

The art of picking an NIH funding mechanism

Which fruit will feed me?

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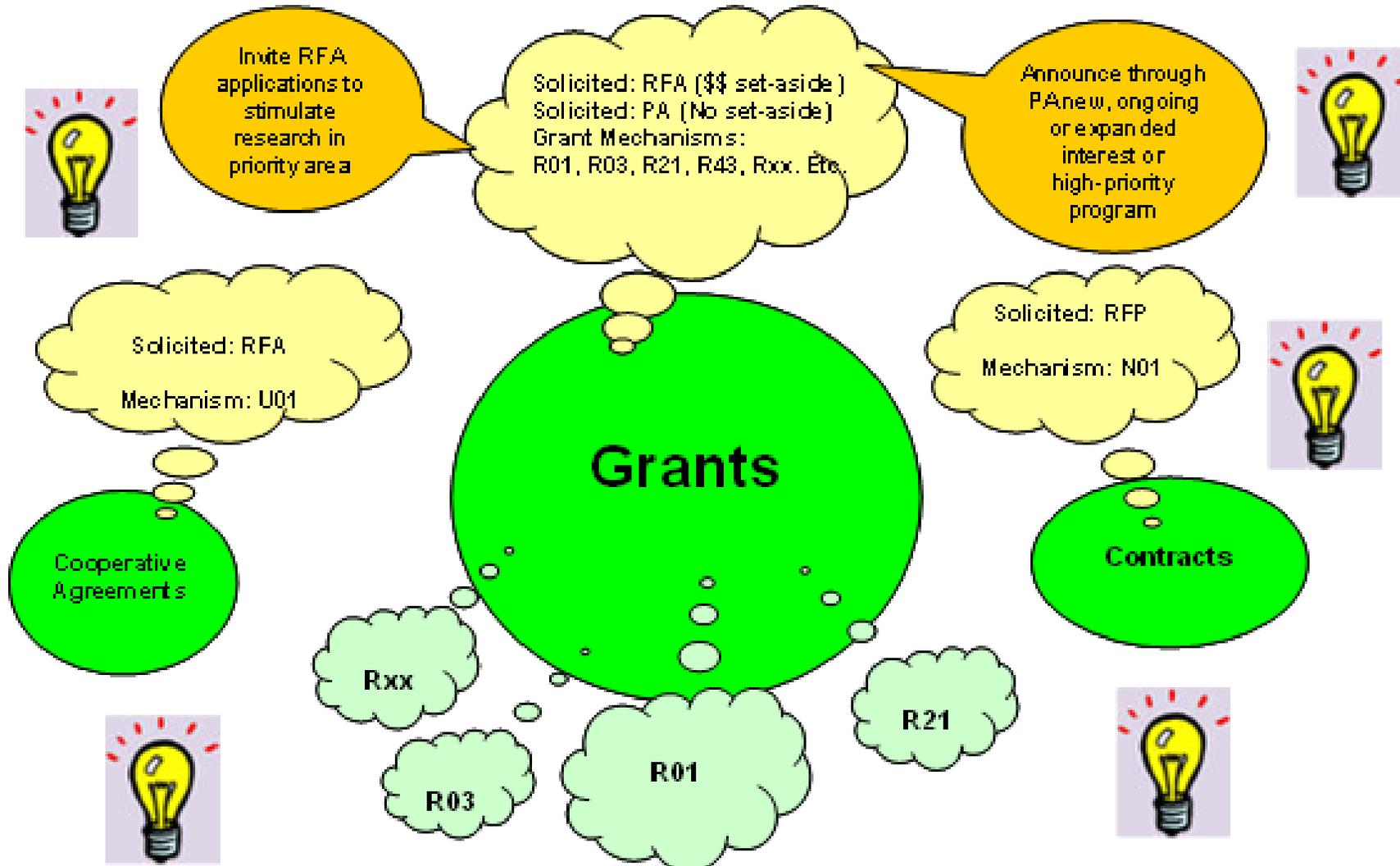
Hosted by MT-DIRC; August 31, 2015

Outline

- ▶ Overview of the different NIH mechanisms
- ▶ Tips for choosing
- ▶ Perspectives from Reviewers
- ▶ Q&A

Mechanisms

- ▶ **Grant:** Investigator decides the research to be designed or developed and the approach.
- ▶ **Contract:** Government decides the research to fill their perceived need and establishes detailed requirements.
- ▶ **Cooperative Agreement:** Similar to grants, but awarding Institute/Center (IC) and recipient have substantial involvement in carrying out the project's activities.



