

Questions About ESI Requirements

What constitutes an “Early-Stage Investigator” for CHRP? 17-May

PROGRAM RESPONSE: CHRP uses a modified version of the current NIH definition of early stage investigator: ESI must qualify as such under all aspects of the NIH definition, AND must not have received CHRP funding of any kind as PI. [See NIH definition here <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-stage/index.htm>, and list of NIH grants that a PI can hold and still be considered an ESI at grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/list-smaller-grants.htm]. Potential PIs who have received any CHRP funding as PI (including early stage investigator [ESI] and/or pilot funding) are no longer considered ESI by CHRP and are not eligible to apply for mechanisms that are restricted to ESI only.

Can I apply as ESI if I currently meet the criteria (such as no substantial NIH or CHRP awards as PI, less than ten years from terminal degree or clinical training) and will still qualify at the time of application, but might not qualify at the time of award? 17-May

If you meet the criteria at time of application, you are eligible to apply. For those applications that are selected for funding, as part of the pre-funding process we research each PI to confirm eligibility (such as ESI status) and rule out scientific/budgetary overlap. Any cases of questionable eligibility or overlap that are discovered at that time are resolved on a case-by-case basis. ESI applicants are welcome to email the Program Officer for the RFP they are applying to for further information.

For the ESI Pilot studies, given that T32-funded postdoctoral fellows cannot accept FTE support, would it be acceptable to apply if we are able to commit over 10% time to this project but would be unable to accept FTE support (at least until completion of post-doctoral fellowship years)? 17-May

Potentially; please email the program officer for the RFP you're applying to and request an exception to policy; include details such as you did here.

How will this award affect my eligibility for current or future NIH training awards (mentored training; career transition; pathway to independence; etc.)? 17-May

Please discuss questions that are specific to non-CHRP awards with your institutional officials.

Is citizenship or a specific visa type required for the PI to be eligible to apply?

Neither citizenship nor residency are requirements for edibility for CHRP funds under the four mechanisms offered this year. We recommend checking with your institutional officials whenever issues as important as eligibility arise.

Questions About Funding Decisions

How many proposals will be funded under each mechanism? 17-May

The number of awards to be offered is not predetermined but will depend on the number of meritorious applications received. Broad and non-binding estimates of the number of awards that CHRP might fund are provided in each RFP under "Available Funding, Anticipated Number of Awards".

Questions About Budgeting Details

Do budgets need to allocate funds equivalently across years or can the amount per year be different, as long as the total is less than or equal to the maximum for the cumulative performance period? 17-May

Monies can be unevenly distributed across multiple years in the performance period.

"The PI (and Co-Principal Investigators, if applicable) must commit a minimum of 10%, or 1.2 person-months, of effort in each project year, with support." -- Can this support come from this grant or does it need to come from another source? 17-May

The requirement for 10% effort with support refers to the PI's effort and support as proposed in your application (support coming from this grant). Our intention is to prevent PIs who are already 100% committed from requesting this grant funding and allocating zero support for themselves, yielding low accountability for that PI. If you are currently funded at 90% effort or below, you're fine, and you should commit at least 10% effort and support for yourself in your proposed budget in your application.

Questions About Award Requirements

Can our project include collaborating scientists or stakeholders who are not in California? Can we enroll study subjects in states other than California for purposes of validating measures? 17-May

CHRP requires that funded institutions are located in California, and that study activities take place in California. However, well-justified exceptions can be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please email the program officer for the RFP you are applying to discuss a potential request for an exemption to policy.

Do projects that address non-HIV/SIV agents which are important to the HIV epidemic allowed (tuberculosis; bartonella)? 17-May

The Basic Biomedical and Translational Discovery Awards require an HIV or SIV focus; other agents would be non-responsive to the RFP.

For the LAI PrEP RFP, are there any requirements that projects include agencies across multiple regions across the state? 18-May

There is no such requirement, projects can focus on one or multiple regions of the state.

For the LAI PrEP RFP, are the awards large enough to support a cross-jurisdiction project if we each involve 1-2 traditional settings and 1-2 non-traditional settings? 18-May

There is no limit as to the number or types (traditional or non-traditional) of investigatory sites that could be included in your response. RFP language was meant to encourage respondents to think broadly as to impact. As to the financial support, we have heard that the current funding structure may limit the project scope that some investigators envision. Our suggestion at this point is for LOI responses to include a tiered approach to project scope. This could be done by first focusing on a proposed scope that can be accomplished with the current funding structure, and then briefly explaining how the scope could be expanded with an additional \$1 to \$2 million dollars of funding. An email detailing this was also sent out to all potential grantees on May 19th.