National Institutes of Health

K99/R00 GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS

NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award

Purpose of the Award

- Increases and maintains a strong cohort of new and talented, NIH-supported independent investigators

- Provides opportunity for promising postdoctoral scientists to receive both mentored and independent research support from the same award

- Facilitates a timely transition from a mentored intramural or extramural postdoctoral research position to an independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty position and provides independent NIH research support during the transition to help these individuals launch competitive, independent research careers

Applications

- *New: NOT-OD-20-033*

  o Program Plan attachment – candidates expected to address, as applicable, new research skills they plan to acquire in rigorous research design, experimental methods, quantitative approaches, and data analysis and interpretation.

  o Applicants for diversity-related career development programs expected to attach a Description of Candidate's Contribution to Program Goals.

Applicants

- Should have no more than four years of postdoctoral research experience at the time of submission of the new application and the subsequent resubmission (A1), and must be in a mentored, postdoctoral training position [Note that NIH provides extensions for childbirth, clinical training, military service, and other activities that have occurred within the 4 year K99 eligibility window].

- Must propose a research project that spans both the mentored (K99) and independent (R00) phases of the award

- Should select an appropriate mentor with an active track record of funded research related to the selected research topic and successful experience as a supervisor and mentor

- Award recipients are expected to establish an independent research program and compete successfully for independent NIH R01 support during the R00 award period.

More Information

- Visit the parent Announcement through the [Parent Announcement page](#) and the [K Kiosk](#) for information about the Career Development Award.

- Read more about the K review criteria and considerations: [Review Criteria at- a-Glance](#).

- For more information on scoring and critique templates, see: [Scoring System and Procedure](#), [Critique Template Instructions](#).

- View a [comprehensive list](#) of Guidelines for Reviewers.