

## NCI Re-Entry Supplements Guidelines

This document applies to applications requesting research supplement funding to active National Cancer Institute (NCI) grants in response to PA-18-592. The purpose is to clarify the application process and highlight NCI-specific requirements. This document is not intended to replace the full and detailed application information in the Program Announcement:

[Research Supplements to Promote Re-Entry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers, PA-18-592](#)

Investigators are encouraged to contact the [NCI Program Staff Contact](#) prior to submission.

NCI Re-Entry Supplements application receipt dates are **October 1 – December 1** and **February 1 – March 31**.

### 1. ELIGIBILITY

#### 1.1 Candidate

NCI Re-Entry Supplements support individuals with high potential to re-enter an active research career after a career interruption of between one and eight years under qualifying circumstances. The individual must have been in an advanced postdoctoral position or an investigator level position at the time of career interruption. Career interruptions may include complete or partial hiatus from active paid research activities.

Supplemental awards under this announcement are limited to citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States or to individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States (i.e., in possession of a Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551). This program may not be used to provide technical support to NIH-supported investigators.

Detailed eligibility criteria may be found in the [Program Announcement](#).

The proposed supplement project should enhance the candidate's potential to successfully establish an independent research program.

Investigators should contact the [NCI Program Staff Contact](#) to verify eligibility.

#### 1.2 Parent Grant

At the time of the supplement application, the parent grant must have at least two years of NCI support remaining. The eligible grant types are listed in the [Program Announcement](#), with the following exceptions:

- NCI does not accept P30 as parent grants for Re-Entry Supplements.
- NCI does not accept R21 or R21-equivalent mechanisms as parent grants for Re-Entry Supplements.

Clinical Trials: While eligible candidates will not be permitted to lead an independent clinical trial, they may propose to gain research experience in a clinical trial led by a mentor.

#### 1.3 Research project

Proposed supplement project must be relevant to (contributes to, expands or extends) the parent grant project, and the relevance needs to be explicitly explained in the application. If the parent grant has multiple research projects, the supplement project must not only be within the general scope of the parent grant, but also be relevant to a specific project listed within the parent grant.

Clinical Trials: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is designed specifically for applicants proposing research that does not involve leading an independent clinical trial, a clinical trial feasibility study, or an ancillary study to a clinical trial. Applicants to this FOA are permitted to propose research experience in a clinical trial led by a mentor or co-mentor.

## 2. SALARY AND BUDGET

Please note: if awarded, **the budget period for the supplement will sync with the budget period of the parent grant during the first 12 months.** For example, as shown in Table 1, if the parent grant budget period ends on June 30 of each year, and the supplement is awarded starting March 1, then the first budget period of the supplement will be only 4 months, March 1 – June 30 of the same year, and the second budget period will be a full 12 months, July 1 – June 30 (of the next year). In addition, please note that any one budget period must be 12 months or less. Please configure your budget request accordingly.

Table 1. Example of supplement budget periods.

Parent Grant Budget End Date	First Supplement Budget Period	Next Supplement Budget Periods
June 30	March 1 – June 30 of same year	July 1 – June 30 (of the next year)

For all candidates: salary and fringe benefits are allowed. F&A costs are allowed per institution policy. For budget periods that are less than 12 months, salary and fringe benefits are pro-rated; supplies and travel (with justification) are not pro-rated. Equipment purchase is not allowed, unless specifically stated below.

### 2.1. Postdoctoral fellows

- Salary: consistent with the institutional salary policy, up to the allowable stipend amount commensurate with experience, according to the [NIH National Research Service Award policy](#)
- Supplies and travel: up to \$6,000 per year, with justification
- May be supported for the duration of the parent grant, but typically for three years or less

### 2.2. Investigators developing independent research careers

- Salary: consistent with institutional policy and with the level of support provided by a NCI Career Development Award, but not to exceed \$100,000 per year, with additional fringe
- Supplies and travel: up to \$10,000 per year, with justification
- Allowed to apply for a maximum of three years support

### 2.3. Individuals with disability

- Salary, supplies, support duration and travel: consistent with career levels as detailed above.
- Equipment: reasonable accommodations necessary for the individual to complete the proposed research training, consistent with the type of disability and the nature of the research, with justification.

