



# NIH Career Development Programs ("K" Awards)

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# NIH Institutes and Centers

One of 11 agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

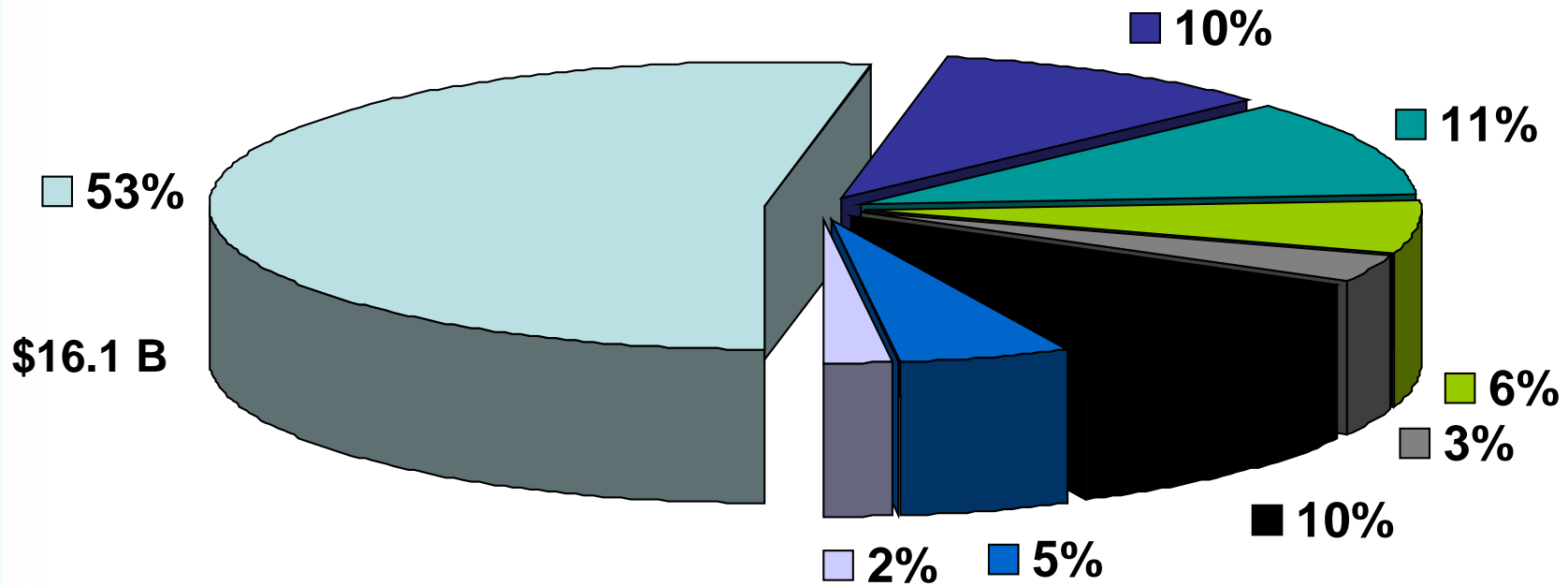


27 Institutes and Centers (IC)





# Breakdown of \$30.4 Billion Appropriated to NIH for FY 2009



- Research Project Grants (53%)
- R&D Contracts (11%)
- Training (3%)
- Research Mgmt & Support (5%)
- Research Centers (10%)
- Other Research (6%)
- Intramural Research (10%)
- All Other (2%)

