Planning your K Award Ahead: Success for Career Development

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NIH K Awards for Career Development

Mentored Career Awards
– K01 – Mentored Award for PhDs and MDs
– K08 – Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award
– K23 – Mentored Patient Oriented Research Career

Career Transition Award
– K99/R00 – Pathway to Independence Award

Development Award
– KL2 – Mentored award within clinical research

Independent Career Awards
– K02 – Independent Scientist Award
K01 Award: Purpose and Eligibility

K01
Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award

Program Purpose
The purpose of this program is to provide support and protected time for an intensive, supervised career development experience in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence. Some NIH Institutes use the K01 to enhance workforce diversity, or for individuals who propose to train in a new field, or for individuals who have had a hiatus in their research career.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PD/PI</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Career level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. citizen or permanent resident, with research or clinical doctoral degree.</td>
<td>Postdoctorate/Residency, Early Career</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. domestic institutions.</td>
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https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development/K01
Tip 1: Planning your K Award Ahead

Preparing for your Career Development
= Preparing for your Green Card

- Publications
- Grants
- Awards
- Give Presentations
- Attend Meetings
- Review Grant/Paper

Career Success

https://openbordersimmigration.com
Tip 1: Planning your K Award Ahead

Publications
Grants
Awards
Give Presentations
Attend Meetings
Review Grant/Paper

K01: Candidate’s background
Career Goals and Objectives

Significance: 1
Investigator(s): 1
Innovation: 1
Approach: 2
Environment: 1
Tip 1: Planning your K Award Ahead

Candidate’s Background
• Highlight your research commitment
• Summary of your academic/clinical record and achievements

Career Goals and Objectives
• both long-term and short-term goals
  (e.g. to be an independent PI, and prepare for R01 during K award et. al.)
• Plan career development activities
  (e.g. what do you need and how this K award will help you to be successful toward your career goal? Be consistent with your goals.)

Both should have appropriate content and length
(suggest 1-2 pages)
Tip 2: Get to know your NIH program officer (PO)


Funding Opportunity Title

NIDCR Mentored Career Development Award to Promote Diversity in the Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research Workforce (K01 Clinical Trial Required)

Activity Code

K01 Research Scientist Development Award - Research & Training


Funding Opportunity Title

NIDCR Mentored Career Development Award to Promote Diversity in the Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research Workforce (K01)

Activity Code

K01 Research Scientist Development Award - Research & Training

- to enhance the diversity of the independently funded dental, oral and craniofacial research workforce
- eligible postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty who are from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in the basic and clinical biomedical, behavioral, and social sciences.
Tip3: Prepare your application well

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section of Application</th>
<th>Page Limits * (if different from FOA, FOA supersedes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Resubmission or Revision Application (when applicable)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Aims</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First three items of Candidate Information (Candidate's Background, Career Goals and Objectives, and Activities During Award Period) and Research Strategy</td>
<td>12 (for all sections combined)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate's Plan to Provide Mentoring (Include only when required by the specific FOA, e.g., K24 and K05)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plans and Statements of Mentor and Co-mentor(s)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors, and Consultants</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Institutional Environment</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Commitment to Candidate's Research Career Development</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Sketch</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tip 3: Prepare your application well

Specific Aims
(1 page, a most important page)

- Take enough time to work on it
- Statement of Significance
  - Impact: Public health need
  - Influence on your field
  - How knowledge will be improved in your field if your study is achieved
- Statement of aims
  - Succinct
  - Clear
  - Realistic
- Get co-investigators and others (like senior faculty) to discuss, read over and contribute
Tip3: Prepare your application well

Research Strategy:
(suggest 8 pages)

- **Significance:** Why is your study important?
- **Innovation:** How is this novel and different?
- **Approach:**
  - **Clear**
  Never assume the reviewers are familiar with your field and have read your papers
  - **Realistic**
  Avoid being ambitious
  - **Collaborative**
  - **multi-disciplinary**
  - **Read it again and again**
Tip 3: Prepare your application well

Candidate’s Plan for Career Development/Training

(suggest 2-3 pages, very important for K award)

- Why do you need this K award?
  Be specific, keep the K01 purpose in mind
- What are your trainings and learnings during this K award?
  - Be customized and uniquely suited to you
  - Detailed trainings (e.g. scientific writing, knowledge, mentorship, leadership and lab management et al.)
  - Training goals (e.g. achieve research independence, R01 submission et al.)
Tip3: Prepare your application well

Plans and Statements from Mentor and Co-Mentors

(6 pages)

• Primary mentor and co-mentors need to detail how they will mentor you
• Mentor and co-mentors should have distinct training roles
• Important to identify the right co-mentors:
  - Appropriate research
  - Previous history of research quality, productivity and support for mentee et. al.
Tip3: Prepare your application well

Description of Institutional Environment (1 page)

- Research facilities and resources related to your project
- Educational opportunities available for your K award training
- Quality and relevance environment contribute to your career development
Tip 3: Prepare your application well

Institutional Commitment to Candidate’s Research Career Development (1 page)

- Letter from Department chair/division chief
- **Protect Research Time (> 75% effort)** (...assurance that XX can devote a minimum 75% of full-time effort to her research program development...)
- Research resources, space, office etc
Tips for K award success

• Planning your K Award Ahead
  Persevere to improve your CV (publish papers, get grants, win awards, give talks, attend meetings… )

• Get to know your NIH program officer (PO)

• Prepare your application well
  (Take enough time, get inputs from others)

• APPLY
Some Helpful websites

https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm#
Early Stage and Early Established Investigator Policies

https://report.nih.gov/success_rates/
Success rates are defined as the percentage of reviewed grant applications that receive funding.

Career Award (K) Policy Update: Temporary Adjustments to Percent Effort or Part-Time Institutional Appointment

Clarification and Update: Salary Supplementation and Compensation on Research Career Development ("K") Awards

Career Award (K) Policy Update: Concurrent Support from a Mentored K Award and a Research Grant