



REVIEW PROCESS Q&A

- **Review Contact: Gerald McLaughlin, Ph.D., Chief, Grant Review Branch, NIDA Office of Extramural Affairs (OEA), 6101 Executive Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20892-8401, 301-402-6626, GMCLAUGHLIN@MAIL.NIH.GOV.**
- **NIDA's OEA will manage the review of applications received in response to RFA DA 06-001, and is the contact group for questions related to review from submission through the time of review.**
- **After the initial review meeting, NIDA Program staff within DESPR are the contacts for applicants.**
- **Average priority scores are usually available several work days after the review, and summary statements are available within six weeks after the review, from Commons or Program staff.**

NIH Websites

- [HTTP://WWW.NIDA.NIH.GOV/FUNDING/FAQS.HTML](http://www.nida.nih.gov/funding/faqs.html)
- [HTTP://GRANTS.NIH.GOV/GRANTS/INTRO2OER.HTM](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/intro2oer.htm)
- [HTTP://GRANTS.NIH.GOV/GRANTS/GRANT_TIPS.HTM](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_tips.htm)
- [HTTP://NCCAM.NIH.GOV/RESEARCH/INSTRUCTIONS/QUICKGUIDE/INDEX.HTM](http://nccam.nih.gov/research/instructions/quickguide/index.htm)
- [HTTP://CMS.CSR.NIH.GOV/PEERREVIEW/MEETINGS/CSRIRGDESCRIPTION/](http://cms.csr.nih.gov/peerreview/meetings/csrirgdescription/)
- [HTTP://CMS.CSR.NIH.GOV/RESOURCESFORAPPLICANTS/POLICYPROCEDURE REVIEW+GUIDELINES/](http://cms.csr.nih.gov/resourcesforapplicants/policyprocedure/review+guidelines/)
- [HTTP://GRANTS.NIH.GOV/GRANTS/PEER/PEER.HTM](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer.htm)
- [HTTP://GRANTS.NIH.GOV/GRANTS/OER.HTM](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm)
- [HTTP://ERA.NIH.GOV/ERANEWS/LATESTPARTNERS.CFM](http://era.nih.gov/eranews/latestpartners.cfm)
- [HTTPS://COMMONS.ERA.NIH.GOV/COMMONS/](https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/)
- [HTTP://CRISP.CIT.NIH.GOV/](http://crisp.cit.nih.gov/)

