

Frequently Asked Questions

Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP)

About EIAP

1. What is the goal of EIAP?

The EIAP aims to enhance professional skills, guide preparation of an R01 grant application, provide access to a mentoring and peer network, and grow a community of emerging independent investigators from diverse backgrounds.

2. Is EIAP a program offered by all the Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs) at NIH?

EIAP is a trans-NCI program managed by the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) with support from the NCI Equity Council.

3. Are all cancer researchers eligible to apply to the EIAP?

Cancer researchers can only apply if they satisfy the residency/citizen requirement, have not received an R01 or equivalent funding from the NIH, and are considered an Early-Stage Investigator or New Investigator.

4. What is the difference between an Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) and a New Investigator (NI)?

An ESI is a Program Director / Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed their terminal degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award. The NI on the other hand, is an investigator who has not previously competed successfully for substantial, independent funding from NIH.

5. What are examples of R01 equivalent grants?

R01-equivalent grants are defined as activity codes DP1, DP2, DP5, R01, R37, R56, RF1, RL1, U01 and R35 from select National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) program announcements (PAs). Not all these activities may be in use by NIH every year.

6. How many Scholars will be accepted for FY 2023?

EIAP will welcome 20 Scholars.

7. What is the timeline for submission, review, and acceptance?

- Applications are accepted through November 1, 2022.*
- A peer review of all applications will commence on November 15th and end on December 15th, 2022.*
- Final award decisions will be sent via email from the EIAP February 6th through February 17th, 2023.*
- The 2023 EIAP cohort begins on March 1, 2023.*

8. What are the key dates for EIAP participants?

<i>Date (All times Eastern Time)</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<i>March 2, 2023, 1-4:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Grant Writer's Seminar Day 1</i>
<i>March 3, 2023, 1-4:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Grant Writer's Seminar Day 2</i>
<i>End of March-Early April, 2023</i>	<i>Scholar 1 on 1 (more information to come)</i>

April 15, 2023	Pre-Proposal Due (more information and guidance will be provided once the program starts)
May 18, 2023 (a.m., TBD)	Group Workshop Session
May 19, 2023 (p.m., TBD)	One scheduled one-on-one session with a grant expert to discuss your pre-proposal
June 7, 2023	Mock Review Orientation
June-July, 2023	Scholar 1 on 1 (more information to come)
July 12, 2023	Mock Review
August-September, 2023	Scholar 1 on 1 (more information to come)
April 4, 2023	Mentor Mixer
August 8, 2023	Final draft completion date

Eligibility

9. Are all US-based researchers eligible to apply to the EIAP Program?

Only citizens or non-citizen nationals or green card holders are eligible to apply. Holders of nonimmigrant (e.g., H1-B or O) visas are not eligible to apply.

10. How does the EIAP program support diversifying the cancer research workforce?

The EIAP program is part of NCI's efforts to enhance diversity within the academic biomedical research workforce. The EIAP is funded by the [NCI Equity and Inclusion Program](#). The EIAP aims to enhance professional skills, guide preparation of an R01 grant application, provide access to a mentoring and peer network, and grow a community of emerging independent investigators from diverse backgrounds. NCI particularly encourages applications from individuals from groups identified in NIH's Notice of Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)) as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences.

11. Will a postdoc be able to apply for the EIAP?

No. Applicants should be eligible to apply for an R01 from their institution.

12. Will receipt of career development grants (K awards) hinder an ESI or NI from applying?

No. The K awards can enhance the EIAP application as it provides a platform to generate data that will serve as the foundation to propose an R01. For a list of smaller grants and awards that maintain ESI status, visit <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/list-smaller-grants.htm>.

13. Will the ESI or NI status be lost with an attempt to apply for an R01 grant?

No. ESI and NI status is only lost when an R01 award is secured. Both ESI and NI status should not be impacted by an R01 [submission](#).

14. Can an K01 recipient apply?

Yes. K01 recipients can apply, as this is an example of smaller NIH grants that can be received by an investigator without losing the ESI status.

Application Requirements

15. What are the application requirements?

- **Cover Letter:** Submit a signed Cover Letter (no more than 2-pages, single spaced) addressing the following:
 - Name
 - Email address
 - Current institution
 - Statement that you are a citizen, non-citizen national, or legal permanent resident of the United States. Do not send documentation with your application.
 - Statement indicating that you have not previously received NIH R01 or equivalent funding as a Principal Investigator.
 - Statement indicating preparedness to submit an R01 (which includes a draft R01 as stated below) by October/November 2023.
 - Statement indicating whether you are an Early-Stage Investigator or New Investigator.
 - Your immediate and long-term career goals.
 - Indication if you belong to one or more of the groups that are underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences, such as: individuals from racial and ethnic groups including Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; individuals with disabilities; and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Note: EIAP strongly encourages applications from underrepresented scientists in alignment with [Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity](#). This information will not be used to determine your eligibility for an EIAP award.
 - Statement of contributions to enhancing diversity in the biomedical, clinical, or behavioral and social sciences research workforce.
 - Cancer research type (e.g., lung, brain, skin) if appropriate.
 - Please let us know how you heard about EIAP.
 - Please let us know what you are looking for in a mentor (e.g., qualities, areas of research, etc.)
 - Additional information you feel is relevant.
- **Draft R01:** (see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r01.htm>)
 - Project Summary/Abstract (1 page)
 - Specific Aims (1 page)
 - Research Strategy (no more than 10 pages) (significance, innovation, approach, which includes research design, justification, expected outcomes and/or impact)
- **Institution Letter:** Provide a letter from appropriate institution leadership in support of you to submit an R01 application by October/November 2023, including indications that there will be institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available that will be adequate to support an R01 application. Describe any available current mentoring support for the candidate.

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV) (up to 10 pages):** Include your academic history and research experience as well as any publications, grant applications/awards, honors, professional experience, including any service on scientific and/or peer review boards or sessions.
- **References:** Provide information for two references who can comment on your potential as an R01 investigator. For each, include reference name, title(s), institution(s), address, email, and telephone contact information. EIAP will request the letters directly from your references.

16. Can I use an R01 that is currently under review?

If the R01 is currently under review, you may not apply for the EIAP.

17. If a previous R01 application was unsuccessful, can the investigator apply with the same application?

Yes.

18. Is there a particular research focus that is preferred in the scientific endeavor of applicants?

Applicants should be conducting cancer or cancer-related research.

19. What can strengthen the statement indicating preparedness to submit an R01?

Submitting a draft R01 application is the best evidence of readiness. Guidance on an R01 can be found here: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r01.htm>

20. Why is a draft R01 required at the time of application?

Once selected, Scholars will attend a grantsmanship workshop in March 2023. Shortly after, an EIAP consultant will review the grant application and provide feedback for improvement. By then, you will have 4 to 5 months to refine your application before submitting it to your own institution for final approval before final submission to NIH in October/November 2023. If a draft R01 has not been completed prior to submission to EIAP, our reviewers will not be able to determine readiness to participate and be successful in the program.

21. Will reference letters be included in the application packet/pdf file?

EIAP will request the letters directly from the applicant's references. At the time of application, the applicant will only provide the reference name, title, institution(s), address, e-mail, and telephone contact information. The reference is a person who can comment on the applicant as a potential R01 investigator.

22. The requirements for the cover letter seem more than 2-pages.

Do your best to address each component as appropriate.