

Questions about the Program

Question: Who or what should be considered the user base?

Answer: The entire kidney research community, including investigators who are new or are from non-renal fields.

Question: Who is the audience for the summer research training programs?

Answer: As specified in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), the Summer Student Enrichment program will support students, including — but not limited to — high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, as well as clinical and nonclinical fellows. This program is not intended to support postdoctoral students.

Question: What is the scope of the Opportunity Pool funding? Does this need to be broken down in the National Coordinating Center (NCC) application, or it is decided more dynamically by the Steering Committee?

Answer: The primary purpose of the Opportunity Pool program is to seek and support new investigators (NIs) and early-stage investigators (ESIs) or investigators who are new to kidney research who will address the scientific and technological gaps within the Consortium. The Opportunity Pool program will be administered by the NCC, and, therefore, the application for an NCC should specifically describe plans to establish, manage, and promote this program. Please note that the decision ultimately will be made by the Steering Committee of the Consortium, which is the governing body and will direct the appropriate use of Opportunity Pool funds to serve the objectives of the Consortium. Refer to the FOA for further details.

Question: Do you have preferred programming languages for code or programs that will be shared as resources?

Answer: It is up to the discretion of each applicant to determine the type of resource(s) they wish to offer to the research community. The resources must be justified in the application, which should outline the kidney research community's need for the resource and how it will support and advance kidney research. Please contact the listed NIH program staff for further guidance.

Question: To apply, do the applicants need to have Other Support?

Answer: No; the applicants do not need to demonstrate availability of Other Support. Any individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to conduct the proposed research as the Program Directors (PDs) and Principal Investigators (PIs) is invited to work with their organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply for NIH support.

Question: How does the Consortium maintain confidentiality?

Answer: To maintain confidentiality, each National Resource Center (NRC) is expected to work cooperatively with the *National Coordinating Center*, which will negotiate, establish, execute, and manage third-party and Consortium agreements (e.g., Material Transfer Agreements) among all NRCs, investigators, and other external collaborators.

Questions about the Centers

Question: Does each Center need to have internal and external oversight committees, or will the National Coordinating Center provide oversight?

Answer: Oversight will be provided by the NIDDK Advisory Council. Additional oversight will be provided by an external Consortium Management Board (CMB) that will advise the NIDDK Advisory Council and provide input into the overall progress of the Consortium. The CMB members will be appointed by the NIDDK and not by the grantees. Applicants should not propose CMB members.

Question: Can one institution host both the National Coordinating Center and a Resource Center?

Answer: Although eligible applicant institutions may apply for both an NRC ([RFA-DK-22-007](#)) and an NCC ([RFA-DK-22-008](#)), individual PD(s) or PI(s) can apply only for either an NRC or an NCC. Please refer to the requests for applications (RFAs) for further information.

Question: Are multi-institutional applications allowed for the NRC?

Answer: Yes; multi-institutional applications are allowed. Please refer to [RFA-DK-22-007](#) for eligible institutions and multi-PI requirements.

Question: Will the steering committee be responsible for defining minimum quality control (QC) requirements for each of the NRC services, or will QC requirements be decided at a local level (i.e., by the NRCs)?

Answer: Each resource will have its own QC requirement, and, therefore, the application for an NRC should describe plans to ensure that all shared resources offered by the Center will undergo strict QC measures and validation. The Steering Committee is the governing body and will provide oversight to ensure that the resources meet the QC requirements to serve the needs of the Consortium.

Question: Can we recruit investigators from other fields and budget for their and their support staff efforts on the NCC or NRC budget?

Answer: Yes; you can include any personnel or expertise you deem appropriate for accomplishing the goals of the Center. All proposed investigators and expenses must be well justified. Peer reviewers will weigh in on whether those expenses are appropriate.

Question: Does the NCC need to budget for venue reservations, in-person meetings, travel scholarships, or travel to and accommodations for workshops? Can these be budgeted from the Opportunity Pool funds?

Answer: As specified in the FOA ([RFA-DK-22-008](#)), the NCC will be responsible for planning and organizing Consortium meetings. Please note that the expenses for these meetings, including travel and accommodation, will be budgeted from the NCC budget and not the Opportunity Pool. The Opportunity Pool program is restricted to seeking and supporting NIs and ESIs or investigators who are new to kidney research and who will address the scientific and technological gaps within the Consortium. Further details are provided in the [RFA-DK-22-008](#).

Questions about the Cores

Question: Can additional cores be proposed within an NRC?

Answer: As specified in the [RFA-DK-22-007](#), a maximum of two Biomedical Resource Cores—one Resource Developmental Core and one Administrative Core—are allowed.

Question: The page count is relatively limited to describe the range of activities. Is each Biomedical Core limited to six pages? Does the six-page limit include the Specific Aims page?

Answer: Each core is limited to six pages. If you are proposing two Biomedical Resource Cores in your NRC application, each core should be limited to six pages. The Specific Aims page is a stand-alone component and is not counted toward the six-page limit. For further guidance, please refer to the SF424 Application Guide for page limits.

Question: Is animal and human research allowed?

Answer: Please refer to the NIH guidelines for research involving human subjects and vertebrate animals if you wish to include these in any of your core activities. Please note that as specified in the RFA, clinical trials are not allowed.

Question: The diagram shown for the Innovation Core suggests it should/could be unfocused. What are the objectives of the Development Core?

Answer: The primary focus of the Development Core is to promote continuous development of novel kidney resources, based on stakeholder engagement and in anticipation of the future needs of kidney researchers. It is expected that the applicants will construct plans for this Core based on the resources they intend to develop and offer to the kidney research community. For further details, please refer to [RFA-DK-22-007](#) and if you need additional guidance, please contact the listed NIH program staff.