## 3. APPLICATION CONTENT

Applicants should refer to the [Program Announcement](#) for what to include in a re-entry supplement request. Work with your business office to ensure the correct forms are used. See below for further details and clarification on the information that NCI requires.

### **3.1. Principal Investigator (PI)**

The PI of the parent grant is the PI of the supplement.

### **3.2. Biosketch**

Each application must include an NIH biographical sketch for all involved personnel, including the PI of the parent grant. Biographical sketches may be up to five pages each.

### **3.3. Statement of eligibility**

This document must be signed by the PI and an institutional official, establishing the candidate's eligibility for support under this program. The statement must include:

- Clearly presented information on U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.
- Explicit information on the duration and reason for the candidate's career interruption that confers eligibility under this program.
- A description of any paid or unpaid research-related activities during the candidate's hiatus from active research career; candidates who are employed full time in a paying academic or research position at the time of application are not eligible.
- A description of any current or previous PHS research grant support the candidate has received, including start and end dates. If applicable, include a statement indicating that the candidate has not received any current or previous PHS support.

### **3.4. For candidates who are investigators**

- A letter from the institution is required indicating the title, duration, and any institution support for the position of the candidate.

### **3.5. Personal statement of the candidate.**

Application must include a signed personal statement of up to one page that describes the candidate's career goals, both immediate and long-term. Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit career stage-appropriate grant applications during or at the end of period of supplement support. Statements should include plans to develop such grant applications, if applicable. Personal statement may be included as part A of an NIH biosketch or as a separate document.

### **3.6. Qualification of mentor(s)**

- If there is more than one mentor, clearly define each mentor's role and relationship to the candidate.
- Clearly describe each mentor's mentoring track record, including individuals previously mentored and their current positions if applicable.
- If the primary mentor is relatively junior, it may be helpful to include an experienced co-mentor.
- The primary mentor does not need to be the PI of the parent grant, but the PI of the parent grant must be in concurrence with the supplement application.

### **3.7. Research, mentoring and career development plan**

A brief description of up to six pages that includes the following items is required:

#### **3.7.1. Research plan:**

- A summary or abstract and specific aims of the funded parent grant or project.

- A description of the specific research project proposed for the supplement candidate, including relevancy to the parent grant or project; research design and aims; methods and techniques; and how the proposed experience will enhance the candidate's potential to successfully establish an independent research program.
- The proposed supplement research plan must be relevant to the parent grant. For multi-component grants, the supplement must be associated with a specific research project listed in the parent grant.

### **3.7.2. Career development and mentoring plan:**

- A candidate-specific career development plan that is consistent with the goals laid out in the candidate's personal statement.
- A description of career skills to be gained during the supplement experience and career-stage appropriate benchmarks, including but not limited to abstract and publication submissions, oral presentations, and grants submissions.
- Outline of a detailed plan that will help the candidate transition to research independence.

### **3.7.3. Timeline with appropriate benchmarks for both research progress and career development of candidate.**

### **3.8. In case of multiple institutions**

A letter of support signed by a designated institution official from each institution is required. The mentoring and career development plan must clearly indicate the logistics of communications and the impact of multiple locations on the candidate's research and career progress. If awarded, the supplement award is provided to the institute where the parent grant resides. The PI of the parent grant is ultimately responsible for the supplement.

### **3.9. Extras**

Letters of recommendation and/or support for the candidate are not required, but may be included.

## **4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Please follow the instructions in the [Program Announcement](#).

All supplement applications **must be** submitted electronically. It is suggested that the [NCI Supplement Program Director](#) be notified once the application is submitted.

## **5. REVIEW AND AWARD**

Supplement applications are reviewed internally at NCI based on scientific merit and training potential. For applications submitted in the October 1 – December 1 period, funding decisions are anticipated in March; for applications submitted in the February 1 – March 30 period, funding decisions are anticipated in June.

