

July 2024

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *EARA Info Plus*!

Through this newsletter, we will share updates and insights from [NIH's Engagement and Access for Research-Active Institutions \(EARA\) initiative](#) and NIH leaders, as well as information on NIH grant writing, funding opportunities, and events.

NIH developed EARA in response to a need identified by the [NIH UNITE initiative](#), which acts as a think tank to promote equity, generate bold ideas, and catalyze new actions within NIH and throughout the biomedical and behavioral research workforce. EARA was envisioned to address barriers that [Research-Active Institutions \(RAIs\)](#) face by sharing information that helps match select RAI faculty with NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs), Program Officers (POs), and Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), according to their research interests. I believe that by fostering these new connections, EARA can help demystify NIH and address disparities in research opportunities and outcomes.

Thank you for supporting EARA. My team and I look forward to taking this journey with you.



Marie A. Bernard, M.D.
Chief Officer for Scientific
Workforce Diversity
(COSWD)

EARA Updates

Phase One—A Wave of Interest

As noted above, [EARA](#) is intended to provide information to foster interactions between [RAIs](#) and NIH. The EARA website has been developed to provide a comprehensive resource for those who are interested in this information.

The EARA intensive pilot program was developed to determine whether active sharing of information is effective in accelerating engagement between researchers and NIH POs, potentially leading to more grant applications and greater grant success. The solicitation for participants in the pilot generated far more interest among RAIs than we anticipated. Whereas we expected to select from 20 volunteer institutions and focus on 12, we had 51 institutions enthusiastically volunteer. Given the level of interest, we opted to include all and split outreach to the 51 schools into three waves, the first of which kicked off in April 2024. Waves two and three are expected to begin in September 2024 and February 2025, respectively.

a cloud-based environment to support data accessibility and sharing. This virtual webinar features the National Long Term Care Survey (NLTCS) linked with CMS data. The NLTCS team will present an overview of their study and the CMS data they offer to researchers. Examples of linked data will be presented along with information on how to access NLTCS-CMS linked data. Researchers (doctoral students, junior faculty, senior faculty, and policy professionals) who are interested in using NLTCS-linked data in their own research to study older adult health are welcome to join.

Article Highlights What Makes a Successful NIH Grant Application

Elements of Successful Grant Writing (PNAS)

This April 2024 article provides information on a collaboration with the National Eye Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases on what makes a successful NIH grant application. It distills more than 60 years of combined experience in peer review and NIH program management to help new and early-career researchers navigate the NIH application process and enhance diversity.

[Read More](#)

Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)

The NIH Office of Extramural Research has many grant resources, including a centralized list of [all active NIH NOFOs](#). In *EARA Info Plus*, we will highlight individual IC active NOFO pages on a rotating basis and individual NOFOs that may interest you and be of use to your institution. For the most current curation of NOFOs, [visit the EARA webpage](#).

- Research With Activities Related to Diversity (ReWARD): [R01 PAR-23-122](#)
- STrengthening Research Opportunities for NIH Grants (STRONG): [UC2 PAR-23-144](#)
- Instrumentation Grant Program for Resource-Limited Institutions: [S10 PAR-23-138](#)
- Support for Research Excellence (SuRE): [PAR-24-144](#)
- Support for Research Excellence First Independent Research (SuRE-First): [PAR-24-145](#)
- Leading Equity and Diversity in the Medical Scientist Training Program (LEAD MSTP): [PAR-23-030](#)
- Research Collaboration Network in Structural Racism Measurement and Modeling (U24 Clinical Trial Optional): [RFA-AG-25-003](#)
- National Institute of General Medical Sciences NOFOs: [Active Grant and Funding Opportunities](#)
- National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities: [Active Grant and Funding Opportunities](#)

COSWD Blog Features NIGMS Director Discussing EARA

Read [my recent blog](#) a conversation with my colleague [Jon Lorsch, Ph.D.](#), Director of the NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and NIH UNITE Executive Committee member, in which he shares insights about EARA's anticipated impact.

[Learn More](#)

Resources and Recordings

[Dialogue With Institutional Leaders About Successfully Navigating NIH](#)

In May, NIH leadership and institutions with NIH funding experience met to explore strategies that may bolster success in applying for, securing, and managing NIH grants.

[NIH Simplified Review Framework for Research Project Grants](#)

NIH is simplifying the framework for the peer review of most Research Project Grant applications, effective for due dates on or after January 25, 2025. These changes are designed to address the complexity of the peer review process and mitigate potential bias.

[NIH Grants Process: A Brief Walk-Through for Beginners](#)

Are you new to working with the NIH grants process? This webinar recording offers insights into NIH's organizational structure and how it funds research. Topics include finding the right fit for your research, NIH funding opportunities, the grants process, peer review, NIH and applicant institution roles and responsibilities, and resources to help along the way.



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