

K99/R00: Pathway to Independence Award

Description of Award

The purpose of this program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NIH-supported, independent investigators. This program is designed to facilitate a timely transition of outstanding postdoctoral researchers or clinician-scientists from mentored research positions to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions, and to provide independent NIH research support during the transition that will help these individuals launch competitive, independent research careers.

NIH awards are applied to through specific Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs). See a list of [active K99/R00 FOAs here](#). *What's an FOA and what do all these NIH acronyms mean? Click [here](#) to find out!*

Looking for additional information? Try this link:

- [Pathway to Independence Award | Research Training](#)

Eligibility

- US citizen or non-citizens
- Research or clinical doctoral degree, with no more than 4 years of postdoctoral research experience
 - Must be in mentored, postdoctoral training positions
- Postdoctoral fellowship/residency or early career investigator career stage
- In order to transition to the R00 phase, you must be offered and accept a qualifying assistant professor position.

Funds Provided

K99 Phase

- PI salary for the project period (up to 2 years, amount varies by FOA)
- Research development support for the project period (amount varies by FOA). These funds may be used for the following expenses:
 - Tuition and fees related to career development
 - Research-related expenses, such as supplies, equipment, technical personnel, and participant incentives
 - Travel to research meetings or training
 - Statistical services including personnel and computer time

R00 Phase

- PI salary and research-related expenses totaling up to \$249,000/yr for up to 3 years

Deadlines

NIH has 3 submission cycles for new K99/R00 applications under most current FOAs.

- Cycle I: February
- Cycle II: June
- Cycle III: October
- New K99/R00 applications may be submitted by any of these deadlines. For each date, applications are due by 5:00 PM local time of application organization.

Note: Check with the grants office at your home institution because internal deadlines can vary. Oftentimes materials must be submitted internally prior to the NIH deadline.

Major Application Components

- Comprehensive application instructions can be found [here](#) and should be considered in conjunction with your specific FOA
- Major application components and length (general NIH page limit guidelines found [here](#))
 - Biosketch - *5 pages*
 - Highlights qualifications for the individual's specific role in the project through the following sections:
 - Personal Statement
 - Positions and Honors
 - Contributions to Science
 - Research Support
 - View [Biographical Sketch Format Page \(non-fellowship\) here](#)
 - Candidate Information and Goals for Career Development - *12 pages combined with Research Plan*
 - Candidate's Background
 - Career Goals and Objectives
 - Candidate's Plan for Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period
 - Research Plan - *12 pages combined with Candidate Information & Goals*
 - Specific Aims - *1 page*
 - Research Strategy - *~6 pages*
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research
 - Plans and Statements of Mentor and Co-Mentor(s) - *6 pages*
 - Mentor and co-mentor(s) (if applicable) each document:
 - Information on their research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor
 - Plan describing supervision and mentorship that will occur during the proposed K99 award period, including how the candidate's scientific and professional independence will be promoted
 - Description of the elements of the planned career development, including any formal course-work
 - Plan for transitioning the candidate from the mentored phase to the independent phase of the award and a description of how the mentor will help the candidate achieve scientific independence from his/her mentor(s)
 - Statement identifying the components of the proposed research that the K99 applicant can take when they transition to research independence and that can be part of their independent (R00) phase award

- Statement affirming any resources and reagents that can be taken by the applicant to the independent phase of the award (if applicable)
- Reference Letters

Contact Information for Successful Applicants: Dr. Rebecca Reed rebecca.reed@pitt.edu

References

<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development/K99-R00>