opportunity?

Answer: The purpose of the LRP is to support scholars to become independently NIH funded health disparity researchers. A director or manager of research projects who is not involved directly as a researcher is not eligible to submit an application to the LRP.

Question: How should we decide which project should be the LRP-Eligible project? Should the LRP-eligible project be those projects that are already-funded? Or, can they be projects that are proposals under review?

Answer: Appropriate research projects for the LRP funding period must be already funded research. There is no guarantee that proposals under review will be selected for funding and are therefore not appropriate for inclusion in an LRP application.

Question: When submitting a project that is a secondary data analysis that is supported by salary and start-up funds (but not an NIH grant), it is appropriate to apply as an independent researcher?

Answer: Unless the applicant has been awarded an R level grant as PI of \$100,000 or more, he/she must submit a mentored application.



Questions?

Question: Is it possible to receive an LRP if you work at a teaching institution vs. a research institution? Do you know approximately what percentage of applicants at teaching institutions have received the LRP?

Answer: It is possible to receive an LRP if you work at a teaching institution vs. a research institution; however, the applicant must work harder to create an appropriate supportive research environment to support the development of an independent NIH funded health disparity research career. Mentors do not have to be at the home institution

Question: Do the loans need to be in “repayment”? What if I have a one-year grace period?

Answer: Loans do not have to be in repayment but they do need to be in good standing.

Question: Do I still qualify if I have an NIA diversity supplement?

Answer: Yes.



Questions?

Question: I am conducting health disparities research on a population that is mostly Hispanic/Latino (~70%) but also includes other racial/ethnic groups (mostly non-Hispanic white). Is it considered acceptable to research health disparities in a mixed group such as this?

Answer: Health disparities is implicitly comparative; therefore, having a mixed racial/ethnic sample population is an advantage. (

Question: For renewal applications, should letters of recommendation also focus on progress during first award period?

Answer: Recommendations for renewal applications **MUST** focus on progress during the first award period and explicitly address publications and grant proposals submitted whether or not they were successful.

Question: What if grant funding for the research is discontinued during LRP period what happens to the LRP?

Answer: If grant funding for the research is discontinued, please immediately contact the Program Official. If no other support can be secured, the applicant can submit an application to the Division of Loan Repayment for a Withdrawal Without Penalty.



Questions?

Question: I am 40% funded on a funded project that is not focused on minority health, is it better to not include that project or try to tease out the minorities who might be collected as part of the program? The other 60% of my funding is directly on minority health.

Answer: The applicant must make the case in every part of the application that he/she is on a trajectory to become an independent health disparities researcher. Research projects should focus on that trajectory.

Question: My mentor (PI) is at my institution but I will also train with a mentor at another university by spending some time training in their lab. Is this acceptable?

Answer: Applicants are encouraged to work with mentors both within and outside of their home institution. It is important to clearly and specifically articulate how the mentorship team members complement each other in supporting the applicant's career development. A concrete timeline with frequency of meetings and specific deliverables are an important tool in discussing the mentorship and career development plans.

Question: As part of the personal statement, how much of it should focus on past research experiences versus short term academic and research goals?

Answer: It is important to balance the focus of the personal statement to emphasize what has been done, what is being done and what will be done to develop a career as an independently NIH funded health disparities researcher.



Questions?

Question: How necessary is to have a mentor? How necessary is it for that mentor to have NIH funding? How necessary is it for that mentor to be at your home institution/university? Lastly, in your discipline?

Answer: If the applicant has not received an R level grant of at least \$100,000, they must have a mentorship team. At least 1 mentor must have a history of NIH funding and at least 1 mentor must be published in health disparities research. Members of the mentorship team must have clearly defined roles as to how they will support the applicant in developing an independent NIH funded health disparities research career.

Question: Will we receive notification if any information is requested from the institutional officer, mentor, etc.?

Answer: It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all required information is included in the application packet. No notification will be given if information is omitted but the application may be withdrawn as incomplete.



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on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