THE NIH PROCESS OVERVIEW



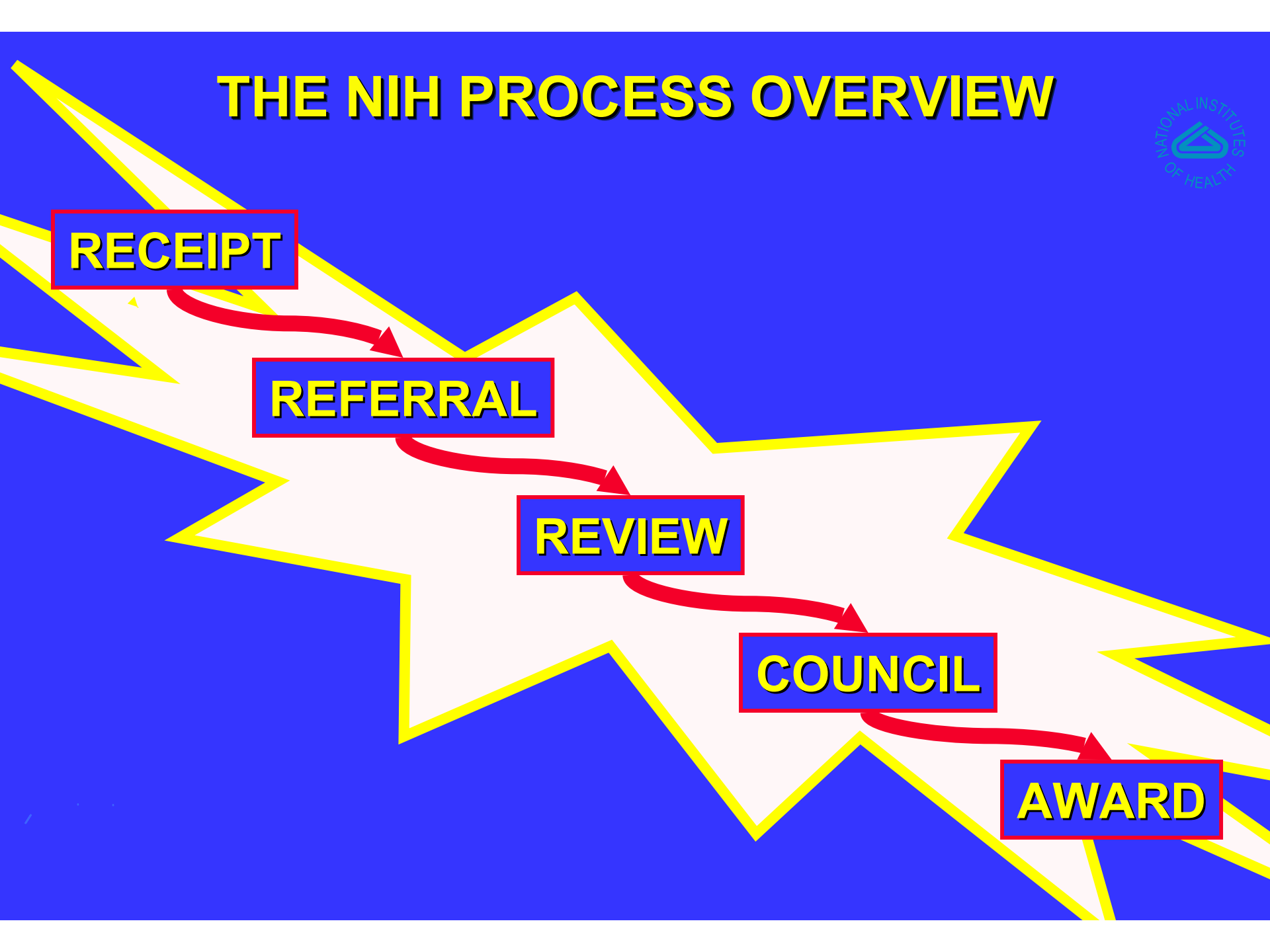
RECEIPT

REFERRAL

REVIEW

COUNCIL

AWARD



SCIENTIFIC REVIEW ADMINISTRATOR



- **Checks applications for completeness and areas of science**
- **Select ad hoc reviewers including Chair**
- **Provide orientation for Scientific Review Group members**
- **Explains and interprets NIH review policy and procedures**
- **Assigns review responsibilities**
- **Manages SRG meetings along with external Chair**
- **Prepares summary statements**
- **Attend council meetings to provide requested information**
- **Communicate with applicants and NIH staff on review matters**
- **IF YOU APPLY, DO NOT SEND SUGGESTED REVIEWERS**

Sources of Information on the Grants Process

The NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) Home Page - Netscape

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.csr.nih.gov/ Search

Site Map | Search | Text Version

National Institutes of Health
Center for Scientific Review

6701 Rockledge Dr. Bethesda, MD 20892

Welcome to CSR

News & Events

Resources For Applicants

Study Section Information

Employment Opportunities

Contact

What's New [more](#)

- ◆ [CSR Annual Report](#)
- ◆ [Images of Peer Review](#)
- ◆ **New Video:** ["Inside the NIH Grant Review Process"](#)
- ◆ [Advice to Investigators Submitting Clinical Research Applications](#)

Hot Links

- ◆ [Study Section Meetings](#)
- ◆ [Rosters](#)
- ◆ [Funding Opportunities](#)

- ◆ [Current Vacancies at CSR](#)
- ◆ [NIH Job Opportunities](#)
- ◆ [Applying For A Federal Job](#)
- ◆ [What Your Resume or Application Must Contain](#)
- ◆ [Status Applicants](#)
- ◆ [CSR Review Internship Program](#)
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Disclaimer & Privacy Statements

Last Update: Sep 04, 2003

**Video of a mock study section meeting
"Inside the Grants Process"
<http://www.csr.nih.gov/video/video.asp>**

Priority Score and Streamlining

- **Priority Score.** After discussions, the Chair instructs each reviewer to record a priority score between 1.0 (perfect) and 5.0 (worst) relative to the RFA. The Priority Score is between 100 and 500, more often between 100 and 250 (see below), a quantitative measure of quality relative to evaluation criteria.
- **Streamlining.** About half of the applications are identified as “in the bottom half” and are “streamlined” with minimal discussion. Applications with a relatively high average numerical score (often 250 and above, depending upon the scoring seen for the initiative) receive an “UN” or “Unscored” ranking; these do not receive a separate SRA-prepared Resume, nor are administrative issues addressed outside of the reviewers’ critiques within the summary statement.

