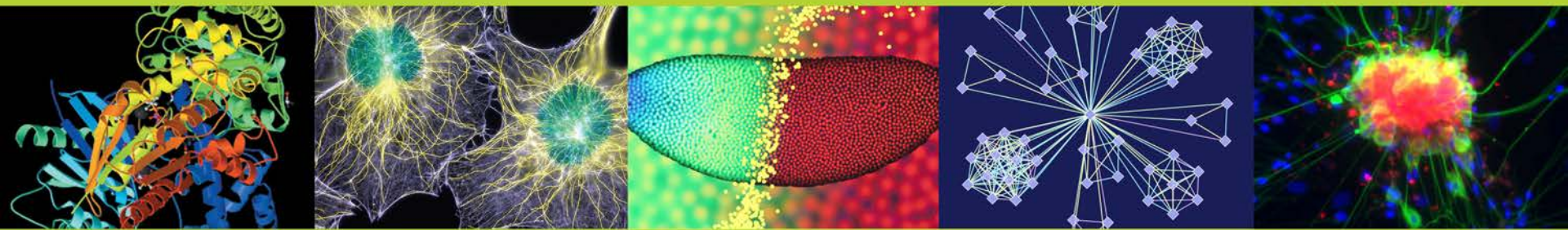


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# Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) Program



# Today's Topics

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- Overview of AREA Program goals
- Differences between the Parent and Undergraduate-Focused Institutions R15 FOA
- Strategies for success



# AREA Program - key features

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- Research Grant mechanism
- 3 year project period
- Up to \$300,000 direct cost over 3 years
- Multiple PIs are allowed, if all are eligible
- 12 page Research Strategy
  - Same criteria scoring as a R01, but different emphasis
- Grants are renewable



- The R15 is funded through
  - a. Parent [PA-18-504](#)
  - b. “Undergraduate-Focused Institutions” FOA [PAR-18-714](#)
- FIC and NCATS do not participate in the AREA program
- Success rates vary across ICs



# AREA program goals (PA-18-504)

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1. Support meritorious research
2. Strengthen research environment of schools that have not been major recipients of NIH support
3. Expose undergraduate &/or graduate students in such environments to meritorious research
  - Exposure means primary research experiences
  - Goal = consider research careers
  - Metric  $\neq$  students eventually get R01



# AREA program goals (PAR-18-714)

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1. Support meritorious research
2. Strengthen research environment of schools that have not been major recipients of NIH support
3. Expose **undergraduate** ~~&/or graduate~~ students in such environments to meritorious research
  - The majority of the research team must be undergraduates
  - Allows graduate student support, but emphasis is on undergraduates



# Intent and Rationale for new FOA

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- To focus on inclusion of undergraduate students
- De-emphasize but not exclude graduate students
- To align with NIGMS mission on training the next generation of scientists



# R15 vs. R01

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- Overall impact of R15 differs from R01
  - Make an important scientific contribution
- Scope is very limited
  - Due to resources both in facilities and personnel
- Must describe research opportunities for students
  - Absent from R01
- Must describe how award will strengthen research environment of the institution
  - Absent from R01





# PI eligibility criteria

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- **The same for both R15 announcements.**
- Primary appointment at eligible institution
- Multiple PI is OK, if all are R15-eligible
- May not have an active NIH grant at time of award
  - Can hold successive New or Renewal grants
  - Can hold a subaward on someone else's NIH grant
  - R15 is intended to be a PI's only NIH research grant
  - Research ≠ conference, training, construction grants



# Can I have an ineligible-collaborator?

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- **Yes!**
- **However....** Be mindful of the intent and unique goals of the R15
  - Majority of research should be directed by PI at grantee institution
  - Student profile & student inclusion are for applicant/eligible component
- **Collaborators add expertise, but be selective**



# Organization eligibility criteria

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- **Parent (PA-18-504)**
- Must award bachelor or advanced degree in biomedical or behavioral sciences
- Total NIH support less than \$6 million per year in 4 of the last 7 years
- Includes support for Health Professional Schools
- Uses the [Ineligibility List](#)



# Organization eligibility differences

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- **Undergraduate-focused institution FOA (PAR-18-714)**
- Health Professional Schools are ineligible to apply.
- Undergraduate student enrollment must be greater than the graduate student enrollment – at the institutional or academic components level
- The research team must be composed primarily of undergraduate students.
- **Requires a signed letter from the Provost verifying eligibility**



# FOA has R15-specific instructions

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- Other Project Information: Facilities and Other Resources
- Biographical sketch
- Research Plan: Research Strategy
- Budget



# The Art of Crafting a R15

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- Scientifically meaningful
  - Interesting questions & publishable data
- Feasible with
  - Resources (facility and personnel)
  - Effort
  - Students
- Appropriate scope
- Describe your environment



# Research Strategy

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- **Should touch each review criteria & program goals**
- Preliminary data not required **for the Parent FOA only**
  - Reviewers can and will evaluate submitted data
- Required to demonstrate appropriateness of project and group, including students
- Description of involvement & supervision of students
  - Different than R01, R21



# How students will be involved?

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- Examples provided in both FOAs
- Perform & troubleshoot experiments
  - Present at (lab) meetings & (campus) conferences
  - (Help) design experiments
  - Collect & analyze data
  - Draft articles
  - Collaborative interactions





# Student involvement should be meaningful

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- Number of students
- Quality of student involvement
  - It is not sufficient to say “there will also be a couple undergrads (with an unspecified or insignificant role)”
  - There should be mention of how students will be recruited to the lab and what type of student (freshman – senior levels).



