



FOA Breakdown: Finding Key Information for Your Proposal

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OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Understand how funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) provide guidance for developing a sponsored project proposal
- Identify key components and requirements in an FOA
- Navigate funding opportunity resources

What is a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) ?

- **Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)** is a publicly available document by which a Federal Agency makes known its intention to award discretionary grants or cooperative agreements, usually as a result of competition for funds.
- **Purpose:** Provides specific guidelines and requirements for submitting sponsored project proposals.
- FOA may also be known as Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO), Requests for Proposals (RFPs), Request for Applications (RFA), Solicitations, Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs), etc.

FOA vs. Other Funding Opportunities

Funding Mechanism	Purpose	Issued By	Key Differences
FOA (Funding Opportunity Announcement)	Broad call for grant applications, outlining requirements and funding priorities.	Government agencies, private funders	Can include multiple funding types, longer application windows, general funding guidance.
NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity)	Essentially the same as an FOA; term used more frequently by U.S. federal agencies.	Government agencies (HHS, NIH, etc.)	Official term adopted by some agencies in place of FOA.
RFP (Request for Proposal)	A specific request for competitive proposals to fulfill a defined project or service.	Government, corporations, universities	More detailed requirements, often includes a contract-based deliverable.
Sponsored Project Solicitation	Invitation for funding within a focused area or initiative.	Foundations, institutions, organizations	Typically, narrower in scope than FOAs, targeting a specialized audience.
Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)	Solicits innovative ideas in scientific research and development.	Federal agencies (DOD, DARPA, etc.)	Used for procurement-based research rather than standard grants.

Non-Federal Agencies

- Non-federal (private and non-profit) grant-making organizations do not usually have defined FOA type as federal agencies do.
- The type of FOA will often vary from one private agency to another.



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BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*



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Key Components of an FOA

While specific layouts may vary by agency, most FOAs include the following key sections:

1. Overview
2. Program Description & Goals
3. Eligibility Criteria
4. Due Dates & Submission Details
5. Award Information
6. Budgetary Information
7. Review & Selection Criteria
8. Award Administration

NSF 25-538: Incorporating Human Behavior in Epidemiological Models (IHBEM)

Program Solicitation

Document Information

Document History

- **Posted:** April 10, 2025
- **Replaces:** [NSF-24-507](#)

Create a PDF
To save a PDF of this solicitation, select [Print to PDF](#) in your browser's print options.

[View the program page](#)

U.S. National Science Foundation
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Division of Mathematical Sciences
Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences
Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences
Division of Social and Economic Sciences
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Environmental Biology

NIH National Institutes of Health
National Institute on Drug Abuse

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitting organization's local time):
July 14, 2025

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D. Research.gov/Grants.gov Requirements

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Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s) National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Components of Participating Organizations NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

Funding Opportunity Title NIH Director's Transformative Research Awards (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

Activity Code R01 Research Project Grant

Announcement Type Release of RFA-RM-24-004

Related Notices

- April 4, 2024 - Overview of Grant Application and Review Changes for Due Dates on or after January 25, 2025. See Notice NOT-OD-24-004.
- August 31, 2022 - Implementation Changes for Common Data Sharing Plans Included with Applications Due on or after January 25, 2025. See Notice NOT-OD-22-100.
- August 5, 2022 - Implementation Details for the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy. See Notice NOT-OD-22-100.

Funding Opportunity Number (FON) RFA-RM-25-003

Companion Funding Opportunity None

Number of Applications See Section III. 3. Additional Information on Eligibility.

Assistance Listing Number(s) 03.310

Funding Opportunity Purpose The NIH Director's Transformative Research Award supports individual scientists or groups of scientists proposing bold, groundbreaking, exceptionally innovative, original, and/or unconventional research with the potential to create new scientific paradigms, establish entirely new and improved clinical approaches, or develop transformative technologies. Applications in all topics relevant to the broad mission of NIH are encouraged, including, but not limited to, behavioral, social, biomedical, applied, and formal sciences and topics that may involve basic, translational, or clinical research. No preliminary data are required. Projects must clearly demonstrate, based on the strength of the topic, a compelling potential to produce a major impact in a broad area of relevance to the NIH. The NIH Director's Transformative Research Award is a component of the High-Impact, High-Reward Research (HRRR) Program of the NIH Common Fund.

Funding Opportunity Goal(s) The Office of Strategic Coordination (Common Fund) supports research and other projects that will accelerate fundamental biomedical discovery and translation of that knowledge into effective prevention strategies and new treatments.

