NIH Loan Repayment Plan Grant Writing Workshop

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September 27th, 2024

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Objectives

- Provide an overview of the NIH LRP Program as an opportunity for early research career investigators
- Discuss the eligibility & application requirements for the LRP Program
- Discuss the “nuts & bolts” of getting started on the application
- Identify UCI & other resources to support LRP applications

Presenters & Planners

Dr. Connie Rhee

Dr. Vincent Caiozzo

Dr. Ruth Mulnard

Dr. Joshua Macopson-Jones

Dr. Rachel Nordberg

Ms. Brooke Piercy

Ms. Yzabella Nardo

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OVERVIEW OF LRP

What is the LRP?

- Established by Congress to recruit and retain health professionals into research careers.
- Provides direct repayment of up to **$50,000** annually of a researcher's educational debt in return for commitment to conducting NIH-mission relevant research (up to $100,000 total).
  - Annual amount may be lower than this.
- Duration:
  - New award = 1-2 years
  - Renewal award duration = 1-2 years.

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Traditional LRP categories

Clinical Research	• Patient-oriented research w/ human subjects or materials of human origin on causes & consequences of disease in humans • Accepted and reviewed by all participating NIH ICs
Pediatric Research	• Research related to diseases or disorders in children • Basic research allowed • Accepted and reviewed by all participating NIH ICs
Health Disparities Research	• Research focusing on minority & and other health disp. pop. • Basic, clinical, social and behavioral research allowed • Accepted and reviewed by all participating NIH ICs
Contraception & Infertility Research	• Research focusing on conditions impacting ability to conceive/ bear children & provide methods of preventing pregnancy • Applications reviewed solely by NICHD
Clinical Research DB	• Same as Clinical Research LRP • Available for researchers from disadvantaged backgrounds • Applications reviewed solely by NIMHD

