

Frequently Asked Questions: RFA-ES-27-004

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is provided for the NIEHS Superfund Research Program (SRP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) [RFA-ES-27-004](#). The FAQ document is based on questions submitted to the SRP Funding Opportunity Webinar: P42 Multi-Project Center Grants (<https://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/SRP-P42/>) that took place on June 3, 2026, as well as inquiries that were sent prior to (i.e., after the NOFO was released) and after the webinar.

This document is divided into the following subsections: General Questions, Overview and Eligibility, Application and Submission Information, Overall Component, Administrative Core, Translational Research and Engagement Core, Research Projects, Research Support Core, Review, Data Management and Sharing Plan, Resource Sharing Plans, Budget, and Agency Contacts.

Please note that this document is intended to supplement, not replace, the official solicitation. In any case where this is a discrepancy between these FAQs and the NOFO, the NOFO supersedes. For full requirements, eligibility, and evaluation criteria, applicants should refer to the NOFO. Any additional FAQs will be posted as soon as possible, so please check the [SRP website](#) often for any updates to this document.

General Questions

Question: Will these slides and presentation be made available following this presentation?

Answer: Both the slides and the presentation are available under “Webinar Slides and References” on <https://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/SRP-P42/>

Question: Where can I find updates to all of NIH’s Guide Notices?

Answer: All guide notices may be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/notice-of-policy-changes>.

Question: Do I need to submit a Letter of Intent for my P42 Application?

Answer: No, a Letter of Intent is not required and does not need to be submitted to SRP, NIEHS, or the Center of Scientific Review (CSR).

Question: What if I have a question that has not been answered in this FAQ document?

Answer: Please reach out to a SRP Program Officer (Danielle Carlin, danielle.carlin@nih.gov; Heather Henry, heather.henry@nih.gov; Brittany Trottier, brittany.trottier@nih.gov (see [SRP Program Contacts](#)) or send a message to NOFO.information@niehs.nih.gov.

Question: I am not ready to apply this year, but I would like to review, what should I do?

Answer: Contact the Peer Review Contact (NOFOReviewContact@csr.nih.gov) about your interest in reviewing. Please put NOFO (RFA-ES-27-004) in the Subject Line of your email.

Question: Can more than one person be listed on the Component Cover page for a Project or Core in ASSIST? In other words, can more than one person be listed as the lead (e.g., Co-Leaders) for a component (i.e., project or core)?

Answer: Only one leader can be added per component (i.e., Project or Core) on the Component Cover page.

Overview and Eligibility

Question: Is this opportunity limited in the number of applications Universities can submit? The RFA section III.3 states that multiple applications are allowed from the same institution.

Answer: Only one application per institution is allowed; This is a discrepancy within the NOFO, as it conflicts with Number of Applications section in Part 1. We apologize for the confusion.

Question: If each institution is limited to only one application, is there way for the institutions to force an open competition to select one application?

Answer: This would be up to the institution if they want to have an internal competition to select one application. That is outside of NIH purview.

Question: It is understood that for this opportunity an institution may submit one proposal in response. However, if a university has a large multi-area campus where research is carried out under separate Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) numbers, is each UEI-defined campus considered a separate Institution and eligible to submit a separate proposal?

Answer: The definition of an institution, for the purpose of application submission, is based on the UEI. Each UEI may submit a proposal.

Question: How does the limit of one application per institution apply if an institution is already a subaward recipient on another P42 grant? Specifically, can that institution submit a separate, unrelated P42 application as the primary applicant with different institutional partners?

Answer: Yes, that institution could submit a separate, unrelated and scientifically distinct P42 application as the primary applicant with different institutional partners.

Question: The title of the NOFO says “(P42 Clinical Trial Optional).” Is there anything specific that I need to do?

Answer: If you are anticipating a clinical trial, even if it is delayed onset (meaning you cannot define the parameters at the time of application because they are dependent on other activities of the project), please make sure it is clearly noted in the application.

Misclassified clinical trial applications may be withdrawn and not considered for funding. For more information about clinical trials, please visit:

- NIH Clinical Trial Website: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/clinical-trials>
- Decision tool for determining human subjects research: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/human-subjects/hs-decision>

Question: What is meant by Limited Competition?