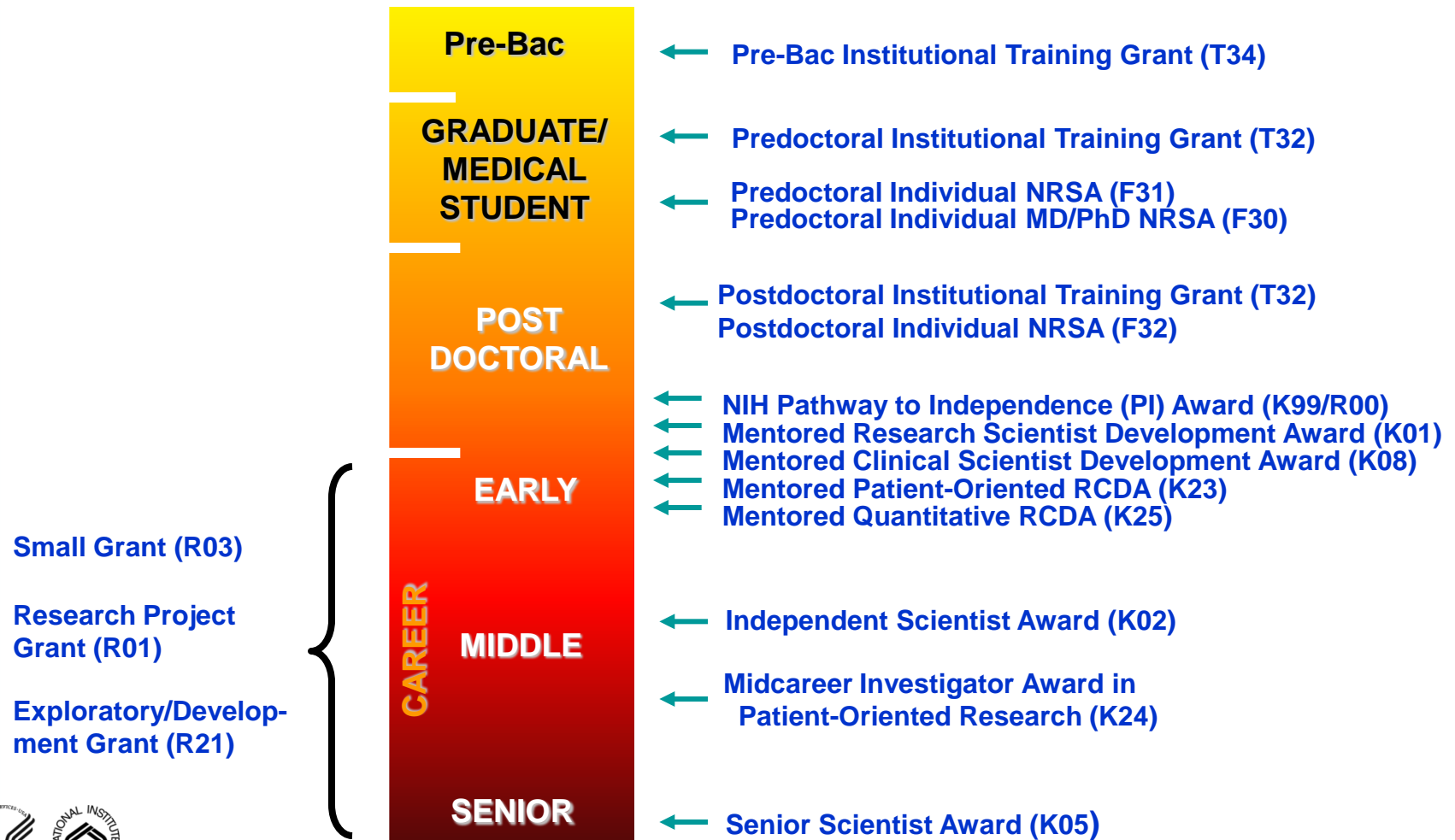




# Training and Career Timetable

## Stage of Research Training / Career

## Awards





## Purpose of NIH Career Development Programs:

*To help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists are available in adequate numbers and in the appropriate research areas to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs.*



# Career Development Programs

- Become a well-informed applicant
- Find out about NIH Institute and Center (IC) missions and programs [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)
- Find out about IC specific utilization of the wide variety of Career Awards
- Contact appropriate NIH program/scientific or grants management staff
- Talk with potential mentors, collaborators, peers (early...follow up...)





