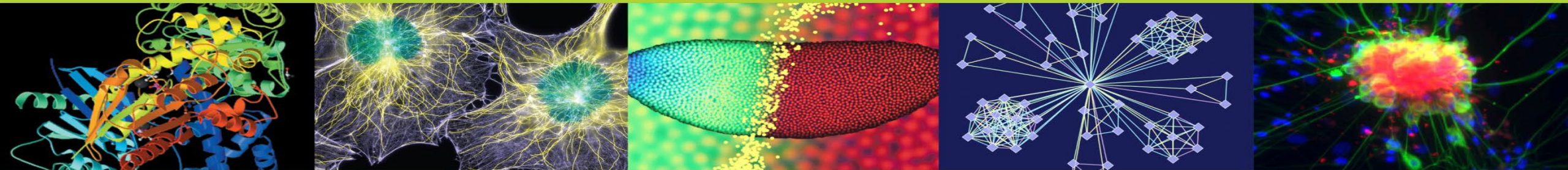# Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA, R35)

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University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Two Distinct MIRA Funding Opportunities

ESI MIRA

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-23-145.html

Established Investigator / New Investigator MIRA

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-22-180.html

Useful resources at the NIGMS MIRA webpage

https://nigms.nih.gov/Research/mechanisms/MIRA

Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) replaces Funding Opportunities Announcements (FOAs)

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Key Elements of the MIRA Concept

- A single NIGMS grant per PI to provide support for the NIGMS-related research in an investigator's lab, reduced administrative burden

- Five-year funding, flexibility in future research directions, higher stability

- PI relinquishes other NIGMS support with some exceptions, e.g., resource, training, small business grants

- Award levels based on current support

- Renewals – lower application numbers, higher success rates, flexible funding levels

Eligibility for EI/NI MIRA (PAR-22-180)

New applications converted from a qualifying award

- A single-PI R01-equivalent GM award (DP1, DP2, R01, R37, SC1, NRMN U01)
- By the end of the fiscal year following the one in which your qualifying award was originally set to expire (NCE has no effect on eligibility time window)
- A PD/PI may have more than one qualifying award

New applications from New Investigators (always talk to us before applying)

- A PD/PI working in NIGMS mission
- Not a project leader on a multi-component award from NIH (except for NIGMS COBRE, IDeA-CTR, and NARCH)
- ESIs should apply through the ESI MIRA NOFO, PAR-23-145 .

Renewal applications

- Both EI MIRAs and ex-ESI MIRAs will be renewed through this FOA
- By the end of the 2nd fiscal year following the one in which your current MIRA was originally set to expire

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Eligibility for ESI MIRA (PAR-23-145)

PIs need to meet the following requirements

- proposes research in an area within the NIGMS mission
- has an ESI status = 'Yes' in eRA Commons
- has an independent research appointment at an eligible organization

Only single PD/PI applications are allowed

Foreign institutions are not eligible

Early Stage Investigator (ESI): A PD/PI who has completed their terminal research degree or **end of post-graduate clinical training** (whichever date is later) within the **past 10 years** and **who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award.**

ESI status may be extended upon request for family care responsibilities, extended training, disability or illness, active military service, and certain other reasons

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Receipt and Review Dates for MIRA Applications

EI/NI

Receipt date	Jan 17, 2023	May 16, 2023	Jan 16, 2024	May 16, 2024	Jan 16, 2025	May 16, 2025
Scientific review	July 2023	Nov 2023	July 2024	Nov 2024	July 2025	Nov 2025
Council	Oct 2023	Jan 2024	Oct 2024	Jan 2025	Oct 2025	Jan 2026
Start date	Dec 2023	April 2024	Dec 2024	April 2025	Dec 2025	April 2026

ESI

Receipt date	Oct 3, 2023	Feb 1, 2024	Oct 3, 2024	Feb 3, 2025	Oct 3, 2025	Feb 3, 2026
Scientific review	March 2024	July 2024	March 2025	July 2025	March 2026	July 2026
Council	May 2024	Oct 2024	May 2025	Oct 2025	May 2026	Oct 2026
Start date	July 2024	Dec 2024	July 2025	Dec 2025	July 2026	Dec 2026

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Distinct Features of MIRA Applications

Features of MIRA Applications
- No specific aims: flexible to follow new research directions
- Scientific topics: within the scientific mission of NIGMS
        (https://www.nigms.nih.gov/about-nigms/who-we-are/overview)
        (If you need more help, visit NIGMS Staff contact page to find a PO for further discissions)
- Research strategy: 6 pages (background, recent progress, future research)
- Biosketch: tailored
- Budget request: A single line of budget for each year, no detailed budget

Most Common Page Allotment
(6 pages for research strategy)

Background and key knowledge gaps
- One to one and half pages

Recent progress by the PD/PI
- One to one and half pages
- Focus on the past five years

Overview of future research
- Three to four pages. No experimental details

Note that this is different from your R01 components: significance, innovation, approach
Preliminary data not expected or required per PAR-23-145 (apply early, new res directions)
ESIs can submit both R01 and R35/MIRA applications on overlapping science (not R15, R21)

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Biosketches

Personal Statement

- Tailored to the unique attributes and requirement of MIRA
- Service to the scientific community (beyond your institutional duties)
- List current and completed projects from the past 3 years
- If preferred, list factors that affected your past productivity, such as family care responsibilities illness, disability, military service

