

Worker Training Program

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) [NOT-ES-21-002](#): Promoting Health, Safety, and Recovery Training for COVID-19 Essential Workers and their Communities

Frequently Asked Questions

REMINDER: All questions regarding the NIH submission process should be directed to [the eRA Service Desk](#).

Budget Questions

Question: Regarding NIH's new policy on PPE, [NOT-OD-20-164, "Policy for Charging Personal Protective Equipment to NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements as Direct Costs"](#) how does this apply to this supplement and cooperative agreements? Can we continue to purchase PPE for use in our training programs?

Response: There are [FAQs](#) that clarify recent guidance on the ability to direct charge personal protective equipment costs to clinical trials and clinical research awards under [NOT-OD-20-164](#). Question A.3 states that recipients conducting research that is not a clinical trial or clinical research may charge PPE as a direct cost only when such charges align with their negotiated indirect cost rate agreement. Recipients may not charge PPE as a direct cost if their negotiated rate includes PPE costs, and any direct charges must be in direct support of and allocable to the NIH grant.

Question: Is this \$500,000 over two years? Do we need to split that out evenly?

Response: Organizations may apply for \$500,000 total over a maximum two-year budget. Year one and year two amounts do not need to be the same.

Question: How does a two-year budget work when it is being awarded half-way through our grant year?

Response: A supplement can start at any time during the budget period but must end on its last day (5/31/2021- current year end). If you request funds for 2 years (24 months), the budget will be split over the remaining budget periods to cover 24 months as long as you have the time remaining in the project period. If the budget period ends and supplemental funds remains, funds can be carried over to the next budget period. However, if a grant does not have automatic carryover, the grantee institution needs to submit a written carryover request.

Question: In the NOSI it states, "Pre-award costs may be incurred from January 20, 2020 through the public health emergency period and prior to the date of the federal award." Is this a typo? Should it be January 20, 2021?

Response: The date in the NOSI for pre-award costs was not a typo. However, the flexibility on pre-award costs has ended and applicants will be subject to the standard pre-award authority described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement 7.9.1 [Pre-Award Costs](#).

Question: Will the reporting cycle for the supplement be tied to the fiscal year of the parent grant (June 1–May 31)?

Response: Yes, the budget and reporting cycle for the supplement will be tied to the parent grant.

Question: We believe we understood that the supplemental funds are expected to be awarded sometime in February. Is that correct?

Response: Yes

Question: If that is the case, the first budget year will start whenever the funds become available and run through the end of the grant year which is May 31, 2021. Is that correct?

Response: Yes

Question: If we have activities that would occur after May 31, 2021, they would have to go under a separate budget and training plan (year 1 and year 2 plans). Is that correct?

Response: Only if you are requesting a 2-year budget.

Question: Are we limited in how much we could allocate under “supplies” for use of masks and hand sanitizer, which would be provided at our training classes? We found in disadvantaged communities that many of the folks we provided outreach to did not have these basic items and we needed to supply them.

Response: There is no limits on categories in this NOSI. You should provide supplies needed to those who you train and provide services to under this NOSI.

Question: We plan to purchase laptop computers and projectors for the additional trainers that will conduct outreach. Does this cost go under supplies?

Response: This would depend on the cost and should be determined by the organization as to whether it is equipment or supplies. Please ensure the cost for laptops was not already included in your parent award. NIH will not provide funds for duplicative costs.

Other Questions

Question: Could a local union be considered a community organization under this grant? For example, our consortium works with a local that represents home healthcare providers, many of whom are both essential frontline workers and from COVID-vulnerable communities. Our consortium was thinking about proposing some work with the local union under this supplement.

Response: Yes, a local union could be considered a community organization especially if they are not for profit and have a tie to the community as well as part of the target audience we are trying to reach under this NOSI.

Question: Should we include letters of support?

Response: You may include letters of support to demonstrate intended participation from partner groups.

Question: Do R44 grantees qualify for this NOSI?

Response: It is anticipated that U45 and UH4 awardees would apply for these supplemental funds due to the nature of the cooperative agreement and ability to build partnerships with key underserved populations to create centers; however, we encourage you to partner with U45 and UH4 grantees to participate.

Question: How do we decide whether to apply to PA-20-135 or PA-20-272?

Response: Per the NOSI:

[PA-20-135](#) - Emergency Competitive Revision to Existing NIH Awards (Emergency Supplement - Clinical Trial Optional) - This is intended to provide funds for NIH grantees applying to expand the scope of their active grant. (Work on the supplement **WILL NOT** be aligned with the scope of work on the parent award.)

[PA-20-272](#) - Administrative Supplements to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Parent Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional). This is intended for NIH grantees seeking additional funds for training and outreach responsive to the SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 outbreak that falls within the scope of an ongoing grant/cooperative agreement. . (Work on the supplement **WILL** be aligned with the scope of work on the parent award.)

To determine if your project will be in scope or out of scope of the current grant, please contact your program official to discuss your plans.

Question: The NOSI mentions the purpose is to "develop and establish Recovery Centers for essential workers". Does this limit the scope of outreach to essential workers only or can it include non-essential workers and members of the general public?

Response: No, this does not limit the scope. The NOSI speaks of vulnerable populations which can include a number of other groups such as environmental justice, occupational and other health disparities, disadvantaged, and low-income communities.