Answer: “Limited Competition NOFO” means that there are limitations on the types of institutions that are eligible to apply. This NOFO is limited to institutions of higher education, consistent with the [SRP Mandates](#) from Congress.

Questions: Can you clarify the anticipated frequency of future P42 Superfund Center funding opportunities? Will the competition continue to be offered approximately every 2.5–3 years, or is NIEHS considering a different schedule?

Answer: The NOFO is available for an annual competition for the next 3 years. The NOFO has three submission dates: September 25, 2026; September 25, 2027; and September 25, 2028.

https://simpler.grants.gov/search?utm_source=Grants.gov&query=93.143

Questions: Are foreign components allowed? And are we allowed to collaborate with an international institution if it is justified? Are foreign co-authors allowed?

Answer: Foreign components are not allowed under this program, as indicated in the NOFO. See NIH Notice NOT-OD-26-084 for more information on foreign components and foreign co-authorship: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-084.html>

Question: Can researchers from industries or federal agencies participate as co-PIs? Are there any limitations?

Answer: In general, NIH allows inclusion of individuals from for-profit and federal entities. However, prior to including any individuals from the federal government in your grant, please review the NIH Grants Policy Statement section 17 to understand eligibility and allowable and unallowable costs:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_17/17_grants_to_federal_institutions_and_payments_to_federal_employees_under_grants.htm. For requirements related

to the inclusion of for-profit collaborators, review NIH GPS section 18:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_18/18_grants_to_for-profit_organizations.htm

Question: If I have a question about which type of application I should submit (e.g. Type 1, Type 2, New, or Resubmission), where do I find this information?

Answer: For information about application types, please see:

https://grants.nih.gov/faqs?a_html=#/resubmission.htm

Question: How can we ensure that our application is within scope and responsive to the NOFO?

Answer: Please read carefully the section of the NOFO titled “Scope of the SRP Center Grant Scope.” In addition, you may also reach out to an SRP Program Officer to schedule a time to discuss your application.

Application and Submission Information

Question: Our proposal was not funded during the last cycle. We plan to drastically change the focus of the proposal. Should we submit it as new submission or revised submission?

Answer: You will need to follow the guidance at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/submit/submission-policies> and associated guide notices to determine if the changes you are making would require a new application instead of a resubmission. We also recommend having a conversation with an assigned Program Officer.

Overall Component

Question: What exactly is a “superfund-relevant” research problem?

Answer: Please refer to NOFO section, “Relevance to SRP Mandates and Superfund”. SRP has also provided a [Suggested Research and Activities](#) document on the [SRP website](#). Note Centers do not need to be site-specific (i.e., do not need to be conducting research/activities at a Superfund Site).

Question: How should we select which hazardous substances to focus on for our Center?

Answer: Please read the NOFO section titled “Hazardous Substances.” In addition, applicants should refer to the [SRP website](#) for a list of hazardous substances, including emerging contaminants, that have been suggested for study by SRP end-users/stakeholders. SRP has also provided a [Suggested Research and Activities](#) document and Additional Resources on the [SRP website](#).

Question: Is a one-page introduction allowed in a resubmission?

Answer: For Resubmission applications, an Introduction to Application is allowed for the Overall Component and for each project/core. The Introduction (which is limited to 1 page) is a separate document from the Research Strategy. For more information, see “How to Apply – Application Guide”: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/how-to-apply-application-guide>

Question: Is it beneficial for new applicants to collaborate with existing centers, if it can be justified?

Answer: The SRP encourages collaboration among Centers, but it is not a requirement in this NOFO.

Question: If we are a long standing/established Center, can we switch health endpoints/focus area from our previous competitive renewal?

Answer: Yes. In addition, we suggest that you provide a justification for the switch in health endpoints/focus area and provide the appropriate expertise to carry out the new goals of the Center.

Question: NIH recently released <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-094.html> , which states that Letters of Support will no longer be accepted in applications and are being replaced with Letters of Collaboration, which follow a strict 100 word-maximum requirement. Can you confirm that this notice will also apply to the RFA-ES-27-004 NOFO. Will this NOFO be updated to reflect these new instructions?