Key Dates

Posted Date June 18, 2025

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date) August 03, 2025

Letter of Intent Due Date(s) Not Applicable

Program Description & Goals

- A clear understanding of the program's goals and the sponsor's priorities is critical for developing a competitive proposal that aligns with the agency's funding objectives.
- This is essential for the Principal Investigator (PI), Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), and other key personnel responsible for developing or writing the technical scope and proposed activities of the proposal.
 - *Ask yourself early on: Does your research align with the funding agency's mission and current programmatic focus?*



Eligibility Criteria

When reviewing a FOA, one of the first things you should look at is the eligibility criteria. This section tells you who can apply for the funding opportunity. Eligibility may be based on several factors, including:

- **PI Eligibility**
- **Institutional Eligibility**



Limited Submissions

NSF

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization: 1

An organization may only submit one proposal to the RII-FEC competition as lead. However, an organization may serve as a non-lead in a collaborative submission or as subawardee on any number of additional proposals.

Dept. of Ed.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA)), consortia of such institutions, and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies including State higher education agencies as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1003(22). An eligible entity may submit only one (1) grant application under an area of national need as the lead applicant. An entity can be included as a partner in multiple applications.

NEH

Faculty nomination

If you are tenured or on a tenure track and teach full time at an institution of higher education that is not [exempt from nomination](#), your institution must nominate you to apply for a Summer Stipend. Institutions of higher education in the United States and its jurisdictions may each nominate one faculty member per deadline. Faculty members of any rank, who have not held a previous award for individuals, are eligible for nomination. Self-nominations are not allowed.

Limited Submissions

What to do when you identify a funding opportunity as a limited submission:

- Check the limited submissions webpage: <https://www.ou.edu/research-norman/research-services/funding-opportunities/limited-submissions> ORS may have already identified this limited submission. If the funding opportunity is listed on this webpage, click the “Internal Application” link for instructions on applying for the internal competition.
- If the opportunity is not listed on the limited submissions webpage, notify us at ors_limitedsubs@ou.edu.

Due Dates

Reviewing the dues dates is necessary for timely planning and routing of the proposal to the Office of Research Services (ORS).

- FOAs typically include multiple key dates:
 - Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline
 - Pre-Application or Concept Paper Deadline
 - Full Proposal Deadline
- Remember the **three-day deadline submission policy** to ORS.



Submission Details

When preparing a proposal, it's important to carefully review the submission requirements outlined in the FOA.

- Proposal Delivery Requirements
- Required Components



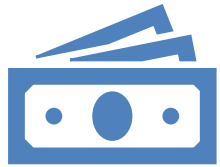
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Budgetary Information

- Allowable costs
- Indirect costs
- Cost sharing
- Other Institutional commitment requirements



Award Information



**Total funding
amount**



Number of awards



Type of Award



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Review & Selection Criteria

The Review criteria define the specific elements reviewers are asked to evaluate when scoring applications.

