Senate Panel Proposes - a Tiny Increase for NIH
by STEPHEN BURD
The Chronicle of Higher Education
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For the National Institutes of Health, the Senate subcommittee’s bill would provide $28.5 billion, which is about $150 million more than Congress gave the agency in the 2006 fiscal year, and about $250 million more than President Bush and the House Appropriations Committee have proposed.

The full Senate Appropriations Committee was scheduled to consider the bill late last week. If Congress approves the increase, it would be the fourth straight year in which the agency’s budget failed to keep pace with inflation.
Program Announcement (PA)

- Invites grant applications in a given research area
- May describe new or expanded interest in a particular extramural program
- May be a reminder of a continuing interest in a particular extramural program
- Generally has no funds set aside
- Applications reviewed in CSR along with unsolicited grant applications

Requests for Applications (RFA)

- Announcement describing an institute initiative in a well-defined scientific area
- Invitation to the field to submit research grant applications for a one-time competition
- Set-aside of funds for a certain number of awards
- Applications generally reviewed within the issuing institute

Typical Timeline for a New Individual Research Project Grant Application (R01)

There are three overlapping cycles per year:

- Submit in February (June, October)
- Review in June (October, February)
- Council in September (January, May)
- Earliest award in December (April, July)

Cycle 1 ----
Cycle 2 ----
Cycle 3 ----
Role of Scientific Review Administrator

- Performs administrative and technical review of applications
- Selects reviewers
- Manages study sections
- Prepares summary statements
- Determines acceptance of supplemental materials for review

Role of Program Director

- Advise Applicants:
  - Application Process
  - New or Revised Grant Applications
- Make Funding Recommendations
- Competing and Non-Competing Grants
- Attend Study Section Meetings
- Initiate or Encourage Interest in a Scientific Area of High Priority to the NCI through: Program Announcements, Request for Applications, Grant Exceptions, Workshops

Who Do You Contact & When?

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PROACTIVE APPROACH

• Discuss Ideas Before Writing
• Get Feedback As You Write the Application
• Suggest Study Section(s)
• Suggest Institute Assignment
• Submission of supplemental material to the Scientific Review Administrator

Mechanism Abbreviation Key:

- C06/UC6 Research Facilities Construction Grants
- DP1 NIH Director’s Pioneer Award Program
- D71/U2R International Training Cooperative Agreement/Phase 2 of FIC mechanism
- R01 Research Project Grants
- R03 Small Grants Programs
- R10/U10 Cooperative Clinical Research Grants
- R13/U13 Support for Conferences & Scientific Meetings
- R15 Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREAs)
- R18/U18 Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects
- R21/R33 Exploratory/Development Research
- R24/U24 Resource Related Research Projects
- R25 Education Projects
- R34 Clinical Trial Planning Grant Program
- R36 Research Dissertation Grant Programs
- SBIR Small Business Innovation Research
- STTR Small Business Technology Transfer
- S06, S10, S11 Biomedical Research
- S21, S22 Health Disparities Endowment Grants
- U Cooperative Agreement Awards
- X02 Preapplication


Over 5,000 apps received electronically to date
Obtaining identifiable private information or identifiable specimens for research purposes constitutes human subjects research.

Exemption 4: Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.

CONTACT YOUR Program Director !!!
Deyej@mail.nih.gov
What Is Really Happening?
3 Fundamental Drivers

- Large capacity building throughout U.S. research institutions and increase in number of tenure-track faculty
- Large increase in applicants and applications occurring after 2003
- Budgets:
  - Appropriations below inflation after 2003 (+3% in '04, 2.2% in '05 and 0% in '06) while BRDPI in 2004 was ~5%
  - Budget cycling phenomenon

The Bottom Line:

Demand for Grants “Took Off” Just as NIH Budget Was “Landing!”

- NIH managed well in 2004 and 2005 by shifting “one time” funds from 2003 to 2004, and obtaining small increases in 2004 (2.9%) and 2005 (2%)
- Katrina requirements led to a flat 2006 NIH while rest of HHS underwent a 2.5% cut
- Budget cycling effect will improve demand vs supply of grants in 2007 but we need to educate public about need for sustainability in research
Review Process for a Research Grant

1. Initiates Research Idea
2. Conducts Research
3. Submits Application
4. Allocates Funds
5. Recommends Action
6. Takes final action for NIH Director

Types of Scientific Review Groups

Groups
- CSR IRGs
- Study Sections
- Special Emphasis Panels

Institutes
- Scientific Review Groups
- Contract Review Committees

Applications Reviewed
- Research Projects
- Academic Research Enhancement Awards
- Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Small Business Innovation Research
- Shared Instrumentation
- Program Projects
- Centers
- Institutional Training Grants
- Conference Grants
- Career Awards
- Small Grants
- RFAs
- Contracts

Grants & Funding Opportunities

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Pre-application Advice

- Be Familiar with the Peer Review System
  - Be Proactive and Well-Prepared
    Before Submission = Better Application & As Good a Score as Possible the First Time
  - Talking to SRA & Program Director
  - Talking to mentors/colleagues

Proactive Approach - Why?
Are there Advantages?

- Less # of Revisions = less downtime
- AER = Accelerated Executive Review
  Only Unamended R01 Applications
  Eligibility differs between basic and POR applications
- Exception funding to the payline
- Private Foundations
- New Investigators
- Minority Investigators

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NIH Opportunities for Young Investigators

- National Research Service Individual Fellowship (F32)
- Howard Temin Bridging Award (K01)
- Clinical Oncology Research Career Development Award (K12)
- Transition Career Development Award (K22)
- Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23)
- Small Grant (R03)
- Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15)
- Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21)
Website has a new look and feel. Get yourself oriented so you can help applicants find answers quickly!

http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/
Small Business Programs

- SBIR: Set-aside Program for Small Business Concerns to engage in Federal R&D--with potential for commercialization.
- STTR: Set-aside Program to facilitate cooperative R&D between Small Business Concerns and U.S. Research Institutions--with potential for commercialization.

An important amendment to the SBA’s Reauthorization bill that was passed by the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee today (7/27/2006). Note….Before the language becomes law it must be passed by the full Senate, reconciled with the House of Representatives bill and signed by the President.

In short:
1) Bond’s amendment helps “level the playing field by allowing venture backed small businesses to compete for up to 25 percent of an agency’s SBIR funds.”

2) In addition, there was some mention of an increase in the SBIR set-aside (over 5 years) but specifics were not revealed

3) The vote also included an amendment for a pilot grant program that would give SBIRs a bonus of $10K for college students in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) to work with an SBIR firm.