

R21 GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS

Exploratory/Developmental Grant Applications

Purpose of the Award

- Provides support for the early stages of project development in investigator-initiated research
 - Investigator-initiated research, also known as unsolicited research, is research funded as a result of an investigator submitting a research grant application to NIH in an investigator's area of interest and competency

Details

- May sometimes be used for pilot and feasibility studies
- Limited to up to two years of funding
- Combined budget for direct costs for the two year project period usually may not exceed \$275,000. No more than \$200,000 may be requested in a single year.
- Preliminary data are generally not required, but may be included if available.
- Utilized by most NIH Institutes and Centers

More Information

- Visit the parent Announcement through the [Parent Announcement page](#)
- Consult the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to read the Review Process section; Individual FOAs often have additional review criteria and/or considerations
- To read more about the review criteria and considerations for R applications, visit [Review Criteria at-a- Glance](#).
- Please see the following documents for more information on scoring and critique templates: [Scoring System and Procedure](#), [Critique Template Instructions](#).
- A comprehensive list of Guidelines for Reviewers is available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/reviewer_guidelines.htm