Answer: As indicated in the [guide notice](#), these new requirements will be implemented as part of Forms J. If you are submitting your application to a receipt date that does not require Forms J, this policy will not apply. However, once Forms J are applicable, this policy will also apply to all RFAs. As indicated in the notice, “further details will be issued prior to implementation.” So please stay tuned.

Administrative Core

Question: Does the 1.8 person months for the director need to come from the Administrative Core?

Answer: Yes, it should come from the Administrative Core because the effort is specifically for the administration of the center. If the Center Director would like to be a Project Leader (or Co-Leader) or a Coordinator, additional effort (beyond 1.8 person months) would need to be provided in the application.

Question: The RFA identifies the Center Director, Center Administrator, Training Coordinator, and Data Management Coordinator as Administrative Core personnel. Are these expected to be distinct individuals, or can one person fulfill multiple roles if appropriately justified?

Answer: Yes, if appropriately justified and that individual does not exceed 12 person months effort (e.g., associated with other research responsibilities). See NOFO for responsibilities and expertise needed for the roles in the Administrative Core.

Question: Is there any guidance regarding the recommended level of effort for the Center Administrator, Training Coordinator, and Data Management Coordinator beyond what is specified for the Center Director?

Answer: No. Effort for each Coordinator should be based on what is needed to accomplish their respective roles and the goals of the Center.

Questions: How should we select a Data management Coordinator? For example, we plan to have one full-time data management coordinator and distribute the efforts between projects/cores?

Answer: The Data Management Coordinator should have the expertise to fulfill the criteria mentioned in the NOFO (i.e., the Data Management Coordinator is “tasked with leveraging institutional/computing infrastructure to support the management and integration of data assets across the Center. They are expected to work closely with project/core leaders to ensure high data quality throughout the entire lifecycle of the data and identify opportunities for integrating project/core-generated data with other existing datasets, accelerating the impact of the Center's research.”). In addition, having one full-time Data Management Coordinator is acceptable.

Question: If trainees are part of the Center’s Administrative Core Data Management activities, where should trainee costs be budgeted if not in the Administrative Core?

Answer: Trainee costs can be added to the budget of the Administrative Core or could be in a Project they are serving, depending on the Center’s goals. If you plan to place trainee costs in the Administrative Core budget, please recall that the NOFO states that the sum of Direct Costs for the Administrative Core and the TREC cannot exceed 25% of the total Direct Costs of the Center per year.

Question: For the Training Coordinator position in the SRP Center Administrative Core, must there be only one coordinator designated, or can this responsibility be shared by two faculty coordinators with complementary expertise?

Answer: The NOFO says "The Administrative Core should include a Training Coordinator." Inclusion of additional staff to support this role is up to the discretion of the applicant.

Question: Should the Administrative Core also provide guidance for effectiveness of training?

Answer: Yes, the expectation is that the Training Coordinator will be overseeing the training aspect of the Center and providing this information, so please keep this in mind as you are preparing your application.

Question: I noticed that the Research Experience and Training Coordination Core (RETCC) is no longer included in the new NOFO, and that training-related functions now appear to be incorporated into the Administrative Core. Would it therefore be appropriate to integrate most of the previous RETCC/training write-ups into the Administrative Core section, including trainee development, mentoring activities, cross-project training, and career development components?

Answer: You may include this information, but please note that the Research Strategy is limited to 12 pages. Also note, the NOFO requires a “Trainee List” for renewal applications as part of the "Other Attachments (Administrative Core).

Question: Are the KC Donnelly Externships limited to the opportunities/experiences listed in the NOFO? For example, if there was an opportunity for the trainee to pursue an

internship involving a commercial entity (e.g., to use AI for the analysis of data) would it NOT be considered?

Answer: This would not be considered acceptable because the KC Donnelly externship is for a selected trainee (up to 2 trainees) to conduct research and/or activities at another SRP Center or at a federal/state/local or Tribal agency (as stated in the NOFO). For more information about KC Donnelly Externships, please see:

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/centers/srp/training/donnelly/externshipguidelines>

Questions: Do we need to ask for prior approval from NIEHS Staff to spend the KC Donnelly Funds for selected trainees? If we don't spend the KC Donnelly funds, can we re-budget them for another purpose? Do we need to include KC Donnelly funds in every budget period? Do we have to include KC Donnelly externships in our application or can we leave them out?