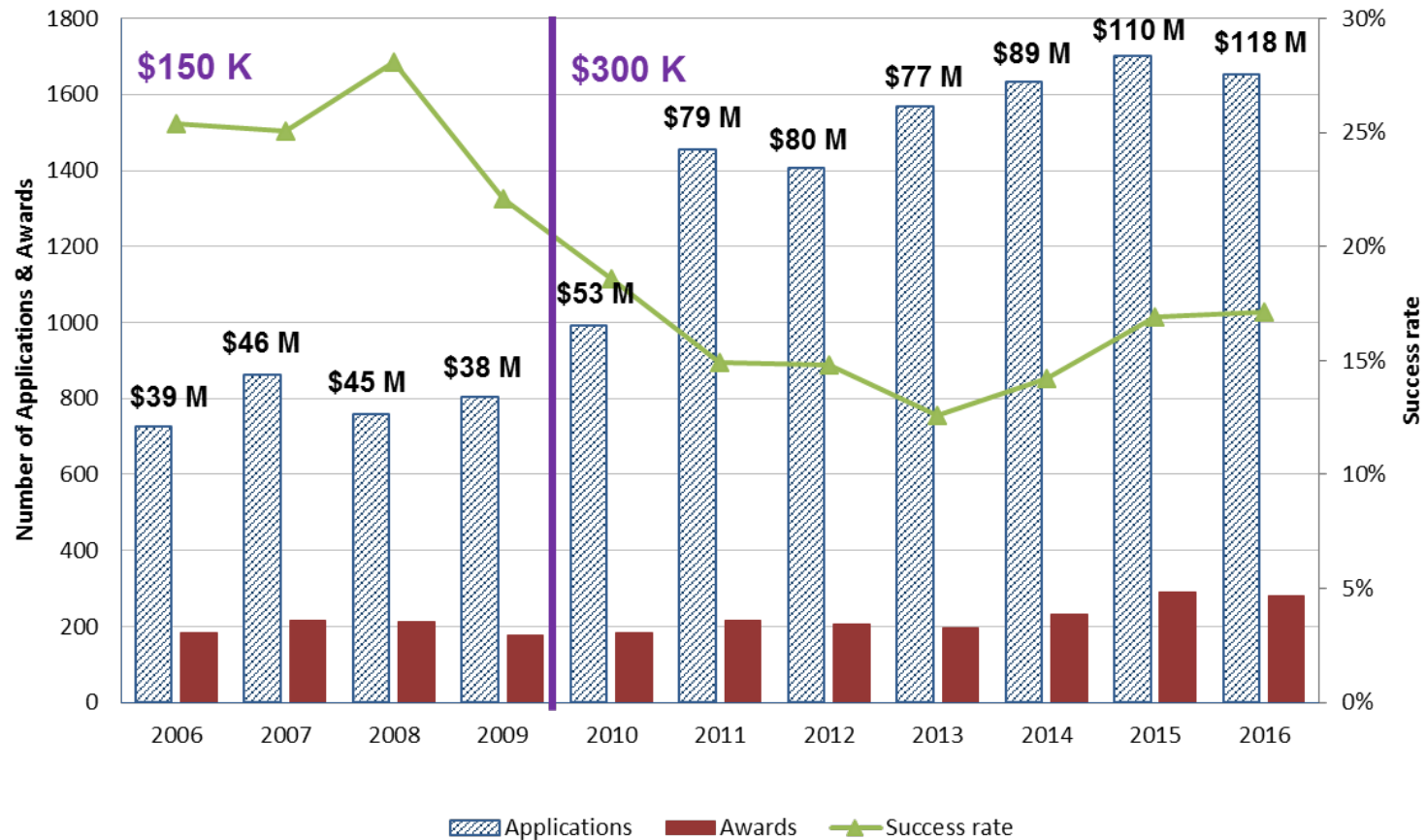
# The Budget

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- No specific restrictions in each category
- Can support a wide range of expenses
  - Student wages
  - Collaborator salaries (subawards)
  - Travel
- Keep R15 criteria in mind
  - Student involvement in primary research
  - Improvement of R15-eligible institution
  - Impact on R15-eligible investigator



# FY 2007-2016 Funding Trends



# When to apply?

Event	Cycle I	Cycle II	Cycle III
Standard Due date (non-AIDS)	<i>February 25</i>	June 25	October 25
AIDS Due Date	May 7	September 7	<i>Jan 7</i>
Scientific Merit Review	June - July	October - November	February - March
Advisory Council Round	October	January	May
Earliest Project Start Date	December *	April	July



# How to identify the right NIH contact ?

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- Colleagues, friends, other researchers in your field
- Look at the acknowledgements section of publications: who funds the work?
- NIH RePORTER searches for funded grants
  - <https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>



# Questions?