START WITH THE END IN MIND

- Since the SRA asks reviewers to read the RFA, consider the RFA and especially its Review Criteria as you plan, write and re-write.
- Reviewers' critiques are usually written in large part before the review meeting and are posted at a private review website. Critiques usually separately address each of the RFA's Review Criteria.
- Standard Review Criteria for NIH include Significance, Approach, Innovation, Investigators, Environment and Human Subjects issues.
- How are these Evaluation Criteria defined for this particular RFA?



REVIEW CRITERIA for RFA DA 06-001 p. 12

- 1. Significance: Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge of intervention effectiveness and real world practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the provision and receipt of care in community settings? Does this study have sufficient numbers of participants, sufficient numbers of sites, and sufficient site size and diversity to study system-wide assessment of existing or newly adopted therapeutic and/or business policies and practices.**



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- 2. Approach: Is the approach appropriately conceived? Is the approach likely to successfully develop capacity and/or partnerships needed to carry out relevant future studies? Does the applicant exhibit knowledge of and appreciation for the challenges involved in building capacity and conducting research in practice settings? Thus, does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?**

REVIEW CRITERIA RFA DA 06-001 p. 12 (cntd)



- **3. Innovation: Does the applicant acknowledge the complexity of the real world settings, populations, and professions engaged in the study? Does the applicant employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies for both conducting research and establishing research capacity? Will the proposed work improve or advance current community practices and/or inform health policy? How well will the work address the identification and removal of barriers to improvements in community practice and/or health policy? How well are the issues of relapse, comorbidity, developmental stage, gender, culture/ethnicity, and other factors taken into account? How well are organizational, management, and cost factors taken into account? Does the proposed research contribute knowledge that can be applied directly to and by community-based providers?**

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(cntd)



- 4. Investigators: Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work, or does the investigator propose a reasonable partnership with others who are appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project (if applicable)?**

REVIEW CRITERIA RFA DA 06-001 p. 12 (cntd)



- **5. Environment: Does the practice and scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Does the proposed study benefit from unique features of real world practice contexts (e.g. clients, providers, system). Does the proposed study employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support and leadership from all**

REVIEW CRITERIA RFA DA 06-001 p. 12 (cntd)



- **Additional Review Criteria that influence priority scores:**
 - **Protection of Human Subjects from Research Risk (Section E, PHS Form 398).** Define risk/reward, Data Safety Monitoring Plan. Status of, IRB process (can be just in time but plan should be there if needed)
 - **Inclusions: Women, Minorities, Children;** describe and justify study population.
 - **Vertebrate Animals: N/A**
 - **Biohazards: Risks to researchers and others, if applicable.**
- **Review Considerations not influencing priority SCORES:** Budget, Data Sharing Plan, Sharing Research Resources. Still, disconnects can relate to other scored criteria.



Review Questions Received from Attendees

- **1. Are experimental/quasi-experimental research designs required, encouraged and scored higher than observational studies? What is the desired balance between assessing client outcomes and detailed study/description of program enhancement strategies?**
- **2. How to develop rigorous research designs when random assignments is not an option?**
- **3. What is the benefit of sending the letter of intent?**
- **4. I would like to see a detailed explanation of the type of evaluation expected considering the money?**
- **5. Structure of NIH research application? Budget development?**

Review Questions Received from Attendees (cntd)

- **6. In the case of smaller CBO's...under what circumstances are studies of our specific programs and processes general enough to provide the desired payoff to science and public health?**
- **7. Will review criteria be any different than for more research institute oriented programs of the past (i.e. university based vs. provider based)?**
- **8. What has made other applicants successful in the past?**
- **9. Is the focus more on practice driven or experimental design research?**
- **10. Will demographics of study groups be an important consideration of award criteria?**
- **11. How much weight will be given to research methodology knowledge of the applicant?**

The NIH Extramural Team