Answer: If requested and awarded, KC Donnelly funds are provided in accordance with the proposal, and additional NIH approval to use the funds as proposed is not required. These funds are restricted for the proposed activities during the budget period in which they are proposed, and any other use requires NIH prior approval through a revised Notice of Award. You should only budget for KC Donnelly externships in the year they are anticipated to be executed. KC Donnelly externships are not required. For more information about KC Donnelly Externships, please see:

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/centers/srp/training/donnelly/externshipguidelines>

Questions: Please explain how the Administrative Core budget needs to plan to fund an SRP Annual Recipient Meeting. Is this in just one budget period over the 5-year period? How much should we budget for that and how do we know what year to budget it in?

Answer: You should include any funds in the budget for the budget period for when you would like to host the meeting. The budget justification should identify the costs as hosting costs and provide enough detail to enable NIEHS staff to confirm that costs are allowable, reasonable, and essential for hosting. If your application is funded with these costs, you should expect the funds to be used for hosting the SRP Annual Meeting. If you do not host the meeting, you may be able to re-budget the funds, depending on the terms of the award.

Question: Will there be extra funding available to host the SRP Annual Meeting?

Answer: Additional funds will not be provided to host the SRP Annual Meeting.

Question: Is it mandatory for an SRP grant recipient to host the SRP Annual Meeting?

Answer: As stated in the NOFO, an SRP Center should expect to host the Annual SRP Grant Recipient Meeting once within the project period and may want to set funds aside for the event. Please consult with program staff for details.

Question: It is not clear in the NOFO, should we not include travel to an SRP meeting but instead include "hosting" a meeting instead?

Answer: Funds for travel by required staff (see NOFO) to attend the Superfund Research Program three-day annual meeting should be included in the Administrative Core's budget for each year. In addition, as stated above, a SRP Center should expect to host the Annual SRP Grant Recipient Meeting once within the project period and may want to set funds aside for the event. Please consult with program staff for details.

Question: For the annual meeting, can we recommend a specific location (e.g., city/state)? Can we budget for the second year or is it better to add it to the first year?

Answer: The host will determine where the meeting will take place. You should request the funds in the budget period in which you would like to host. Given the anticipated timing of the award, funds should be requested in budget period 2 of the project period, or later.

Translational Research and Engagement Core

Question: A note was made in the webinar that there is no need to focus on a specific site for the TREC. What if we have a site for community engagement already - can we keep it and show broader applicability?

Answer: Yes, engagement at sites is still encouraged (see "Activities on Hazardous Waste Sites" section). For the TREC, the NOFO calls for community engagement and work with end-users/stakeholders that make the most sense for the particular problem that your Center is trying to address.

Questions: To what extent is preliminary data collection encouraged or discouraged as part of the TREC? The NOFO states that "TREC activities may include, but are not required, biological or environmental sample collection as part of their core prevention and intervention activities." However, the P42 Suggested Research & Activities document notes that "the TREC is not meant to be a pilot project/activity program." How should applicants interpret these statements when considering preliminary data collection?

Answer: Preliminary data collection is **not required** as part of the TREC. The primary expectation for the TREC is to support meaningful community engagement and collaboration with end-users and other stakeholders in ways that are appropriate for the environmental health problem the Center is addressing. These activities should build upon and facilitate the research and activities conducted by the Center's Research Projects and Cores.

The TREC is also expected to leverage data, resources, and findings generated by the Center's Research Projects to promote research translation and maximize the Center's public health impact. While biological or environmental sample collection may be included if it is integral to core prevention or intervention activities, the TREC is **not intended to function as a pilot project or a hypothesis-driven research project**. Hypothesis-driven research should instead be proposed within a Research Project. Accordingly, a TREC that primarily proposes hypothesis-driven research may be considered non-responsive to the NOFO.

Question: For the TREC, can the same leader conduct the translational and community activities, or should we have two separate experts for each function?

Answer: The NOFO refers to “TREC Coordinator(s)” implying that more than one person would be acceptable in the coordinator role. Most importantly, it is important to select the expert(s) that have the skills and abilities to carry out the functions of the TREC.

Research Projects

Question: Is a Remediation project a requirement?