## **6. POST AWARD PROCEDURES**

### **6.1. Supplement progress reports**

#### **6.1.1. Annual supplement progress reports.**

- Annual supplement progress reports are due at least once per 12 months. Once awarded, supplements will align with the parent grant's budget periods.
- **Annual supplement progress reports must be submitted each year at the time of submission of the parent grant progress report through RPPR.**
- To facilitate progress report generation and program analysis, **investigators are strongly encouraged to generate progress reports via CareerTrac.**
- The generated progress report PDF file should be attached to section G.1 of the parent grant RPPR. If the submission of the supplement progress report is late, it should be submitted to the NCI supplement program director with institution approval.

### **6.1.2. Final supplement progress reports**

Final supplement progress reports are due within 120 days of the completion of the supplement. PIs are strongly encouraged to generate the final supplement progress report through CareerTrac in the same fashion as the annual progress reports. They should be attached to section G.1 of the parent grant RPPR. If late, they may be sent to the NCI supplement program director with institution approval.

### **6.1.3. Additional progress reports**

In addition to annual supplement progress reports, NCI may request interim progress reports during a budget period to help ensure candidates' progress along their chosen trajectory.

## **6.2. Early Termination of Supplement Awards**

The PI is strongly encouraged to notify NCI **as soon as possible** about a supplement award termination. The termination must be reported in the next RPPR of the parent grant, and a final supplement progress report as described in 6.1.2 must be submitted at that time. Unobligated funds at the time of termination will be returned to NCI.

### **6.3. Changes in Supplement Awards**

A Diversity Supplement is specific to the parent grant and the candidate. If either changes, the supplement must be terminated. In the event that the parent grant PI or candidate changes institutions, the PI and the candidate should contact the [NCI Supplement Program Director](#) to discuss options.

## **7. EXTENSIONS**

### **7.1. Cost extensions**

For a candidate who has not completed the originally proposed research training at the completion of the supplement award, a cost extension to the supplement may be requested. Cost extension requests may be made only under extenuating circumstances, provided that adequate time remains on the parent grant. An application for a cost extension is permissible when the parent grant is on a no-cost extension. If approved, cost extensions are awarded for a maximum of one year. Support for a cost extension is not guaranteed. Cost extensions for a re-entry supplement are rarely granted.

[NCI Supplement Program Director](#) must be informed of the intent to apply for a cost extension **at least six months prior to the end of the supplement award**. Cost extension requests must be submitted during the two application receipt periods for new supplement applications.

A cost extension application must include the following:

- Cover letter signed by PI, including time period and reason for extension
- Face page (PHS 398), with all the required signatures

- Updated budget and budget justification forms
- Supplement progress report of the candidate during the preceding funding period, including both research and career development, as described in 6.1.1
- Updated mentoring and career development plan, including updated timeline for research progress and career development.

Collect all material into one PDF file and submit the file as one single attachment by email from the institution program or business office to the [NCI Program Staff Contact](#). **Use the subject line “NCI Re-Entry Supplement Cost Extension Application PDF”** and include the PI’s contact information in the body of the email.

Important considerations for the funding decision of a cost extension application include how much progress the candidate has made and how the extension may impact the candidate’s progression toward research independence, both of which may be reflected by publications and grant submissions.

### **7.2. No-cost extensions**

No-cost extensions are allowed on NCI re-entry supplements provided adequate time remains on the parent grant. The [NIH Standard Terms of Award](#) provide the grantee the authority to extend the final budget period of a previously approved project period one time for a period of up to 12 months beyond the original expiration date down in the Notice of Award. One time no-cost extensions are requested via the eRA commons, as noted [here](#).

***In the case of a no-cost extension, an annual supplement progress report as described in 6.1.1 is required on or before the original supplement award end date.*** Submit the progress report to the [NCI Program Staff Contact](#).

If a no-cost extension is associated with carryover funds, a request needs to be submitted to the NCI Supplement Program Director including the amount of carryover, the reason for the carryover, and plans for spending the carryover.

## **8. NCI PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT**

**Email:** [CUREsupplements@nih.gov](mailto:CUREsupplements@nih.gov)

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