

What are K grants? How do you write a competitive K grant?

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Type of grants covered

K01 - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award: basic scientist

K08 - Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award: MD/clinician basic science

K23 - Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award: Clinical research

K99 - NIH Pathway to Independence Award
looking for the best of the best

K01 Mentored Research Scientist Development Award

The purpose of the K01 is to provide support and “protected time” (3, 4, or 5 years) for an ***intensive, supervised career development experience*** in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence.

**NIAMS Research Career Awards Paylines for 2015
(2016 paylines pending)**

K01 applications will be paid through the priority score 27

ELIGIBLE: Candidates for this award must have a research or health-professional doctoral degree. Former principal investigators of an NIH Small Grant (R03), Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21), Dissertation Award (R36), or SBIR/STTR (R41, R42, R43, R44) remain eligible.

NOT ELIGIBLE: Former PDs/PIs on NIH research project (R01), program project (P01), center grants, sub-projects of program project (P01) or center grants, other career development awards (K-awards), or the equivalent are not eligible.

Contact your NIAMS/NIA/Other program officer before you get started!

Although all of the participating institutes use this mechanism to support career development experiences; some institutes use the K01 award for individuals who propose to train in a new field or for individuals who have had a hiatus in their research career because of illness or pressing family circumstances.

K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award

The objective of the K08 is to provide salary and research support for a sustained period of “protected time” (3-5 years) to support didactic study and/or mentored research for individuals with clinical doctoral degrees (e.g., MD, DDS, DMD, DO, DC, OD, ND, DVM, PharmD, or *PhD in clinical disciplines*).

The K08 provides support for an intensive, mentored research career development experience in biomedical or behavioral research, including translational research. For the purpose of this award, translational research is defined as application of basic research discoveries toward the diagnosis, management, and prevention of human disease.

**NIAMS Research Career Awards Paylines for 2015
(2016 paylines pending)**

K08 applications will be paid through the priority score 27
Also just increased salary support for MD to \$100K

Eligible: Candidates for this award **must have** a clinical doctoral degree.

- Such degrees include but are not limited to the M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.M.D., O.D., D.C., Pharm.D., N.D. (Doctor of Naturopathy), D.V.M.
- Individuals with the Ph.D. or other doctoral degree in clinical disciplines such as clinical psychology, nursing, clinical genetics, speech-language pathology, audiology or rehabilitation are also eligible.
- Individuals holding the Ph.D. in a non-clinical discipline who are certified to perform clinical duties should contact the appropriate Institute concerning their eligibility for a K08 award.

Not all institutes support K08 mechanisms so contact your program officer before you get started!

K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award

The purpose of the K23 is to support the career development of individuals with a **clinical doctoral degree who have made a commitment to focus their research on patient-oriented research**. Individuals with a clinical degree who are interested in further career development in biomedical research other than patient-oriented research should refer to the Mentored Clinical Scientist Career Development (Parent K08) Award.

**NIAMS Research Career Awards Paylines for 2015
(2016 paylines pending)**

K23 applications will be paid through the priority score 30

- For the K23 award, Patient-Oriented Research is defined as research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects.
- This area of research includes: 1) mechanisms of human disease; 2) therapeutic interventions; 3) clinical trials, and; 4) the development of new technologies.
- Excluded from this definition are *in vitro* studies that utilize human tissues but do not deal directly with patients. In other words, patient-oriented research is research in which it is necessary to know the identity of the patients from whom the cells or tissues under study are derived.

Not all institutes support K23 mechanisms so contact your program officer before you get started!

K99/R00 NIH Pathway to Independence Award

The NIH Pathway to Independence Award program is designed to facilitate a timely transition of outstanding postdoctoral researchers with a research and/or clinical doctorate degree from mentored, postdoctoral research positions to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions. The program will provide independent NIH research support during this transition in order to help awardees to launch competitive, independent research careers.

Applicants must have no more than 4 years of postdoctoral research experience at the time of the initial or the subsequent resubmission application.

An individual who cannot provide a compelling rationale for at least one year of additional mentored research at the time of award is not a strong candidate for this award.

- The K99/R00 award is intended for individuals with significant research experience, but who require at least 12 additional months of mentored research and career development (K99 phase) before transitioning to the independent R00 award phase of the program.
- The strongest applicants will require, and will propose, a well-conceived plan for 1–2 years of substantive mentored research and career development that will help them become competitive candidates for tenure track faculty positions.
- IFF awarded and when negotiating tenure track positions please work with your program officer as there are some issues (start up/salary support) in place before the R00 funds can be released.
- **NIAMS K99 applications will be paid through the priority score 28 in 2015: 2016 payline pending**

General K grant writing Concepts

One simple rule: Do NOT forget, the training in responsible conduct of research

It is surprising how many applications miss out with this, and this is enough for the reviewer to take it as a bad sign for the rest of the proposal.

Just answer the items that they ask for.

Candidate: Productivity (i.e. publications) is the priority concern reviewers look at.

A good publication record, OR a good explanation for any gaps (family or health leave, etc.)

Ideally, the candidate has been a postdoc for 3-4 years, and a K-award will give that final training on new/exciting techniques and professional development.

For applicants with longish (5+ years) postdoc experience: how will more mentored research training help? The proposed training plan should be substantial and relevant to the project. There must be a clear path to independence (professional development activities, et al.)

2) Science:

- Is the project a good research training opportunity for the candidate? What is learned, and how is it different/better from past training?
- How novel? focus on the novelty of the science itself but be careful. Under some circumstances, a very novel project might be perceived as too risky or premature for the candidate.
- The applicant needs a project that fills training gaps and positions her/him for competitive R-grants down the road. A statement dealing with this issue would help: “this is a safe project that allows me to learn how to apply use of “name your technology/methods” for my future R01

3) Mentor and mentoring team:

- good fit for the science and involved in professional development too.
- It has to be obvious that the primary mentor(s) are actively engaged in the training program, and that there is a clear plan to deal with failure to achieve milestones.
- Make sure you work together so that the mentors plan and the grant from applicant actually fit together.

4) **Environment: space, resources.**

- Evidence of commitment to the applicant's progress (letter from chair/dean), which can be release from other duties, salary support to cover the gap of K-award effort, appointment to non-tenure/tenure track faculty.
- For K99/R00 awardees, remember to work with your program officer when negotiating a new faculty position to make sure the institute will agree to support.

In general: How your grant looks does matter

For K awards this reflects on your professionalism and attention to detail

Common features of NIH study section member

Tired eyes

Busy brain

Tired brain

No reviewer comes to study section saying: “I am so rested and relaxed that I had lots of time to read my grants”