STATS ON THE LRP

Submitted & funded applications

Programs Overview

NIH LRP Report ID: 500 Share

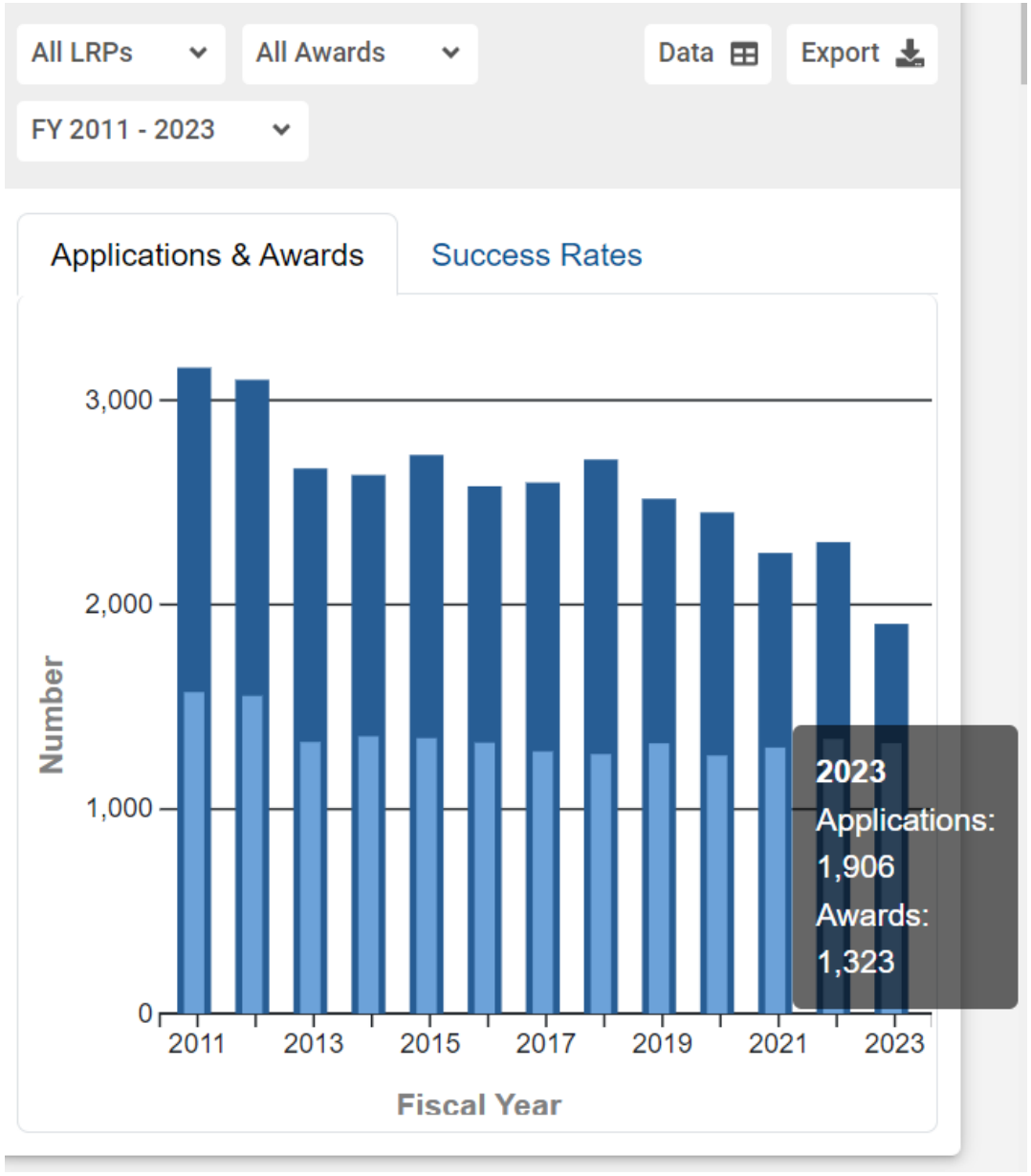
All LRPs | All Awards | Data | Export

FY 2011 - 2023

Number of Applications	Number of Awards	Success Rate
33,611	17,584	52%

Mean Award	Mean Age of Awardees	Total Funding
$56,412	37 Years	$991,946,952

Trends in submitted & funded applications

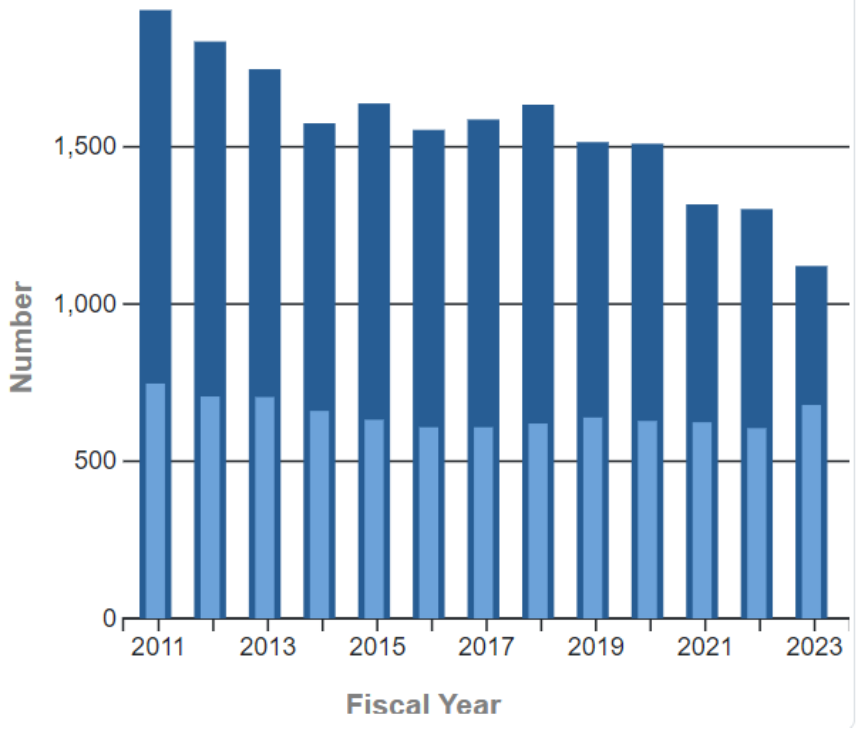


Trends in submitted & funded applications: New vs. renewal

All LRPs | New | Data | Export

FY 2011 - 2023

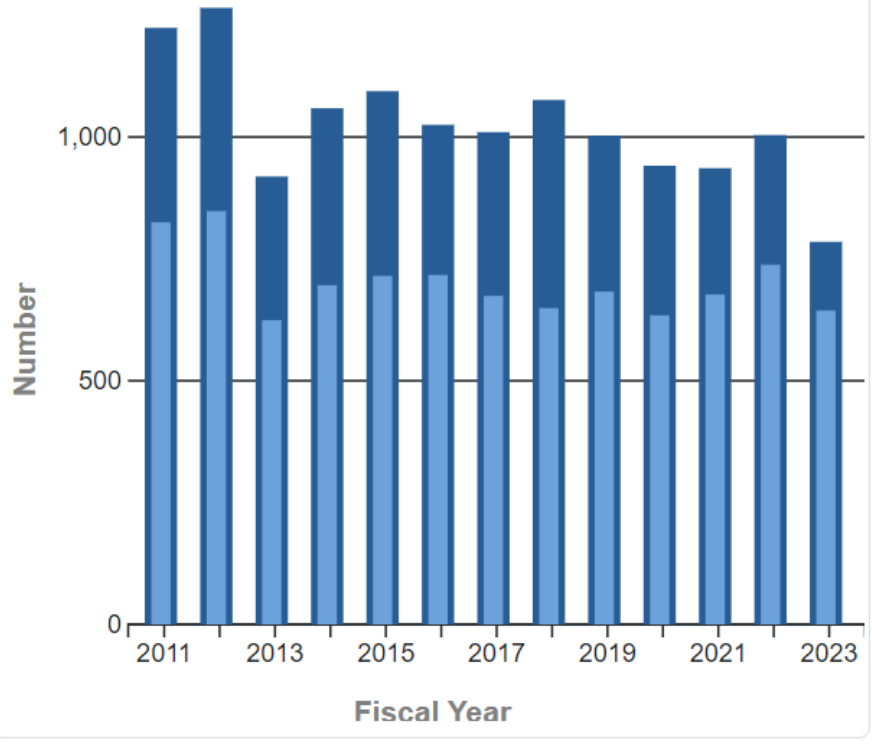
Applications & Awards | Success Rates



All LRPs | Renewal | Data | Export

