

Limited Submissions

Limited Submissions Committee

Tufts University

LIMITED SUBMISSION: NIH: NINDS Neuroscience Development for Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce (R25)

ATTENTION: Please note the new process and deadlines for limited submissions below, and please let the Limited Submissions Team know if you have any questions regarding the changes at limitedsubmissions@tufts.edu

******PLEASE NOTE: ONE (1) PROPOSAL FROM TUFTS- HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS and ONE (1) PROPOSAL FROM TUFTS-MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE CAMPUS MAY BE NOMINATED******

DEADLINES:

Tufts Internal Email of Intent Deadline: August 11 by *noon*

Sponsor Deadline: September 25

For those interested, please send an **email of intent** to the Limited Submissions Team at limitedsubmissions@tufts.edu informing us of an intention to apply. EOI's received after the deadline will not be considered. The email of intent must include:

1. *The name of the solicitation,*
2. *The name of the Principal Investigator, and any co-PI's,*
3. *A 2-3 sentence description of the proposed project.*

Should the number of interested applicants exceed the number allowed by the funder, an internal selection process will be conducted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, and candidates will be notified to submit internal application materials. All candidates will be notified of results. NB: Successful applications must include official notification from the Limited Submissions Team in order to submit. For more information, please see <http://viceprovost.tufts.edu/resources/funding/limited-submissions/>

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

The over-arching goal of this NINDS Neuroscience Development for Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce R25 program is to support educational activities that enhance the pool of neuroscience researchers from underrepresented backgrounds who are available to participate in NIH-supported neuroscience research by (1) increasing the pool of current and future Ph.D.-level research scientists from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical neuroscience research; and (2) facilitating the career advancement/transition of the participants to the next step of their neuroscience careers.

This NINDS Neuroscience Development for Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce (R25) is a flexible and specialized program designed to foster the development of neuroscience researchers from underrepresented backgrounds across career stages. Thus, it encourages applications from applicant organizations that propose innovative mentoring and professional development activities in the mission area(s) of the NINDS. The NINDS Diversity R25 initiative will focus on factors that have been shown to affect retention of underrepresented undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral trainees, and junior faculty in neuroscience research such as mentoring, scientific networks and professional development.

Programs that target transitions and/or more than one career stage for neuroscience career advancement and progression are strongly encouraged. This initiative will support the development of collaborative research education partnerships that will increase participants' awareness and interest in the neurosciences, develop participants' scientific knowledge and research skills that will allow them to progress and transition to more advanced neuroscience-related research education and training activities. Proposed program interventions to increase workforce diversity in response

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to this FOA should also focus on ***asset models and leadership opportunities, rather than solely deficit models and remediation*** ([recommendations](#) from 2017 NINDS Activating a Neural Network and 2016 NINDS Forming a Neural Network Workshops).

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Investigators with creative, innovative ideas for new programs are encouraged to discuss these with NINDS program officials. To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this FOA will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on:

- ***Courses for Skills Development:*** For example, advanced courses in a neuroscience research area relevant to the NINDS mission, or specialized research techniques to enhance the research skills of diverse graduate students, postdoctorates, and junior faculty. Additionally, career development seminars and workshops such as grant writing, manuscript preparation, enhancing laboratory management for early stage faculty, building a successful career path and other core competencies are highly encouraged. Activities should fulfill a gap in existing resources.
- ***Research Experiences:*** The nature of research experiences should be tailored to the needs and career levels of participants. It is expected that mentoring will be provided in conjunction with planned research experiences and participants will design individualized development plans (IDPs) that are compatible with their needs and experience. Additionally, programs that provide educational/research experiences that enhance the participation and productivity of investigators from underrepresented backgrounds in carrying out research on NINDS mission-relevant health disparities (refer to Public Law 106-525) will be considered.
- ***Mentoring Activities:*** Within the context of a mentoring network, activities may include, but are not limited to, dedicated efforts at providing not only technical expertise, but advice, insight, and professional career skills that advance the broad career goals of diverse college students, graduate students, postdoctorates and/or early-career faculty; facilitating scholarly writing and grantsmanship; promoting successful transitions from one career stage to another; providing leadership development; helping to identify potential collaborators; and helping to establish interdisciplinary collaborations in order to foster a career trajectory towards independent neuroscience research. Additionally, the NIH realizes that quality mentorship is critical to the recruitment and retention of scientists from underrepresented backgrounds. Therefore, this FOA welcomes programs aimed at improving the caliber of mentorship.
- A plan must be provided for **program evaluation**. For some types of projects, a plan for **disseminating results** may also be appropriate and may be required as well.

Research education programs may complement ongoing research training and education occurring at the applicant institution, but the proposed educational experiences must be distinct from those training and education programs currently receiving Federal support. R25 programs may augment institutional research training programs (e.g., T32, T90) but cannot be used to replace or circumvent Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) programs.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:

Program Director/Principal Investigator

Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and women are always encouraged to apply for NIH support.

The PD/PI should be an established investigator in the scientific area in which the application is targeted and capable of providing both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the proposed program.

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The proposed PD/PI should hold a basic or health professional degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent), and have clearly demonstrated training/mentoring credentials. The PD/PI must have a regular, full-time appointment (i.e., not adjunct, part-time, retired, or emeritus) at the applicant institution and should have research, teaching, and/or academic administrative experience.

Program Faculty

Mentors should have research expertise and experience relevant to the proposed program. Mentors should have a history of neuroscience funding that is specifically relevant to the mission of NINDS. Mentors must be committed to continue their involvement throughout the total period of the mentee's participation in this award.

Participants

For the purpose of this announcement, institutions must identify candidates who will increase diversity within the neuroscience workforce on a national basis from the following groups:

- Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups;
- Individuals with disabilities; and
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds

AWARD INFORMATION:

Application budgets are limited to a maximum of \$250,000 direct cost per year, and must reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is 5 years.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-312.html>

NOTE: Program announcement instructions supersede instructions delivered in this document.