Answer: At least one ESE project should support SRP’s fourth mandate “basic biological, chemical, and physical methods to reduce the amount and toxicity of hazardous substances.” This would include:

- Technologies/approaches that reduce the amount and toxicity of hazardous substances.
- Cost-effective technologies that reduce and/or eliminate contamination in media such as groundwater, sediments, fractured bedrock, soils, and/or drinking water.
- Studies that validate or confirm risk reduction from prevention or intervention activities.

Question: For a biomedical project, if we access a database from an investigator outside of the state of our institution, what is the requirement about it? Can we include the investigator owning the database as a co-investigator?

Answer: There is no requirement to keep all the work in one state. It will be up to your institution to determine if this will be an appropriate configuration for your project. You may also consider asking your collaborator to include a letter of support that articulates willingness to work together.

Question: Are multi-institutional projects encouraged?

Answer: There is no requirement in the NOFO for multi-institutional projects.

Question: If I am serving as a Project Co-Lead on a P42 application, would that affect or terminate my ESI status if the application is funded?

Answer: If you are lead of a project or core, but not the PD/PI for the overall application, then you should be able to retain ESI status if an award is made. For more information, please visit: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/early-stage-investigators/determining-status#multi-project-applications>

Research Support Core

Question: Centers used to have multiple cores for example including the Data Management and Analysis Core (DMAC) with a statistics core and at least a technical core. Do you recommend combining these into a Research Support Core?

Answer: As described in the NOFO, the Research Support Core should be designed to provide centralized resources/services in support of the scientific goals of at least two projects. This may include, but would not be limited to, analytical services, biostatistics, bioinformatics, geographical information systems, data visualization, and computational modeling, etc. Please ensure the Administrative Core includes the required data management activities and a named coordinator.

Question: Is it acceptable for the same person to serve both as: Director of the optional Research Support Core (RSC) and Data Management Coordinator within the Administrative Core?

Answer: Yes. Please ensure that key personnel effort does not exceed 12 person-months per year. For more information see: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/cpos-common-form> and <https://grants.nih.gov/news-events/nih-extramural-nexus-news/2026/06/what-is-a-person-month-how-do-i-calculate-it>

Question: We understand that the primary purpose of the Research Support Core is to provide services. However, would it be acceptable for the Core to include some technology development activities if they are designed to better support and enhance the Research Projects?

Answer: To be responsive to the NOFO, please follow the NOFO's description of the RSC (i.e., the RSC is to "provide centralized resources/services in support of the scientific goals of at least two projects. This may include, but would not be limited to, analytical services, biostatistics, bioinformatics, geographical information systems, data visualization, and computational modeling, etc." A RSC is principally designed as a service or resource component; it would be highly unusual to include research in an RSC (a possible exception would be methodology development).

Review

Question: The new NOFO refers to "gold-standard" science. Are there new criteria assessing the quality of science that are different from traditional peer-review and impact?

Answer: While there are not specific review criteria for Gold Standard Science, applicants should incorporate the principles of the NIH Gold Standard Science plan, <https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/nih-director/statements/nih-publishes-plan-drive-gold-standard-science>.

Question: Can you describe what mechanism will be used to review the applications? Will reviews include in-person meetings or use ZOOM?

Answer: The review design will be determined by Center for Scientific Review (CSR).

Question: Will new applications be reviewed the same way as renewal or resubmission applications?

Answer: The Review criteria in the NOFO applies to all new, renewal, and resubmission applications. There are additional review criteria/considerations for resubmission and renewal applications, however.

Question: How are reviewers likely to evaluate the role of the Data Management Coordinator and center-wide data integration strategy?

Answer: As stated in the NOFO Review Criteria, "For the Core's data management functions, to what extent is the institutional and computing infrastructure appropriate and are the approaches, methods, and expertise proposed adequate to achieve objectives?" <https://sharing.nih.gov/> In short, the Administrative Core and its Data Management Coordinator are tasked with leveraging institutional/computing infrastructure to support the management and integration of data assets across the Center. They are expected to work closely with project/core leaders to ensure high data quality throughout the entire lifecycle of the data and identify opportunities for integrating project/core-generated data with other existing datasets, accelerating the impact of the Center's research. For more details, please review the NOFO for the Data Management Coordinator's role under the Administrative Core and [NIH data sharing policy](#).