FY 2011 - 2023

Applications & Awards | Success Rates

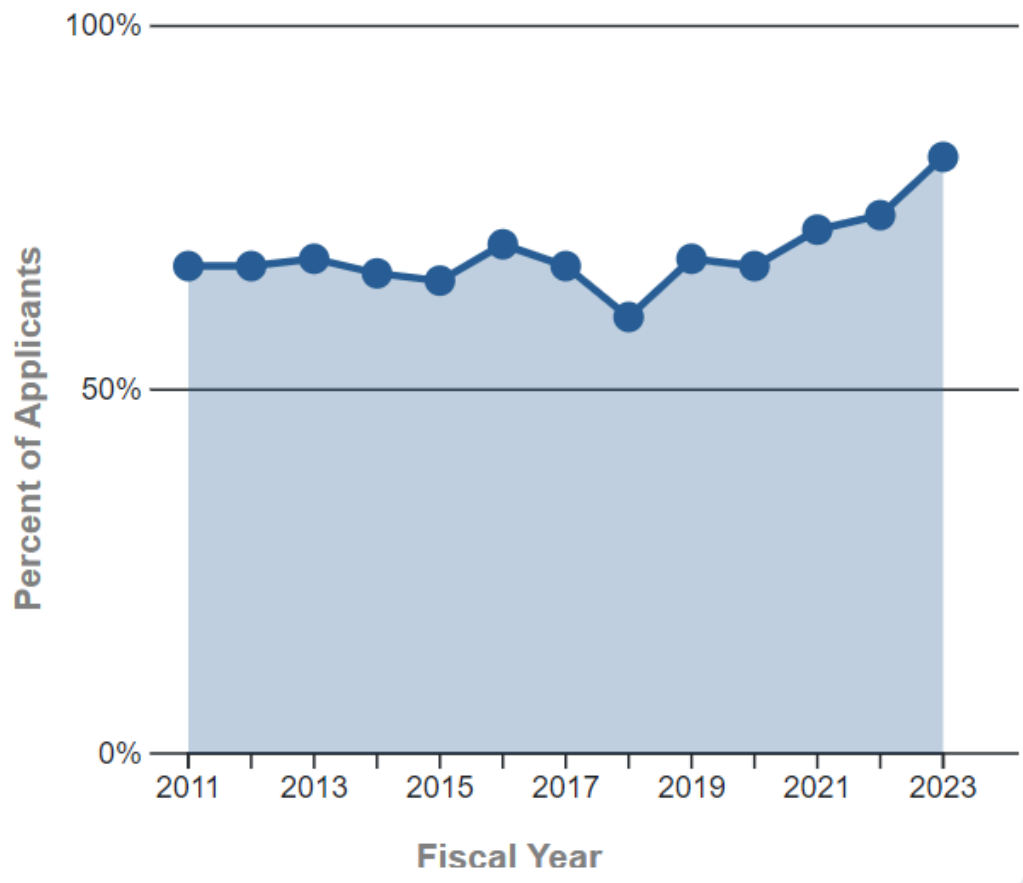


Success Rates

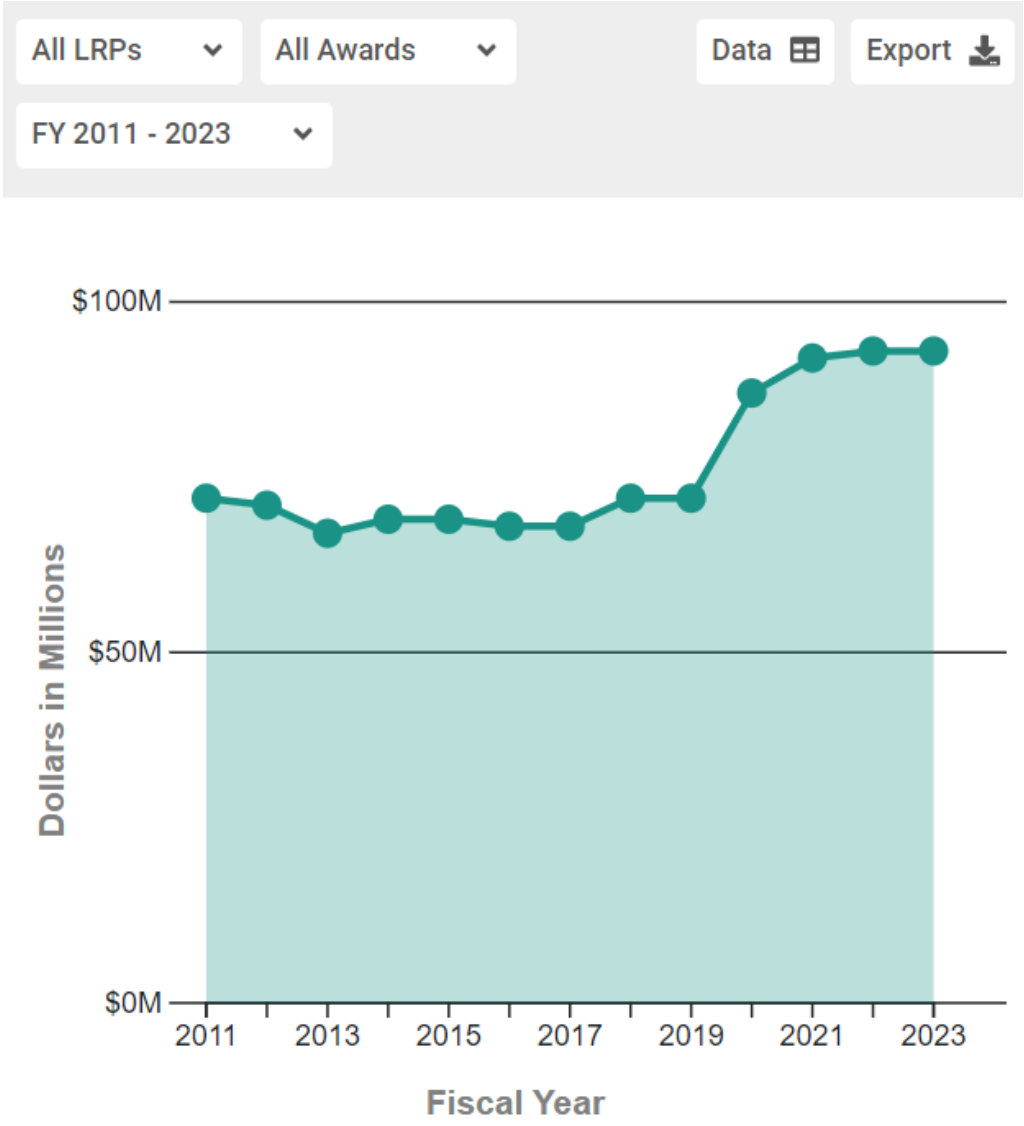
All LRPs | Renewal | Data | Export

FY 2011 - 2023

Applications & Awards | Success Rates



Trends in LRP funding

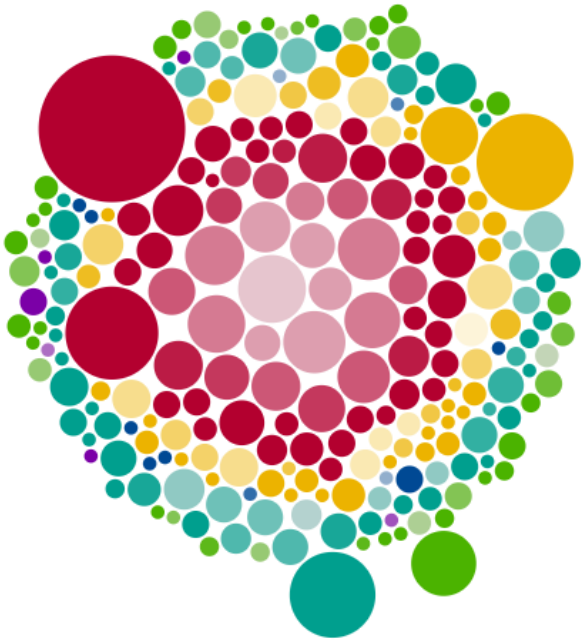


Funding by LRP category

All LRPs | All Awards | Data | Export

FY 2023

- Clinical Research (Clin)
- Pediatric Research (Ped)
- Contraception and Infertility Research (CIR)
- Health Disparities Research (HD)
- Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds
- Research in Emerging Areas Critical to Human Health (REACH)