- Scientific Merit
- Innovation
- Feasibility
- Broader Impacts



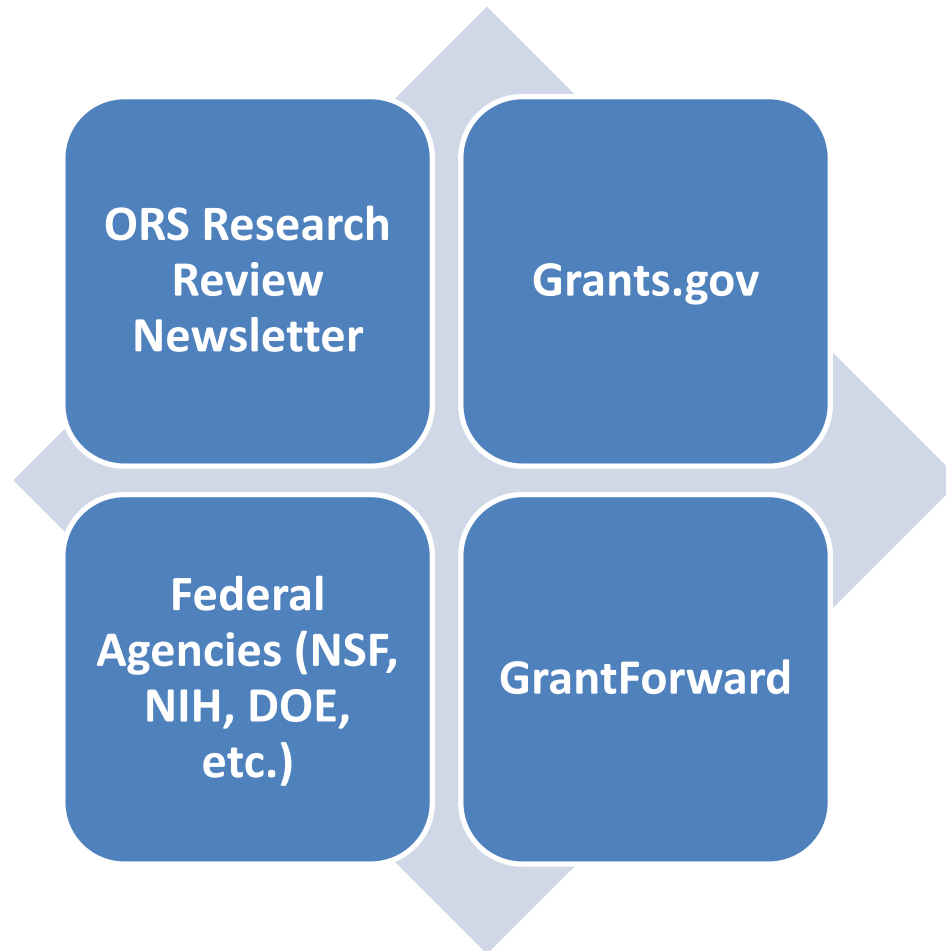
Award Administration

Once your proposal is funded, managing the award in compliance with sponsor expectations is essential.

- **Terms and Conditions**
- **Reporting Requirements**



Funding Opportunities Resources



Tips

1. **Start the process early.** Submit your Infosheet as soon as you know you're interested in the opportunity!
2. **Read the Entire Document Carefully.** Review all sections thoroughly—especially eligibility criteria, deadlines, and funding restrictions.
3. **Note Compliance & Submission Requirements.** Many FOAs specify formatting, required attachments, or certifications. Missing even small details can lead to disqualification.
4. **Seek Clarifications Early.** If something is unclear, reach out to ORS for guidance.
5. **Use Available Resources.** Look for FAQs, webinars, or agency guidance documents to help interpret the FOA.



Resources

- **ORS Website:** <https://www.ou.edu/research-norman/research-services/>
- **ORS Training Website :** <https://www.ou.edu/research-norman/research-services/training>
- **ORS FAQs:** <https://www.ou.edu/research-norman/research-services/faq>
- **Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE); The Research & Creative Activities Team:** <https://www.ou.edu/cfe/research>
- **ProposalShortTips.pdf**
- **Proposal Development Page**



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Contact Information

- **Research Information Services**
(ris@ou.edu) can answer general questions or direct you to the appropriate person
- **Sogol Rasouli**, Associate Director of Research Information Services
(Sogol.rasouli@ou.edu)
- **Bonnie VanWinkle**, Associate Director, Proposal Services (bvanwinkle@ou.edu)
- **Leslie Flenniken Kelly**, Associate Director of Award Administration
(lflenniken@ou.edu)
- **Jennifer O'Hern**, Faculty Relations and Operational Excellence Manager
(jennifer.ohern@ou.edu)



CoRA for Frequently Asked Questions and Website Navigation



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Office of Research Services

Federal Grant and Assistance Directives FAQ Now Available

In a recent **communication**, President Harroz acknowledged questions and concerns raised by recent federal executive orders and Executive Branch communications related to federal assistance and grants essential to the university's research enterprise. **Additional information is now available online** and will be updated as needed.

The goal of the Office of Research Services (ORS) under the Vice President for Research and Partnerships (VPRP) is to function as a highly trained, customer service-oriented organization whose primary purpose is to support externally funded research and sponsored activities within the university community. ORS has responsibility for pre-award and award administration on the Norman campus and Norman campus-related programs on the Tulsa campus. ORS is the institutional unit authorized by the Board of Regents to submit proposals to and accept awards from external entities for financial support in the form of grants, contracts, and cooperative or other agreements.

For general questions, call the ORS main phone number, (405) 325-4757, or contact us at ris@ou.edu.

Calculate Your Submission Processing Timeline(MM/DD/YYYY):

<https://www.ou.edu/research-norman/research-services/research-services-home>

Quick links

[Submit Proposal Information Sheet](#)

[Cayuse Research Administration](#)

[Staff Directory](#)

[Obtaining Accounts and Registrations](#)



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Questions



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