Also, please note, the Data Management Sharing Plan submitted in the application is not visible to reviewers.

Resource Sharing Plans

Question: Does each Project and Core need to have an individual Resource Sharing Plan?

Answer: Yes, each Project and Core needs to have an individual Resource Sharing Plan. Note: Translational Research Plans (TRPs) are optional for Research Support Cores.

Question: Is the Translational Research Plan (TRP) to be written within the project and core proposal/description or in a separate document?

Answer: The TRP should be included in the Resource Sharing Plan, which is a separate document and must be uploaded as its own PDF. Note: a TRP should be included for each (project/core) to describe how research resources and findings will be shared beyond the project. Please refer to the application instructions for multi-projects for more details [Multi-Project Instructions for NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#). (Note: Translational Research Plans (TRPs) are optional for Research Support Cores.)

Question: What are the page limits for the Resource Sharing Plan and the TRP?

Answer: The TRP should be included in the Resource Sharing Plan, and the recommended length for the Resource Sharing Plan is two pages or less.

Budget

Question: Could you please clarify whether the staff required positions must be identified by name (existing personnel) in the application, or whether these positions may be designated as to-be-named (TBN)?

Answer: The principal investigator, Data Management Coordinator, Training Coordinator, TREC Leader, Project Leaders, and if applicable, RSC Leader, should all be named in the application (along with Biosketches). All other personnel (e.g., Center Administrator, Graduate Students, Post-Doctoral researchers) may be designated as TBN.

Question: The RFA states: “The sum of Direct Costs for the Administrative Core and the TREC cannot exceed 25% of the total Direct Costs of the Center per year.” Please confirm if the 25% limitation applies only to the Administrative Core and the TREC and does not include the optional Research Support Core budget.

Answer: The RSC is not part of the 25% limitation.

Question: Although the NOFO specifies the overall budget cap and the 25% cap for the Administrative Core plus TREC, does SRP have informal expectations regarding budget allocation across projects and cores?

Answer: No. Budgets for the projects should be requested based on the research being proposed.

Question: If we plan to have subawards to the same institution under the Admin Core and under a Research Project, can we have separate subaward agreements & collect IDC on the first \$25k of each subaward?

Answer: As indicated in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement 1.2](#), “MTDC excludes... the portion **of each subaward** in excess of \$25,000.” Recipients must follow their own institutional policies and procedures for setting up subaward agreements must [treat NIH funding consistently](#) with other sources of funding.

Question: Are the KC Donnelly fellowships included in the \$1.75M annual direct cost budget cap?

Answer: Yes

Question: Will NIEHS fund salary increase in the out years of the project?

Answer: NIEHS does not award escalation of salaries in out years.

Question: As we are preparing for our P42 submission, can you please confirm what amount is that we need to stay under regarding Graduate Student salary caps?

Answer: As indicated in the NIH Grants Policy Statement [2.3.7.8](#) “Graduate Student Compensation”: The maximum amount NIH will award for the support of a graduate

student on a research grant or cooperative agreement is tied to the National Research Service Award (NRSA) zero-level **stipend** for postdoctoral fellows in effect at the time the grant award is issued on the Federal award date. **Stipend** levels are updated periodically in conjunction with an NIH annual appropriation and are published in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts. The FY26 NRSA guide notice is found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-044.html>.

Question: Are modest funds allowed for food at community engagement events or training events?

Answer: It depends. As indicated in the NIH Grants Policy Statement [7.9.1](#), when certain meals are an integral and necessary part of a meeting or conference (i.e., a working meal where business is transacted), grant funds may be used for such meals only when consistent with terms of award. Recurring business meetings, such as staff meetings, should not be broadly considered as meetings for the primary purpose of disseminating technical information to justify charging meals or refreshment costs to grants. Check with your institution's business office for guidance.

Question: For postdoctoral scholars included in the proposed budget, should their salaries follow the NIH NRSA stipend levels, or may applicants' budget institutional postdoctoral salary rates, as is typically done for R01s and other non-training research grant applications?

Answer: Applicants should budget in accordance with institutional postdoctoral salary rates, as is typically done for R01s and other non-training research grant applications.