Funding Opportunity Announcements

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Cannabis Policy Research for Health Equity

PAR-25-240 (R01) and PAR-25-241 (R21)

Frequently Asked Questions

General

Q. I have a question about the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO). Whom might I contact for more information?

A. For questions of a scientific nature, you may contact the Scientific Program Contacts: Dr. Margaret Mayer Sutherland (margaret.mayer@nih.gov) and Dr. Annette Kaufman (kaufmana@mail.nih.gov). For questions about peer review, you may contact the Scientific Review O icer assigned to your application. This information will appear in eRA Commons two weeks after the submission due date. For questions about financial or grants management, you may reach out to the relevant financial/grants management contact listed at the bottom of the NOFO.

Q. What is a PAR?

A. A PAR is a Program Announcement with special receipt, referral, and/or review considerations. This PAR includes special review criteria. PARs highlight a specific area of scientific interest. For more information: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_2/2.3.5_types_of_funding_opportunity_announcements__foas_.htm

Q. What is the due date for applications submitted in response to these NOFOs?

A. These NOFOs use standard NIH due dates. Check the "Key Dates" listed in Part 1 of the NOFO. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any necessary corrections to their application before the due date.

Q. Are applicants who have not had prior NIH funding eligible to apply?

A. Yes. We welcome R01 and R21 applications from new and early-stage investigators. Investigators who are new to the NIH application process may consider working with a mentor and/or team of experienced investigators that have experience with the NIH grants process. They are also encouraged to speak with the Scientific Program Contacts for guidance.

Q. Does the National Cancer Institute (NCI) give first-time investigators special consideration?

A. Yes, early-stage investigators are given funding priority. For more information, see https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/early-stage-investigators

Q. Do paylines vary for submissions in response to PARs?

A. No. Paylines are not adjusted for submissions in response to the PARs.

Q. Will applications that utilize existing datasets be responsive to these PARs, or must applications involve primary data collection?

A. The use of existing datasets (secondary data analysis) is acceptable if the aims of the research are responsive to the PARs.

Q. Are there limits on available funds, or is there a set number of grants that can be funded under this opportunity?

A. No. Applications submitted to these PARs will be considered alongside all competing research project grants (RPGs). The number of awards is contingent upon NCI appropriations and the submission of meritorious applications. There are no set aside funds for these PARs.

Q. My project isn't an exact fit for these PARs. Where can I find more information about similar funding opportunities?

A. For a searchable list of notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs), visit: https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/funding/funding-opportunities

For more information about past and current policy research initiatives by the Tobacco Control Research Branch visit: https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/tobacco-policy

You may also subscribe to receive updates from the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts: https://grants.nih.gov/funding/nih-guide-for-grants-and-contracts

Research Design

Q: What is meant by this text: "Individual- or population-level measurement of tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis use or secondhand exposure with and without a policy (either before and after, or in the absence and presence of, a policy); pre-post and comparative study designs are acceptable." Do I need to have true longitudinal data? Would repeated cross-sectional data be responsive?

A. Proposals should include measurement of their chosen endpoints either before **and** after, or in the absence **and** presence of, a policy. Ecological, serial cross-sectional, and pre/post comparative study designs are acceptable, as are traditional cohort studies—but it is not required to have longitudinal data within the same individuals.

Q. Are there any resources available to help us identify a community partner?

Interested applicants can learn more about several networks sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Members of these networks meet the definition of a community organization for these PARs:

- CDC Office on Smoking and Health's "National Networks Driving Action" are consortia that provide leadership on and promote evidence-based approaches for preventing commercial tobacco use and cancer to increase equitable delivery of tobacco prevention and cancer-related strategies and related interventions. Learn more at: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/php/tobacco-control-programs/coop-agreement.html.
- CDC Office on Smoking and Health's National and State Tobacco Control Program provides funding and technical support to state and territorial health departments. Learn more at: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/php/tobacco-control-programs/index.html.
- CDC Division of Cancer Prevention and Control's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program supports programs to design and implement impactful, strategic, evidence-based, and sustainable plans to prevent and control cancer. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, 7 U.S. Pacific Island jurisdictions and Puerto Rico, and 7 tribes and tribal organizations have produced 65 plans. Learn more at: https://www.cdc.gov/comprehensive-cancer-control/about/programs.html.

Q. Are clinical trials allowed? How do I know if my project is a clinical trial?

A. These funding opportunities are clinical trial optional, meaning that clinical trials are allowed but not required. Please be sure to select the correct clinical trial designation for your application. For help determining whether your project is a clinical trial, visit: https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/clinical-trials/ct-decision .

Q. Are PIs/study teams required to prepare workforce development plans for sta /members of community partner organizations?

A. PIs/study teams are not *required* to prepare workforce development plans for sta or members of community partner organizations. However, in the spirit of community partnership, PIs/study teams are encouraged to work with sta /members of partner organizations to prepare workforce development plans or otherwise help with building infrastructure.

Q. Can I submit a resubmission or renewal application to this PAR if I previously submitted the –01 application to a di erent PAR or parent announcement?

A. Generally, yes. However, you cannot submit a resubmission application to a PAR if the new or renewal (A0) application was submitted to a Request for Applications (RFA).

Review

Q: What happens if my application is not responsive?

A: It may be withdrawn and not reviewed. It could also be re-assigned to the parent announcement and reviewed in best-fit study sections at the NIH Center for Scientific Review. Be sure to reach out to your program contact if you have questions about responsiveness in advance of submitting your application.

Q: What are the review criteria?

A: Applications received to these PARs will be reviewed using the simplified review framework. Details and information about this can be found online:

https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/peer-review/simplifying-review/applicant-guidance

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The scored review criteria can be found in "Section V. Application Review Information" of the PARs. These PARs have two additional "Specific to the NOFO" review criteria under Factor 2:

- Evaluate the plan for community partnership, including the level of involvement of the partner community organization(s) in informing the research questions, determining and providing input on the approach, interpretation of results, and dissemination; and identifying a plan for sustaining the collaboration.
- Evaluate if the dissemination plan is appropriate for the research question and the nature of the results.

Q: Will there be a special emphasis panel convened for review?

A: No. All applications will be assigned to best-fit study sections by the NIH Center for Scientific Review. We encourage you to browse information about the study sections in advance of submitting your application. You may also use the Assisted Referral Tool, which recommends potentially appropriate study sections: https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants/ArtHome. You may recommend study sections that you believe are a good fit for your application by using the assignment request form at the time of submission. Please keep in mind that your application may not be assigned to the study sections included in the assignment request form. Once your

application is submitted and assigned to a study section, you may review the reviewer roster to ensure there is su icient expertise to review your application. If you feel that an expertise is needed but not represented in the study section to which you're assigned, you may contact the scientific review o icer (SRO) to recommend that expertise.

Example: https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DABP/SCIL

Eligibility

Q. Are foreign institutions or partners eligible to apply?

A. As noted in the NOFOs, non-domestic (non-U.S.) entities (foreign institutions) and non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. organizations are not eligible to apply. Foreign components are also not permitted. Please consult the Scientific Program Contacts if you have further questions.

R21

Q. Are preliminary data required for the R21 application? Are preliminary data allowed?

A. As noted in the NOFO, "No preliminary data are required but may be included if available."

Q. If an institution submits an R21, and NCI deems it more appropriate for the R01 mechanism, would NCI automatically change it?

A. NCI will not convert an application from one mechanism to another. It is up to the research team to determine which mechanism is best suited for the proposal.