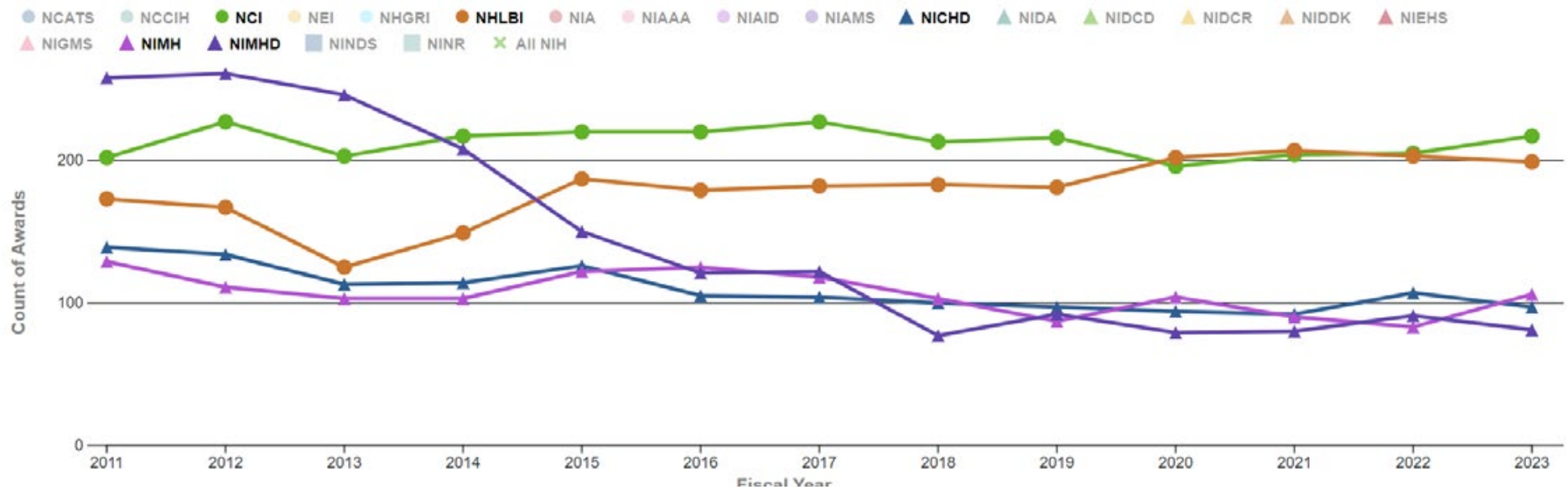


Funding by NIH institute

Awards by Institutes and Centers

NIH LRP Report ID: 505 Share

All LRPs | All Awards | FY 2011 - 2023 | Export

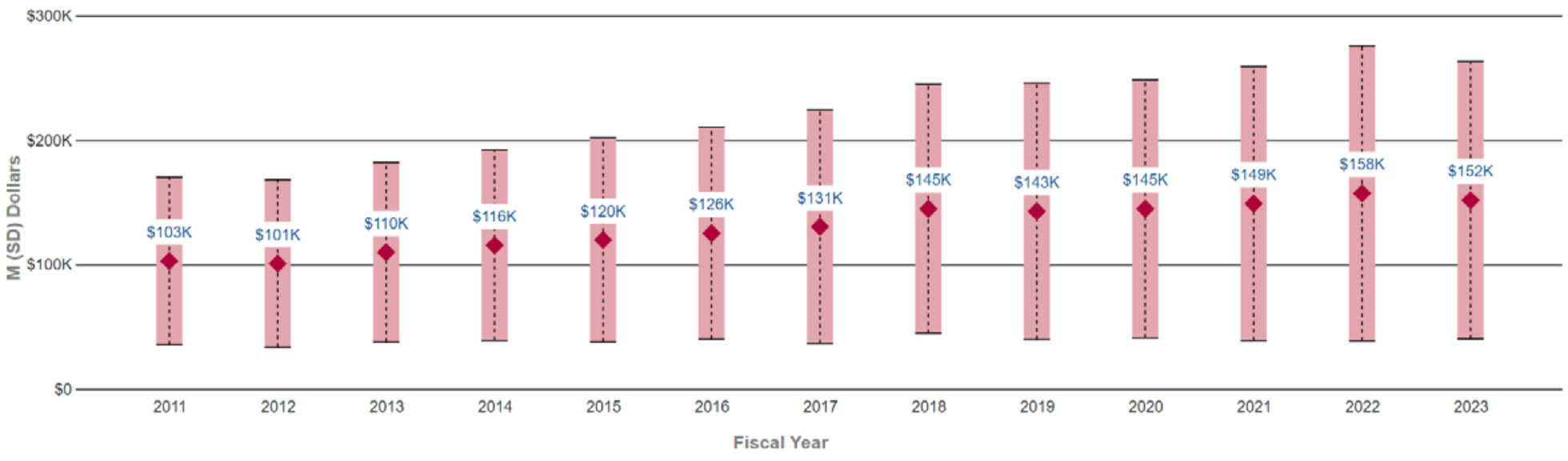


Mean educational debt of awardees

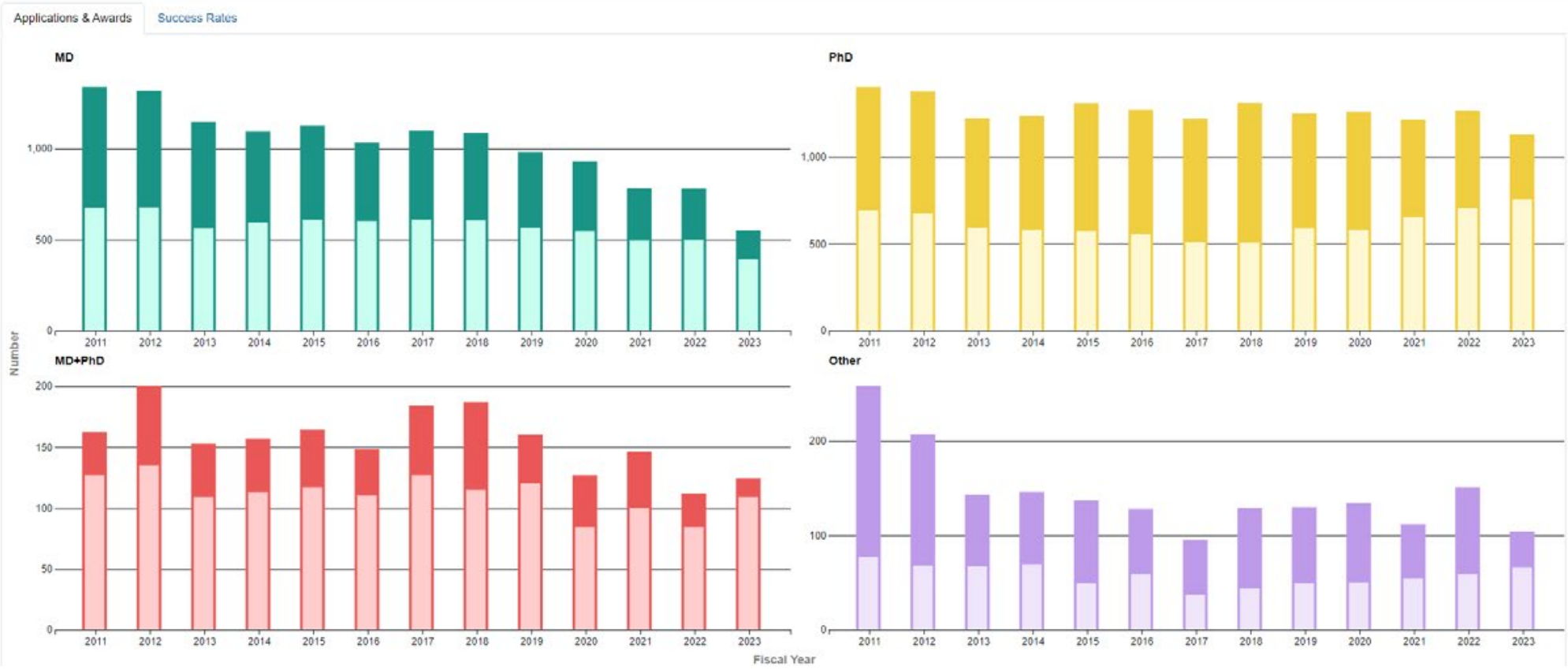
Mean Awardee Educational Debt Overall

NIH LRP Report ID: 503 Share

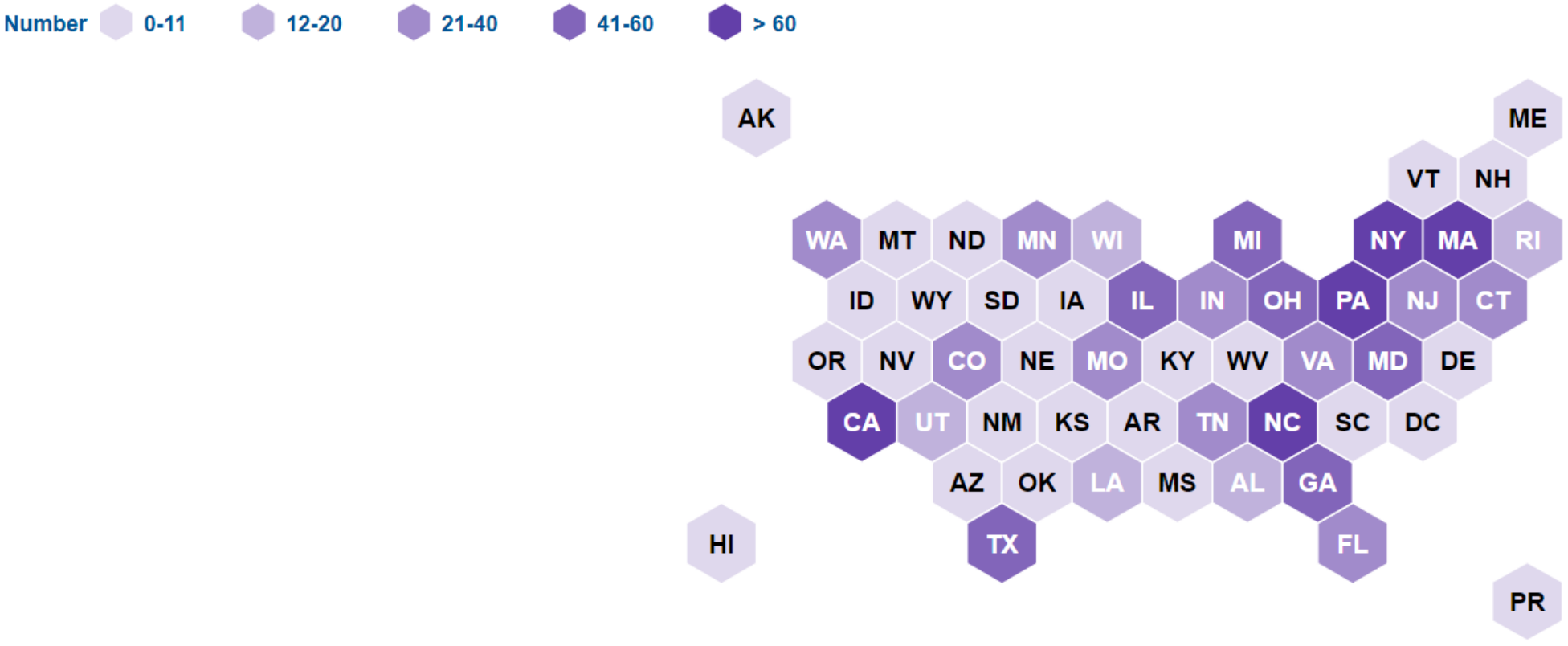
All LRPs | New | FY 2011 - 2023 | Export



Awardee training backgrounds



Awards by state



IMPORTANT DATES & LRP ELIGIBILITY

Mark your calendars!

Application Periods and Documentation Deadlines

Extramural New & Renewal Awards

Online Application Period
Sep 1, 2024 - Nov 21, 2024

Supporting Documentation Period
Sep 1, 2024 - Nov 21, 2024

Intramural New & Renewal Awards

Online Application Period
Jan 2, 2025 - Mar 17, 2025

Supporting Documentation Period
Jan 2, 2025 - Mar 17, 2025

Intramural ACGME New Awards

Online Application Period
Jan 2, 2025 - Apr 15, 2025

Supporting Documentation Period
Jan 2, 2025 - Apr 15, 2025

Application cycle

September 1 – November 21	Application Cycle Open
November 21	Application, IBO & Colleague Deadline
Jan – May	Application Review
May	IC Initial Selections
May – July	Financial Vetting and Verifications
Mid-July – August	Final Funding Decisions/ Notification
November	First Lender Payments

Basic LRP criteria

Doctoral Degree

M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent

*Exception: Contraception & Infertility Research LRP

Research Funding

Research Funding Domestic nonprofit, university, or government org

*NIH grant support NOT required

Educational Loan Debt

Amount owed at least 20 percent of applicant's annual income

Research Time

Research time at least 20 hours/week

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

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Read the details of eligibility!

