K22 GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS
Career Transition Award

Purpose of the Award

• To facilitate the transition of a basic or clinical investigator to a new independent research position.

• The award has two phases: Phase I is during the period the applicant seeks a new independent position; Phase II occurs when the applicant begins the new independent position.

• The award can be funded in both phases or in the second phase only. For those funded in Phase II only, support begins when a scientist is appointed to a new independent research position. NIH intramural scientists are only eligible for funding in Phase II.

• Although some K22 programs provide funding only for the Phase II, there must be a clear institutional commitment during Phase I to facilitating a timely transition of the applicant to a stable independent research position.

• The award is intended to facilitate the establishment of a record of independent research and/or the competitiveness of the investigator to obtain peer-reviewed research support.

Applications

• New: NOT-OD-20-033
  - 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.
  - Applicants for diversity-related career development programs expected to attach a Description of Candidate’s Contribution to Program Goals.

Applicants

• For applicants not currently working at the NIH, the awards are for post-doctoral fellows or staff scientists intending to transition to an independent position. For NIH intramural scientists, the awards are for post-doctoral fellows, tenure-track, or tenured scientists who intend to transition to positions outside the NIH.

• Applicants must propose a research project that will be pursued during both phases of the award, including a mentoring plan (when applicable), and how the plan will help transition the applicant to independence.

• Applicants must also describe their current institution’s environment and commitment to their goal of transitioning to a new independent position.'
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.