

ENHANCING PEER REVIEW

Changes to Application Forms and Instructions

October 6, 2009



NIH Peer Review System

- Cornerstone of the NIH Extramural Mission
- Standard of Excellence Worldwide
- Collaboration between NIH Extramural Staff and Scientific Community

Enhancing NIH Peer Review

- Facilitate changing nature of science
- Identify and encourage new and early stage investigators
- Ease burden on research enterprise
- Streamline time to award
- Fund the best science, by the best scientists, with the least amount of administrative burden

Enhancing Peer Review Overview and Timeline



- Phase out of A2 applications
- Identification of Early Stage Investigator (ESI) applications

NOT-OD-08-121
NOT-OD-09-003

- Enhanced review criteria
- New scoring system
- Criterion scoring
- Structured critiques
- Clustering of New Inv. Applications
- Score order review

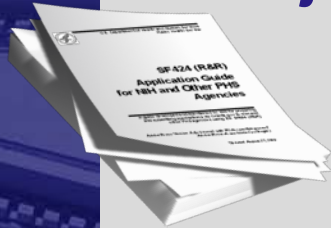
NOT-OD-09-024
NOT-OD-09-025

- Restructured Applications & Instructions
- Shorter Page Limits

NOT-OD-09-149

Major Changes to Applications

Major changes for due dates on or after
January 25, 2010



- Restructured application forms
- New instructions including shorter page limits

For ALL competing applications:
New, Renewal, Resubmission, and Revision

Timeline for Changes

Step 1:

Read about the application changes now

Begin working on Research Strategy, but wait to download the forms when they become available in December

Step 3:

Use new forms for applications due on or after January 25, 2010

October

November

December

Jan 25,
2010

Step 2:

Applicants **MUST** return to the reissued Parent Announcements or updated FOAs & download new forms and instructions

Choose the correct Electronic and Paper forms:

- SF 424 (R&R): ADOBE_FORMS_B
- PHS 398: Revision date “June 2009”

Restructured Application Forms



Goals of Restructured Applications

- Align the structure and content of the forms with review criteria
 - To focus the applicants and reviewers on the same elements
 - To help ensure a more efficient and transparent review process



Overview of the Changes

- Application forms will be revised in three sections:
 - Research Plan
 - Biographical Sketch
 - Resource and Facilities



New Research Plan Components

Introduction

Specific Aims

Background and Significance

Preliminary Studies/Progress Report

Research Design and Methods

*Research
Strategy*

Inclusion Enrollment Report

Progress Report Publication List

Human Subjects Sections....

protections, women/minorities, enrollment,
children

Other Research Plan Sections....

animals, select agents, MPI, consortium, support,
resource sharing

Appendix



New Research Strategy Section

Current Application	New Application
Background and Significance	Research Strategy a. Significance b. Innovation c. Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary Studies for New Applications• Progress Report for Renewal/Revision
Research Design and Methods	
Preliminary Studies/Progress Report	



New Research Strategy Preparation

- A single attachment for the Research Strategy (previously 3 files) increases applicant control over the look and feel of the application.
 - Simpler preparation for the applicant
 - Easier reading for reviewers
 - Electronic validation of page limits for Research Strategy



Revisions to Biographical Sketch

- Personal Statement added:
 - Briefly describe why your experience and qualifications make you particularly well-suited for your role in the project
- Publications revised:
 - Limit the list of publications or manuscripts to no more than 15
 - Make selections based on recency, importance to the field, and/or relevance to the application

Revisions to Address Environment

- *Instructions added to Resources:*
 - Provide a description of how the scientific environment will contribute to the probability of success of the project
 - For ESIs describe the institutional investment in the success of the investigator
- *Instructions added to Research Plan*
 - In Select Agents Research section, describe the biocontainment resources available at all performance sites

New Instructions Including Shorter Page Limits



Goals of Shortened Page Limits

- Reduce the administrative burden
- Focus on the essentials of the science
- Avoid information overload

Page Limit Revisions

Current Page Limit (Section 2-5 of the Research Plan)	New Page Limit (Research Strategy)
<25	6
25	12
>25	Follow FOA Instructions

Note: Follow FOA page limit requirements if different from the application instructions.



Table of Page Limits (Part I)

Section of Application with Page Limits	Page Limits
Introduction to Revision Application For all Activity Codes	1 page
Introduction to Resubmission Application For all Activity Codes, EXCEPT Training (T, D), K12, and R25	1 page
Introduction to Resubmission Application For institutional Training (T), International Training (D43, D71), Institutional Career Awards (K12), and Research Education Applications (R25)	3 pages
Introduction to Revision or Resubmission Applications For each project and core of multi-component applications	1 page

Table of Page Limits (Part II)

Section of Application with Page Limits	Page Limits
<p>Specific Aims For all Activity Codes that use an application form with the Specific Aims section</p>	1 page
<p>Research Strategy For Activity Codes R03, R13/U13, R21, R36, R41, R43, Fellowships (F), SC2, SC3</p>	6 pages
<p>Research Strategy For Activity Codes R01, single project U01, R10, R15, R18, U18, R21/R33, R24, R33, R34, U34, R42, R44, DP3, G08, G11, G13, UH2, UH3, SC1</p>	12 pages
<p>Research Strategy For each project and core of multi-component applications, such as Program Project/Center (P)</p>	Generally 6 or 12 pages**

**Each project or core will follow the page limit of the equivalent activity code.

Table of Page Limits (Part III)

Section of Application with Page Limits	Page Limits
Research Strategy For all other Activity Codes	Follow FOA instructions
Combined: Research Strategy and first four items of Candidate Information For Individual Career Development Award (K) Applications	12 pages
Items 2-5 of Research Training Program Plan For Institutional Career Development and Research Training Applications, including K12, T, D43, and D71	25 pages
Research Education Program Plan For Research Education Grant Applications (R25)	25 pages
Biographical Sketch For all Activity Codes except DP1 and DP2	4 pages
Biographical Sketch For DP1 and DP2	2 pages



What Does the Applicant Need to Do?



Steps for Success – Part 1

- Read about the upcoming requirement changes now so that you can begin writing your Research Strategy
- Information available on the Enhancing Peer Review website:
 - Policy Announcement: NOT-OD-09-149
 - New FAQs
 - Training & Communications Resources

<http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/>

Steps for Success – Part 2

- In December, go back to the updated FOA or reissued Parent Announcement
- For both electronic and paper, choose the **correct** application package and instructions to download:
 - SF 424 (R&R): ADOBE_FORMS_B
 - PHS 398: Revision date “June 2009”

Applications submitted using incorrect forms will be delayed and may not be reviewed!



Steps for Success – Part 3

- Read the new application instructions carefully
- For due dates on or after January 25, 2010, submit your electronic and paper applications using the new application forms

For additional information:

Enhancing Peer Review at NIH Web Site



<http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov>

Application Support

- **NIH Grants Information Help Desk:** For questions about the content of new forms and instructions.
 - E-mail: grantsinfo@od.nih.gov or
 - Phone: 301-435-0714
- **Grants.gov Contact Center:** For questions on form functionality or submission to Grants.gov.
 - E-mail: support@grants.gov
 - Phone: 1-800-518-4726
- **NIH eRA Help Desk:** For post-submission questions or technical issues that threaten NIH's timely receipt of your application.
 - Web support: <http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/>
 - Phone: 1-866-504-9552 or 301-402-7469