Contributions to Science

- Focus on the past five years (but is not "limited to")
- Within the NIGMS mission (emphasized in the FOA)
- Supported by NIGMS (emphasized in the FOA)
- List grant citations as acknowledged in the publications (emphasized)

New requirement about biosketch and other support

- Include a link to your My NCBI list of publications, no hypertext anywhere else
- An independent attachment of current and pending support required for EI/NI only

A PEDP Is Required for MIRA Applications

A Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspective (PEDP)
- A summary of strategies to increase the merit of research via inclusivity
- A one-page attachment required for all applications (will return appl if missing)
- A scorable criterion at scientific review

Please Refer to the NIH Brain Initiative Webpage for Additional Information
- General Description (Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP) | Brain Initiative (nih.gov)
- Key Elements and Examples (PEDP Key Elements and Examples | Brain Initiative (nih.gov)
- Frequently Asked Questions (PEDP Frequently Asked Questions | Brain Initiative (nih.gov)

A Data Management and Sharing Plan is Required

A data management and sharing plan (DMSP) is required since 01/25/2023

Follow [SF424 guidelines](#) with the following additional instructions

- All applicants planning research (funded by NIH) that results in the generation of scientific data are required to comply with the instructions for the DMSP.
- All applications, regardless of the amount of direct costs requested for any one year, must address a DMSP.
- This attachment must be uploaded under "**Other Plan(s)**"

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Letter of Support for ESI MIRA (PAR-23-145)

A letter of support must be included for ESI MIRA applications
- From the department chair, dean, or other academic unit leader
- Institutional commitment to the development of the investigator

Start-up packages and other institutional research support
Space available to the PD/PI
Salary support commitment
Skills and career development opportunities
Mentoring during the promotion and tenure process
Career advancement prospects for non-tenure track applicants

Applications will be withdrawn without review if the letter is missing

Budget request: $250,000 in annual direct cost, inclusive of equipment

MIRA Budget Request

- Follow budget instructions outlined in the NOFOs
- No detailed budget (only DC, F&A, Total Costs for each year)
- **No inflationary escalations (per NIH policy)**
- Equipment purchase with the $750K budget limit (EI/NI)
- No prior approval required if annual DC over $500K
- ESI MIRA cap at $250K includes equipment and consortium
- In Section F "Other Direct Costs": Must add line item titled <u>Data Management and Sharing Costs</u>; enter "0" in "Funds Requested" column. Excluding this will cause an ERROR msg to prevent submission
- Any funds requested for DMS will be included under "Requested Direct Costs" (also in Section F).
- Pay attention to guide notice associated with the NOFO when you are preparing your application (guide notice > NOFO > SF424 instructions)

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PD/PI Minimum Effort Requirement

- PD/PI is required to devote at least 51% of the PD/PI's total research effort to MIRA

- Total research effort should include the PD/PI's combined research effort at all institutions where the PD/PI holds an appointment

- Express effort in person-months

- NIGMS staff will verify the MIRA research effort requirement met by using the Other Support documentation and will exclude support for which the purpose is education, training or enhancing workforce diversity.

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Review Information

Applications are reviewed at Study Sections organized by CSR

- MRAA (https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/MGG/MRAA)
- MRAB (https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/MBBC/MRAB)
- MRAC (https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/CDB/MRAC)
- MRAD (https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/CDB/MRAD)
- MRAE (https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/MBBC/MRAE)
- MRAF (https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/DBIB/MGG/MRAF)
- SEPs as needed

Panels review only MIRA applications

Majority of applications are discussed

Applications are reviewed relative to the PI's career stage, (e.g., applications from ex-ESIs are clustered together)

An overall impact score provided, no individual criterion scores

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible if all my NIGMS research funding come from several MPI R01s?

No. The qualifying award must be a single-PI R01 or equivalent.

Why are letters from collaborators not encouraged?

Flexibility of MIRA research (specific techniques, reagents).

Consortium will be rare and extremely well justified.

Can I submit again if my application does not review well?

Yes, if eligible. Subsequent applications will be A0s.

Why are A1s NOT accepted?

The review should focus on the scientific merit instead of responsiveness to the previous review.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if my T2A0 doesn't score well?

Don'ts

- Do not submit an T2A1 application. It will be a T1A0.

- Do not talk about the previous review in your new application.

- Do not include an introduction page.

- Do not include a progress report publication list.

Dos

- Cite publications in Biosketch under contributions to science (5 areas with 4 papers under each, with grant #s).

- Report progress in section II under Research Strategy: "recent progress by the PD/PI which focuses on the past 5 years."

Frequently Asked Questions (Cont'd)

What are the common reasons for applications to be withdrawn?

- Proposing research outside the scientific mission of NIGMS

- Missing the required attachment of "Current and Pending Support"

- Missing the required attachment of PEDP

- Unallowable hypertext (Hyperlinks and URLs) in application

- Specific aims included in the application

- Overstuffing: unallowable information in non-page limited sections

- Ineligible Status

   Conversion of R01-equivalent GM award(s) to MIRA: 1 FY beyond expiration
   Renewal of MIRA: 2 FYs beyond expiration
   ESI status expired/Receiving R01-equivalent before review

Questions?

Disclaimer: Please note the webinar is only a brief introduction to the MIRA programs. PIs are encouraged to read the NOFO and FAQs and watch the webinar for detailed information before you write your application.