- U.S. citizen, U.S national, or permanent resident of the U.S. by the LRP award start date.
- Must have total qualified educational debt equal to or in excess of 20 percent of institutional base salary at the time of award (i.e., 20% debt-to-income requirement).
- Must engage in qualified research for ≥20 hours/week over entire contract period. Of note, I have been advised that there is a high financial penalty for the awardee if this component is not fulfilled (i.e., higher than that of the payback requirements T32 awardees).
- Based on the above, postdoctoral research fellows in addition to early-career faculty are potentially eligible.
- Cannot be employed by a federal government agency, other than NIH, with a work schedule of more than 20 hours per week (5/8ths time or more).
- Cannot be a current recipient of an NIH Intramural Research Training Award or a Cancer Research Training Award.

A note about the award formula…

New Award Formula

Repayments for all new Extramural and Intramural LRP awards are calculated by using the eligible educational debt at the contract start date. The amount awarded is equal to one-fourth of the total eligible debt, up to $50,000, for each year of the award. To receive the maximum amount of $50,000 per year, awardees must have at least $200,000 in eligible educational debt at the contract start date.

While the same formula is used to calculate LRP benefits for ACGME fellows, the annual repayment cap is $20,000 for ACGME fellows. To receive the maximum amount of $20,000 per year, ACGME fellows must have at least $80,000 in eligible education debt at the contract start date.

Payments are made on a quarterly basis, starting with the loan with the highest priority per NIH guidelines. If a loan is paid-in-full before the end of the awardee's contract, payments will be directed to the loan with the next highest priority.

A note about the award formula…

Renewal Award Formula

Repayments for a renewal award are calculated using the remaining eligible educational debt as of the start date of the renewal award. The amount awarded is equal to one-half of the remaining eligible debt, up to $50,000. If the remaining eligible educational debt is less than $10,000, then the amount awarded is equal to the full amount of the remaining eligible debt.

Payments are made on a quarterly basis, starting with the loan with the highest priority per NIH guidelines. If a loan is paid-in-full before the end of a contract, payments will be directed to the loan with the next highest priority. An applicant for a renewal award must have remaining eligible educational debt of at least $2,000 to apply for a renewal.

A renewal award may only be for one year for Intramural awardees, while it may be for one or two years for extramural awardees. If a two-year renewal is awarded, the amount awarded during the second renewal year is equal to one-half of the remaining eligible debt at the end of the first renewal year, up to $50,000.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Application components

- Online application form
- 3-5 reference letters; 1 letter must be provided by the research mentor
- Certification of US citizenship by institution's business official
- Research Abstract (2000 characters)
- Research Activities (8-page limit)
- Training and Mentoring Plan (2-page limit)
- Research Environment (1-page limit)
- NIH Biosketch (5-page limit)
- Personal Statement (1-page limit)
- Research Accomplishments, for Renewal Applicants (2-page limit)

Major components

Research Activities

- ✓ “Research Strategy”
- ✓ Include milestones & timelines

Training and Mentoring/Career Development Plan

- ✓ How your activities will foster the development of your research career
- ✓ Include timelines

Training/Mentoring & Career Development Plan

Mentored Applicants:

- ✓ What skills, etc. do you need to acquire along your path to independent researcher?
- ✓ Include plans for training and professional development opportunities: Grant workshops/submissions, publications, conference attendance, regular meetings with mentors, etc.

Independent Applicants:

- ✓ What activities/areas of improvement are helpful to you at this phase?
- ✓ What are your “growth steps?”
- ✓ Include developmental activities, such as grant submissions, seminars, scientific meetings, training in the responsible conduct of research, presentations.

Other components

Research Environment

- ✓ Why are you where you are?
- ✓ Who or what is important there?

Personal Statement

- ✓ Brag about yourself, your background and discuss your research goals
- ✓ Include previous research training experience, how you developed your scientific interests/accomplishments (root yourself in your work), short/long-term career goals

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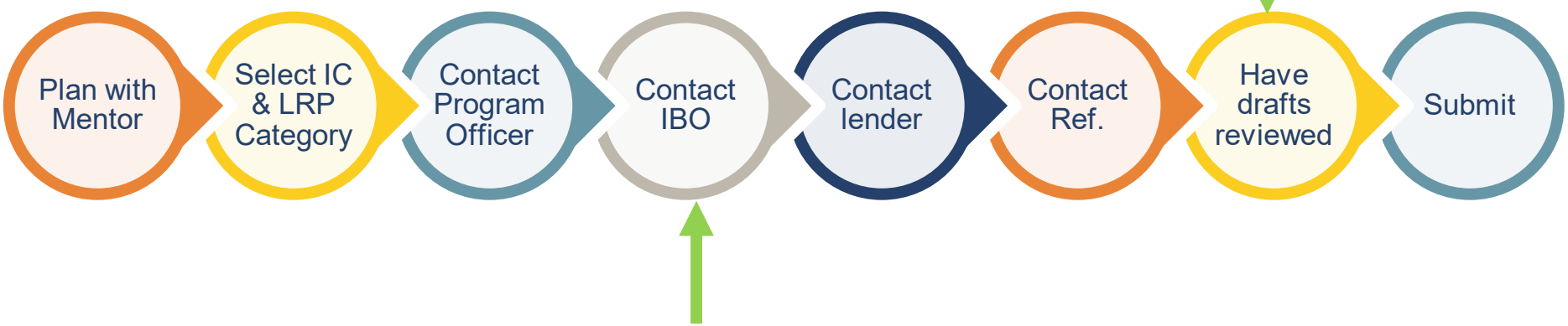
Mentor requirements

Primary Mentor

- ✓ Will supervise awardee proposed career development and research experience
- ✓ Will provide a letter of recommendation & their biosketch
- ✓ Expected to work collaboratively with the development of LRP application
- ✓ Independent applicants will not list a primary mentor in their application (need research supervisor)
- ✓ Required to submit a quarterly verification of service during your LRP award period (ALL applicants must indicate a research supervisor in the application) Institutional Business Official
- ✓ Required to certify an applicant's protected research time, funding, citizenship status and submit this information prior to November 18th deadline

Application process

ICTS can provide support and draft language content



Brooke Piercy
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Basic review LRP criteria

- ✓ Funding decisions are made by the IC where the application is assigned for review.
- ✓ Priority scores, the IC's Mission and Priorities, and the availability of funds are considered during the decision-making process.
- ✓ It is important to note that ICs have different mission and priorities, and these differences can significantly influence the possibilities to receive funding.
- ✓ Applicants are encouraged to examine ICs' Missions and Priorities Statements on the Contact and Engage page.