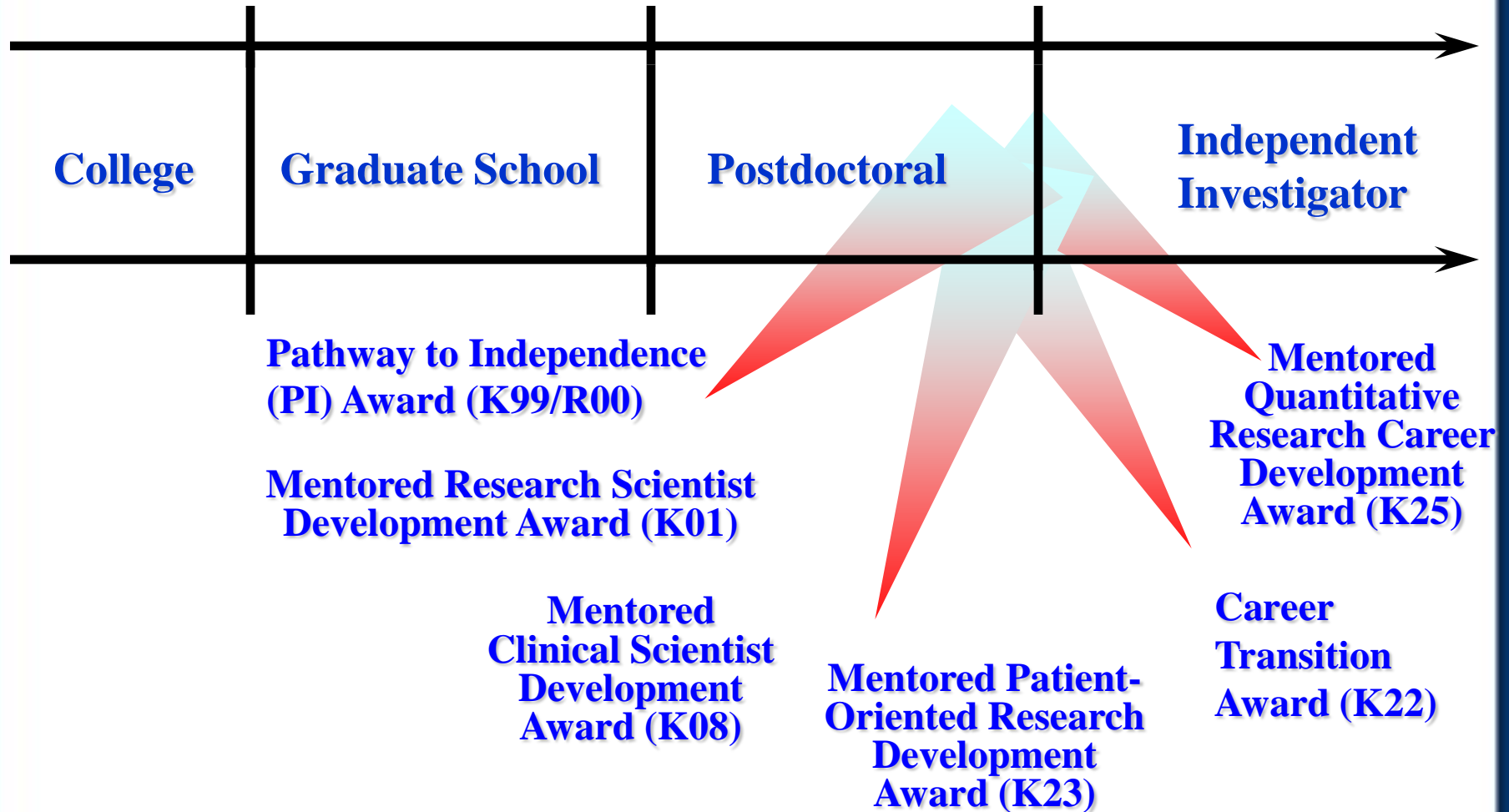
# 'Career' Awards = 'K' Awards

- Individual Awards:
  - Mentored
  - Independent—can interact with other NIH Awards
  - Depending on the award, for early, mid-, or senior career levels
  - Depending on the award, all doctorates or restricted to clinical doctorates
- Institutional Awards:
  - Curriculum/Program Development
  - Institutional





# Mentored K Awards





- Support mechanisms that provide mentored research experiences to gain additional expertise in a new research area or in an area that will significantly enhance research capabilities.