UNSOLICITED
 Investigator-initiated Research
 "Cornerstone of NIH Research Portfolio"



R03: Overview

NIH Small Grant Program (R03):

- ▶ Provides limited funding for a short period of time to support a variety of types of projects
- ▶ Limited to two years of funding
- ▶ Direct costs generally up to \$50,000 per year
- ▶ Not renewable
- ▶ Utilized by more than half of the NIH ICs
- ▶ See parent FOA: [PA-13-304](#)

R03: Scope

Examples of the types of projects that ICs support with the R03 include the following:

- ▶ Pilot or feasibility studies
- ▶ Secondary analysis of existing data
- ▶ Small, self-contained research projects
- ▶ Development of research methodology
- ▶ Development of new research technology

R21: Overview

NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award (R21)

- ▶ Encourages new, exploratory and developmental research projects by providing support for the early stages of project development. Sometimes used for pilot and feasibility studies.
- ▶ Limited to up to two years of funding
- ▶ Combined budget for direct costs for the two year project period usually may not exceed \$275,000.
- ▶ No preliminary data is generally required
- ▶ Most ICs utilize
- ▶ See parent FOA: [PA-13-303](#)

R21: Scope

- ▶ Exploratory, novel studies that break new ground or extend previous discoveries toward new directions or applications.
- ▶ High risk high reward studies that may lead to a breakthrough in a particular area, or result in novel techniques, agents, methodologies, models or applications that will impact biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research.
- ▶ Projects should be distinct from those supported through the traditional R01 mechanism.

Projects of limited cost or scope that use widely accepted approaches and methods are better suited for the R03 small grant mechanism

R34: Overview

NIH Clinical Trial Planning Grant (R34) Program

- ▶ Designed to permit early peer review of the rationale for the proposed clinical trial and support development of essential elements of a clinical trial
- ▶ Usually project period of one year, sometimes up to three years
- ▶ Usually, a budget of up to \$100,000 direct costs, sometimes up to \$450,000
- ▶ Used only by select ICs; no parent FOA

R34: Scope

The NIH Planning Grant Program (R34) provide support for the initial development of a clinical trial or research project. This program may support:

- ▶ establishment of the research team,
- ▶ development of tools for data management and research oversight
- ▶ development of a trial design or experimental research designs
- ▶ finalization of the protocol
- ▶ preparation of an operations/procedures manual
- ▶ pilot studies or collection of feasibility data for subsequent research projects*

*When used as a planning grant for clinical trials, this program is not designed for the collection of preliminary data or the conduct of pilot studies to support the rationale for a clinical trial.

R01: Overview

NIH Research Project Grant Program (R01)

- ▶ Used to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed research project
- ▶ NIH's most commonly used grant program
- ▶ No specific dollar limit unless specified in FOA
- ▶ Advance permission required for \$500K or more (direct costs) in any year
- ▶ Generally awarded for 3 -5 years
- ▶ All ICs utilize
- ▶ See parent FOA: [PA-13-302](#)

R01: Application Characteristics

- ▶ Applications are generally awarded for 1 - 5 budget periods, each normally 12 months in duration.
- ▶ Applications can be renewed by competing for an additional project period.
- ▶ Supplements and amendments are allowed.
- ▶ Multiple resubmissions are allowed.
- ▶ The Research Plan of an application for an R01 award must follow the instructions provided in SF424 (R&R) Application Guide, at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm>

Tips for Choosing

- ▶ Match to the scope/research questions being addressed
- ▶ Search RePORTER
- ▶ Reach out to the Program Officials (David to add examples of “asks”)
- ▶ D&I PARs
- ▶ Other content-specific FOAs with D&I focus/flavor
- ▶ ICs can have overlapping research priorities and multiple ICs may sponsor a particular FOA
- ▶ If you do not see an FOA specific to your area of interest in the NIH Guide or on an IC Web site, use one of the “Parent” FOAs to develop an investigator-initiated application
- ▶ Read the FOA carefully for any special review criteria or special application instructions before writing your application

▶ Berg et al (2007). Demystifying the NIH Grant Process, Journal of General Internal Medicine, 22(11):1587-95. DOI: 10.1007/s11606-007-0301-6

▶ http://grants.nih.gov/grants/planning_application.htm#search

Discussion