Review criteria

Evaluation is based on Applicant's potential to pursue a career in research, including:

- ✓ Appropriateness of previous training and experience to prepare for a research career
- ✓ Appropriateness of the proposed research to foster a career in research
- ✓ Commitment to a research career
- ✓ Strength of the letters of recommendations attesting to the applicant's potential for a successful career in research

Quality of the overall environment to prepare the applicant for a research career, including:

- ✓ Quality and availability of appropriate mentors and colleagues to help achieve or enhance the applicant's research independence, including the mentors' record in mentoring researchers, funding history and research productivity
- ✓ Quality and appropriateness of institutional resources and facilities
- ✓ For renewal applications, development toward becoming an independent investigator

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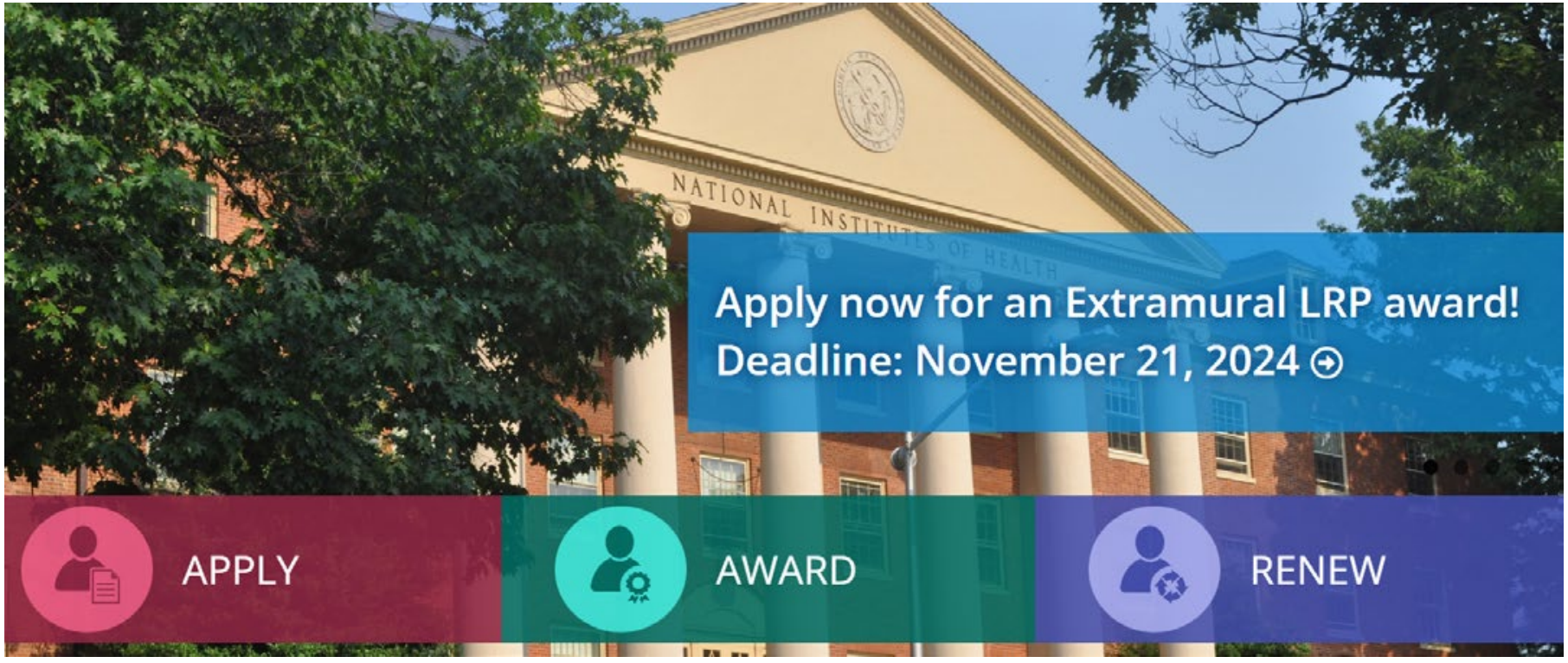
NUTS & BOLTS OF GETTING STARTED

How to get started: www.lrp.nih.gov



Links to application system & instructions

Essential First Steps

Registration

Before starting an application, prospective applicants must obtain an eRA Commons account. Please review the Application Periods.

LRP applicants should be aware that their colleague support must be submitted by the deadline as well. Applicants should complete the Colleague Information section of the application at least two weeks before the deadline to give their referees, mentor, and Institutional Business Officer time to submit supporting documents by the deadline.

Type of Award

The LRPs have two broad types of awards: First awards, called New Awards, and subsequent awards, called Renewal Awards.

Did You Select the Wrong User Type?