- K01: Mentored Research Scientist Development Award
- K08: Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award
- K22: Research Career Award for Transition to Independence
- K23: Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Development Award
- K25: Mentored Quantitative Research Development Award
- K99/R00: NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award
- K12: Institutional Mentored Research Scientist Development Program



- Provides an intensive, mentored research experience
- Candidates normally must have a research doctorate and postdoctoral experience
- Not an extension of postdoctoral training
- Varied and limited NIH IC participation
  - Used for re-entry
  - Used for pursuit of new research area





## K08: For Health Professional Doctorate

- Supervised research experience for individuals with health professional degree who are committed to a career in laboratory research
- Phased award period
  - didactic experience
  - “hands-on” research experience
- For individuals intending a career in basic or translational research



- Assists transition to independence
- May be activated after identifying a suitable position at a research institution
- Might include mentored and independent phases
- May support an NIH intramural and an extramural phase



## K23: For Health Professional Degree

- Supervised research for clinically trained professionals with a commitment to focus on patient-oriented research (POR)
- POR is defined as research in which the investigator directly interacts with human subjects
- Must have completed clinical training, including specialty/sub-specialty, if applicable, prior to award



## K25: Research Doctorate in Quantitative/Engineering Disciplines

- Mentored experiences for scientists from quantitative and engineering backgrounds interested in pursuing health-related research
- Postdocs to Senior Faculty eligible to apply



- K99: Mentored research experience for up to 2 years
- R00: Transition to research independence as junior faculty for up to 3 years
- Applicants: no more than 5 years of postdoctoral research training at the time of initial application or resubmission
- Non-U.S. citizens may apply, but institution must be domestic
- Transition to R00 phase requires offer and acceptance of tenure-track, full-time assistant professor position (or equivalent)

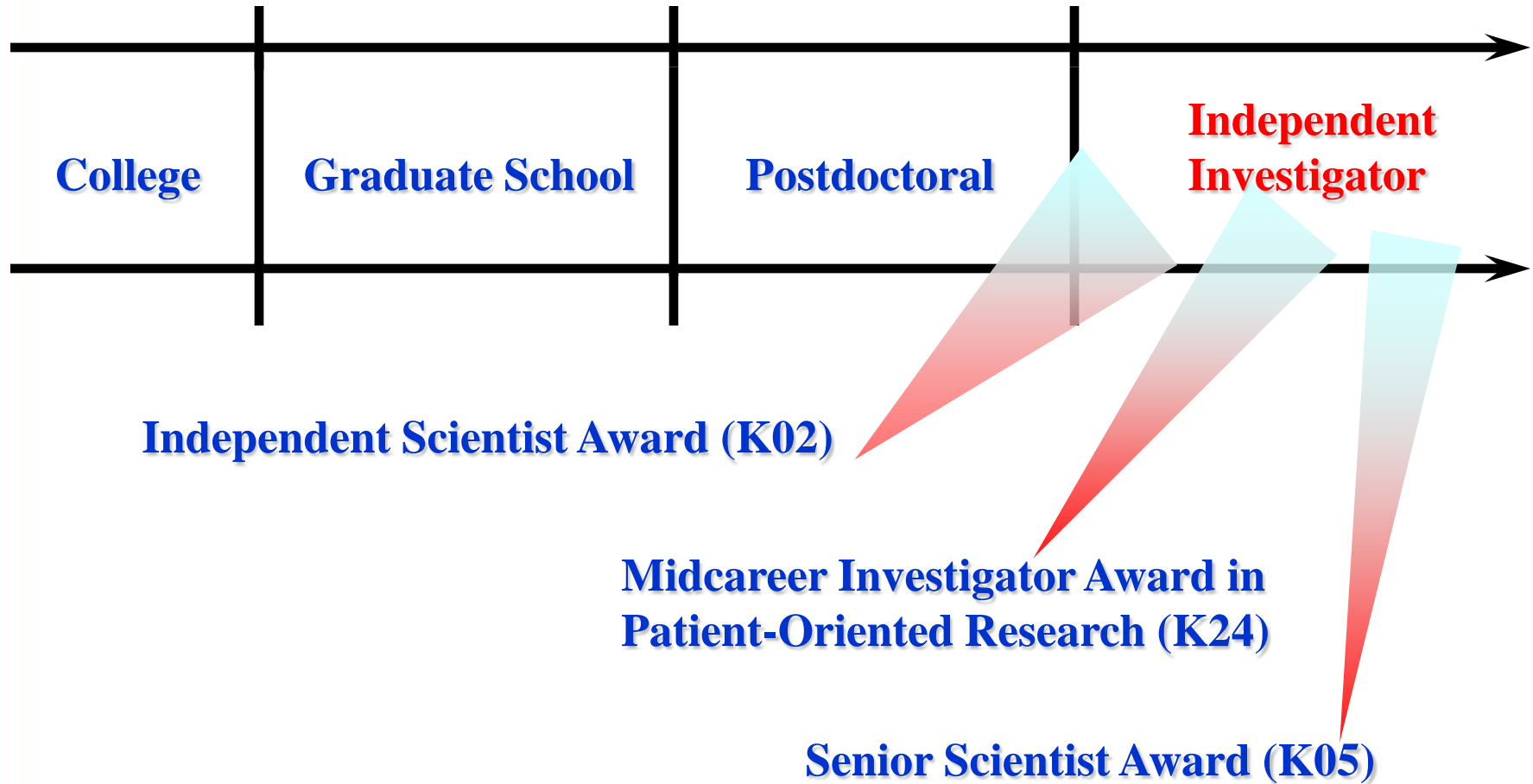
- K12: Institutional Mentored Research Scientist Development Program
  - Enhance research career development for individuals, selected by the institution, who are training for careers in specified research areas
  - Provides institutions with the capacity for mentoring junior investigators through a programmatic approach



