NLM R25 (RFA-LM-22-001) Technical Assistance Webinar – FAQs

Program Structure and Design

1. **How many participating institutions can we have in an application? Can we have Program Faculty from multiple participating institutes?**

   There is no cap on the number of participating institutions. Faculty may be included from partnering institutions.

2. **Can MPIs be at different institutions?**

   Yes, MPIs can be at different institutions and should include clear management and communication plans.

3. **Are there any examples of previously funded grants in this program?**

   This is the first time NLM has offered this program so previously funded grants are not available.

4. **Is this expected to be a one-time only funding opportunity or is it renewable?**

   We are unable, at this time, to say whether this funding opportunity will be offered again in the future.

5. **"Bioinformatics" and "biomedical informatics" are used interchangeably in the slides. Please confirm that the program will support the broad biomedical informatics research education.**

   This is to confirm that the program will support biomedical informatics.

6. **What would be the expected number of participants per awarded institution?**

   There is no pre-set number of participants that are expected.

7. **Does the participant need to physically spend time at each participating institution during the period of the mentorship?**

   No, physical attendance is not necessary since training may be done virtually also.

8. **Is an outside evaluator required?**

   No, an outside evaluator is not a requirement.

9. **If the awards are issued in September of this year and it is expected to be a summer mentorship, will the program be expected to begin in Summer 2023?**

Yes, the program is expected to be a summer program for participants. The grant period will begin as soon as the awards will be made, therefore, participants will be expected to attend the program in the summer of 2023.

10. **Would an establishment of an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between participating institutions count as a measurable outcome?**

It is up to each grantee to determine the outcomes in the context of their individual programs. The proposed outcomes will be assessed by the study section in the review of applications.

Eligibility

1. **There are institutions that serve primarily students with certain disabilities but are not listed as Minority Serving or IDeA. The RFA does not mention them for inclusion but it would seem they would qualify based on the goal of the proposal, correct?**

Yes, institutions that serve disabled students would qualify.

2. **Can a Minority Serving Institution that has a biomedical informatics program apply as lead applicant and partner with an institution that is research oriented?**

Yes, Minority Serving Institutions may apply as the lead applicant.

3. **Will a non-MSI institution be considered, provided that our program serves an important number of diverse students?**

Yes, institutions that are not designated as MSIs are eligible.

4. **Can you explain an IDEA state again? Is any university eligible in an IDeA state?**
   If the lead institution is in an IDeA state, is there a preference/advantage to all MSI partners also within IDeA states?

Please refer to the following website for additional information:
https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/DRCB/IDeA/Pages/default.aspx
All institutions in IDeA states are eligible. There is no preference for MSIs, only encouragement to apply. All applications are reviewed with the same set of review criteria.

5. **Is there a guideline for the number of participants per program each year at the undergraduate or master's levels?**

There are no guidelines for the number of participants per program each year at any level.

6. **Are high school students eligible participants? What about students who are in the summer between high school and undergraduate?**

No, high school students are not eligible for this program. Undergraduate and masters' students, who are currently enrolled at an accredited institution of higher learning in the United States, are eligible. Post-baccalaureate students who are enrolled in an accredited post-bac program may also be considered.

7. **Are students in accelerated BS/MS programs eligible participants? Or students who have been accepted to an MS program, but who are in the summer between BS graduation and MS program start?**

   Yes, according to programmatic requirements, students in accelerated BS/MS programs and students who are in the summer between undergraduate and graduate programs are eligible**.**

8. **Would students be able to attend the program more than one year? This might be important for the progression of some students in their training.**

   Yes, students will be able to attend the program for more than one year.

Application Content

1. **Is the research component using secondary data acceptable?**

   Yes, secondary data is acceptable for background information.

2. **Unlike other RFAs, this RFA lists data tables only for the program faculty and not for current students. I wanted to confirm that only Tables 2 and 4 for program faculty are required.**

   This is to confirm that only Tables 2 and 4 for program faculty are required since applicants will not have current participants to report on and will be unable to provide information on participants prior to their acceptance into the program. Grantees will have an opportunity to provide this information in progress reports.

Budget

1. **In Section IV of the RFA it says to list funds to support participants in the Participant/Trainee Costs budget section. At our university these types of short-term interns are considered employees and paid an hourly wage. We are not allowed to pay them stipends. Are we allowed to list the costs for the R25 participants in the Personnel section of the budget rather than in the Participant/Trainee Costs section?**

   Yes, it is appropriate for participants to be paid as employees and not via stipends under the R25 mechanism. You may list the salary/fringe costs for the participants in the Personnel section of the budget if it helps to make their salary/fringe and effort levels clearer.

2. **How should payments for invited speakers be listed in the budget?**

   Refer to your institutional policies for how such costs are typically handled. Speaker's fees may

be entered as a line item under "Other"; or they could potentially be considered consultants; or if there is a significant level of effort associated, they could be included as personnel. Any of these options could be allowable if supported by your internal policies and based on the relationship between the speaker and the grantee organization.

3. **Can compensation be requested for program faculty?**

    Salaries and fringe benefits for program faculty are allowed for effort that is directly associated with the program, if the activities are not considered a regular part of the faculty member's academic duties. If mentoring and related activities are considered a regular part of an individual's academic duties, then any costs associated with these activities are not allowable costs from grant funds.

    Total personnel expenses for PD(s)/PI(s), program coordinator, and participating faculty may not exceed 30% of the total direct costs in any year of the project period.

4. **Is there an NIH mechanism for requesting additional funding for this R25 to pay for disability accommodations to enable equitable access for students with disabilities?**

    After an award is issued, if the program identifies a participant requiring accommodations, additional funds in excess of the standard participant costs may be requested to make changes or adjustments in the research setting that will make it possible for an otherwise qualified participant with a disability to perform the essential functions associated with their role on the project.

    The accommodations requested under this program must be directly related to the performance of the proposed role on the project and must be appropriate to the disabilities of the individual. Some types of accommodations that might be provided include specialized equipment and assistive devices. In all cases, the total funds for accommodations must be reasonable and documentation of the disability should be included when a request for funds is made post-award. Awardees should consult with NLM program staff in advance of such requests.