

Frequently Asked Questions

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National Program for the Career Development of Physician Scientists in Diabetes Research
(Diabetes - Docs) (K12 Clinical Trial Optional)

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Notice of Change to Award Information and Application and Submission *Instructions* for RFA-DK-21-019, National Program for the Career Development of Physician Scientists in Diabetes Research (Diabetes - Docs) (K12 Clinical Trial Optional)

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Notice of Extension of Application Due Date for RFA-DK-21-019, National Program for the Career Development of Physician Scientists in Diabetes Research (Diabetes - Docs) (K12 Clinical Trial Optional)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DK-21-030.html>

1. What should institutional commitment look like in this Program? Are there any examples?

A: From the FOA: *“In addition to letter of support demonstrating the commitment of the applicant organization for the Program as a whole, describe how the program will obtain assurance from all involved institutions that sufficient time will be allowed for the PDs/PIs and other Program Faculty to contribute to the proposed program, and that there will be protected time for scholars (9 person months, equivalent to 75% effort) selected for the program. Describe the oversight process to ensure adequate institutional commitment for Scholars' protected time.”* Examples of similar programs include the Child Neurology Career Development Program <http://www.cncdp-k12.org/> and The Neurosurgery Program <https://www.neurocdp.org>.

2. Is it incumbent on the National Program to identify prospective Scholars and their mentors and how would they be selected?

A: As described in the FOA, *“Diabetes-Docs includes the following program requirements: A plan for selection of Scholars who hold strong promise for a successful, combined research and clinical career. It is expected that the program will utilize a rigorous, fair and effective procedure for application and selection of individuals to be funded, including a written application and interviews.”* And *“The PD/PI, together with the Advisory Committee, will be responsible for the selection and appointment of scholars...”*

3. Is the National Program restricted to Scholars trained in pediatric endocrinology?

A: As described in the FOA: *“Scholars appointed to the K12 career development program must 1) have full-time appointments at the grantee institution, 2) be physician*

scientists who have completed their adult or pediatric endocrinology fellowship training, or other specialty if justified for diabetes research, 3) are either board-certified or board eligible, and 4) intend to continue in a dual research/clinical career, supported by an individual career-development or research award that they obtain as PD/PI.”

4. Can the National Program partner with other career development or mentoring programs? Can they be complementary and integrated? Can they leverage existing resources? Or must they be entirely separate?

A: As stated in the FOA: *“The proposed institutional research career development program may complement other, ongoing research training and career development programs at the applicant institution, but the proposed career development experiences must be distinct from those career development programs currently receiving Federal support.”*

5. Can you clarify the training tables that are required for the application?

A: No Tables are required. As stated in the FOA: *“Data Tables 6b and 8c may be used to provide information on past experiences in similar programs with recruiting and outcomes. No other Data Tables should be included.”*

6. Can the Advisory Committee, which is allowed to receive honoraria, be engaged to provide mentoring?

A: It is important to note the following restriction in the FOA: *“If mentoring interactions and other activities with scholars are considered a regular part of an individual's academic duties, then mentoring and other interactions with scholars are non-reimbursable from grant funds.”* In addition, as stated in the FOA, the Advisory Committee together with the PIPD are *“responsible for the selection and appointment of scholars to the approved career development program, and for the overall direction, management, administration, and evaluation of the program.”* As such, it is expected that Advisory Committee members will be active in the Program and the application should provide details on their involvement, including any interactions with Scholars and local mentors. Advisory Committee members could also serve directly as primary local mentors for individual Scholars selected by the program, but a plan must be in place to manage conflicts of interest during the Program’s appointment and evaluation process.

7. Would the National Program evaluate both eligibility and make Scholar selections?

A: Yes, the plan is for the National Program awardee in conjunction with the Advisory Committee to develop an open application process for prospective Scholars, and a transparent selection process. The FOA text contains language about Scholar, Mentor and Advisory Committee eligibility requirements (must-haves). Other eligibility requirements may be proposed by the Awardee program, as long as they do not conflict with the requirements in the FOA.

8. The neurology program requires that local institutions commit to 18 months of additional Scholar support after the K12 Scholar portion ends, if needed. Is this a requirement of the NIDDK National Program?

A: All requirements for NIDDK RFA-DK-21-021 are articulated in the FOA, as amended by subsequent Notices (links above). The neurology program is a separate program with different requirements.

9. The funds available seem to allow for more Scholars than the range provided. Can the number of Scholars planned exceed the range?

A: Although a range is provided for Scholar appointments, it doesn't reflect a limit. Applicants are encouraged to build a feasible program to support scholars based on the available pool of applicants, and as such can exceed the number of Scholars suggested, if justified and within the budget caps as stated in the FOA and as amended by the subsequent Notices (links above).