- Candidate
- Career Development Plan
- Research Plan
- Mentor, Co-mentor(s), Consultant(s), and Collaborator(s)
- Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate



# Independent K Awards





# K02 For Research or Clinical Doctorate

- Intended for newly independent scientists who need a period of research focus in order to enhance their careers
- May be renewable
- Provides only salary; requires existing research support



# K24 For Experienced Clinical Doctorates

- Provides clinician investigators protected time to devote to patient-oriented research and to serve as mentors for junior researchers
- Protects between 25% and 50% of professional effort
- Permits salary from other Federal sources, e.g. R01 grant



# Extramural Loan Repayment

- Researchers at 50% effort or more at non-profit organizations with qualifying educational debt
- Payments to loaning institution up to \$35,000 per year
- Tax liability on the loan payments partially offset
- Concurrent service requirement
- Office of Loan Repayment Website:  
<http://www.lrp.nih.gov/>
- Application Period: September - December



# Common Features: Eligibility

- **Eligibility—Who can Apply?**
  - Doctoral Degree (generally)
    - Some (**K08, K23, K24**) require clinical degree
  - US Citizen, Non-Citizen National, Permanent Resident (except *K99/R00*)
  - Previous NIH PD/PI may be Ineligible
    - Usually PD/PI on R03 or R21 is OK (except **K99/R00**)
    - PD/PI on R01 or subproject PD/PI on a P01 is **NOT** OK

***Read the Eligibility Section of the Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) carefully!***





# Common Features: Duration

- Duration: three, four, or five years
  - Extensions in time – award terms remain in effect
- Entry level awards require a mentor, multiple mentors are OK
- Mentored Ks encouraged to apply for independent support during K
- Non-mentored awards (e.g., **K02**, **K24**) are sometimes renewable



# Common Features: Appointment & Effort

- Appointment:
  - For K eligibility purposes, individual must have a full-time appointment at applicant organization (*organization defines “full-time”*)
  - Any minimum effort requirement must be covered by that appointment
- Level of Effort:
  - Mentored awards require full-time effort (defined as at least 9 person months (i.e.75%) on research and the rest on other career development related activities)
- At the time of application and initial award, all candidates must meet the full-time appointment requirement as well as the minimum 75% effort requirement.





# Common Features: Appointment & Effort Cont.

- **Policies on Part-Time Institutional Appointments & Reduced Effort**
  - NIH existing policy allows temporary adjustment to < 75% effort
  - New Policy (issued 1/2009): K awardees may request to reduce their appointment to less than full-time (but not less than three-quarter time) for a period not to exceed 12 continuous months during the K award project period.
  - For both adjustments: the nature of the circumstances requiring a change in appointment status or percent effort might include personal or family situations such as parental leave, child care, elder care, medical conditions, or a disability.
  - Permission to change appointment status or percent effort will not be approved to accommodate job opportunities, clinical practice, clinical training, or joint appointments.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-036.html>





- Awardees **may not** simultaneously request a reduction in appointment status from full-time to part-time **AND** a reduction in percent effort to less than 75%.
- Two options only available after a K award has been issued. Part-time appointments will be considered by the IC on a case-by-case basis.
- Both require NIH Prior Approval



# Common Features: Appointment & Effort Cont.

Existing Policy: Reducing effort to 50% in the final 2 years & replacing that effort with effort on any peer-reviewed research grant or subproject

- The K award must be active when the competing research grant application is submitted & must be in its final two years before the reduction in effort to 6 person-months (50% full-time effort) is permitted.
- Individual must:
  - Remain in a mentored situation
  - Be one of the named PIs on a competing NIH research grant application (R01, R03, R15, R21, R34, or equivalent from another Federal agency); or a sub-project director on a competing multi-component research, center grant, or cooperative agreement application (P01, P50, U01, etc. or equivalent application from another Federal agency).



<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-065.html>



# Common Features: Costs

Some costs vary widely across NIH ICs. Review specific Program Announcements carefully.

- **Salary/fringe benefits:**

- Salaries capped between \$75,000 and legislatively mandated cap (currently \$196,700)
- Fringe benefits are over & above any salary cap
- Salary supplementation OK, but must not require extra duties that would interfere with K activities

- **Research/development costs:**

- Generally \$25,000 to \$50,000
- Commonly used for: supplies, equipment, technical personnel, travel to research meetings or training, tuition/fees, computational services





# Common Features: Costs (cont.)

- **Ancillary Personnel Support:**  
Generally **not** allowed--salary for administrative/secretarial support, support for mentors
- **F&A Costs: 8% Rate,**  
Base = Modified Total Direct Costs



# Common Features: Other Income & Changes

- **Other income:**
  - Fees resulting from research activities required by the K award may not be retained by the recipient
  - Royalties and fees may be retained if incidental, not required by research & training activities of the K award, and consistent with grantee institution's policies. Examples: scholarly writing, service on advisory groups, lecturer/speaker fees, fees resulting from clinical practice, professional consulting, or other comparable activities
- **Change of Institution or Mentor:**
  - Requires prior approval in writing of the NIH awarding component; contact NIH staff ASAP!





- “K” awards now electronically submitted using the SF424 (R&R) application package
- See also special instructions in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
- Submission Dates:
  - February 12, June 12, October 12 (new)
  - March 12, July 12, November 12 (renewal, resubmission, revision)
- IC use of Career Awards is variable –

**Read the FOA carefully; call the NIH awarding component with any questions!**





## Electronic Submission involves new business processes

- Reference Ltrs: Submitted directly through the eRA Commons; not as part of the Grants.gov application. Will be matched with application at NIH
- Budget: Now required with application
- Candidate's Biosketch: Now includes “Research Support” section; same as other biosketches used by investigators
- See Notice OD-09-029:  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-029.html>





- K Kiosk – NIH Career Development Awards:  
<http://grants1.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards.htm>
- Career Award Wizard:  
<http://grants1.nih.gov/training/kwizard/index.htm>



Thank You  
Questions?  
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