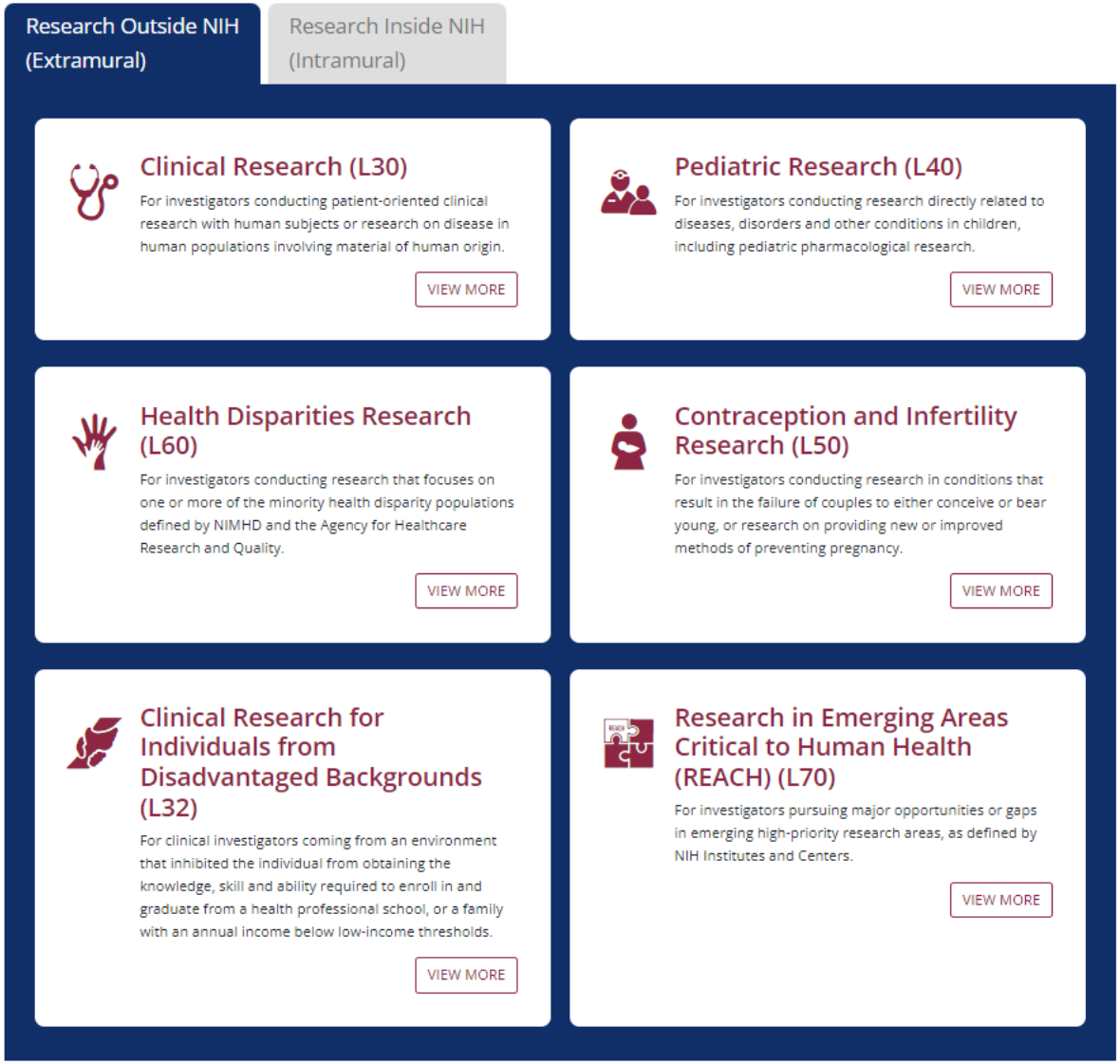
Use our guide to find the best place to start on our website

LRP Application System

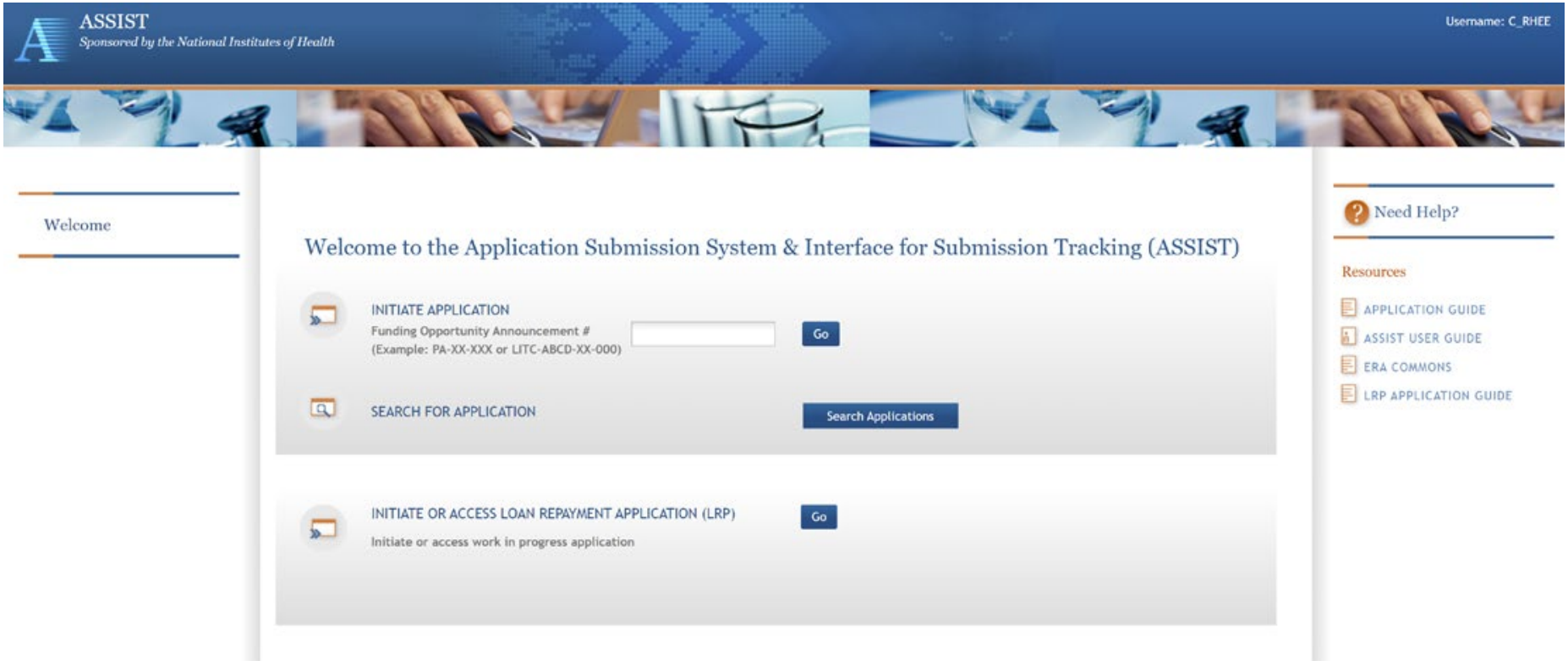
Download LRP Application Instruction Guide

LRP Video Tutorials

Choose your research area

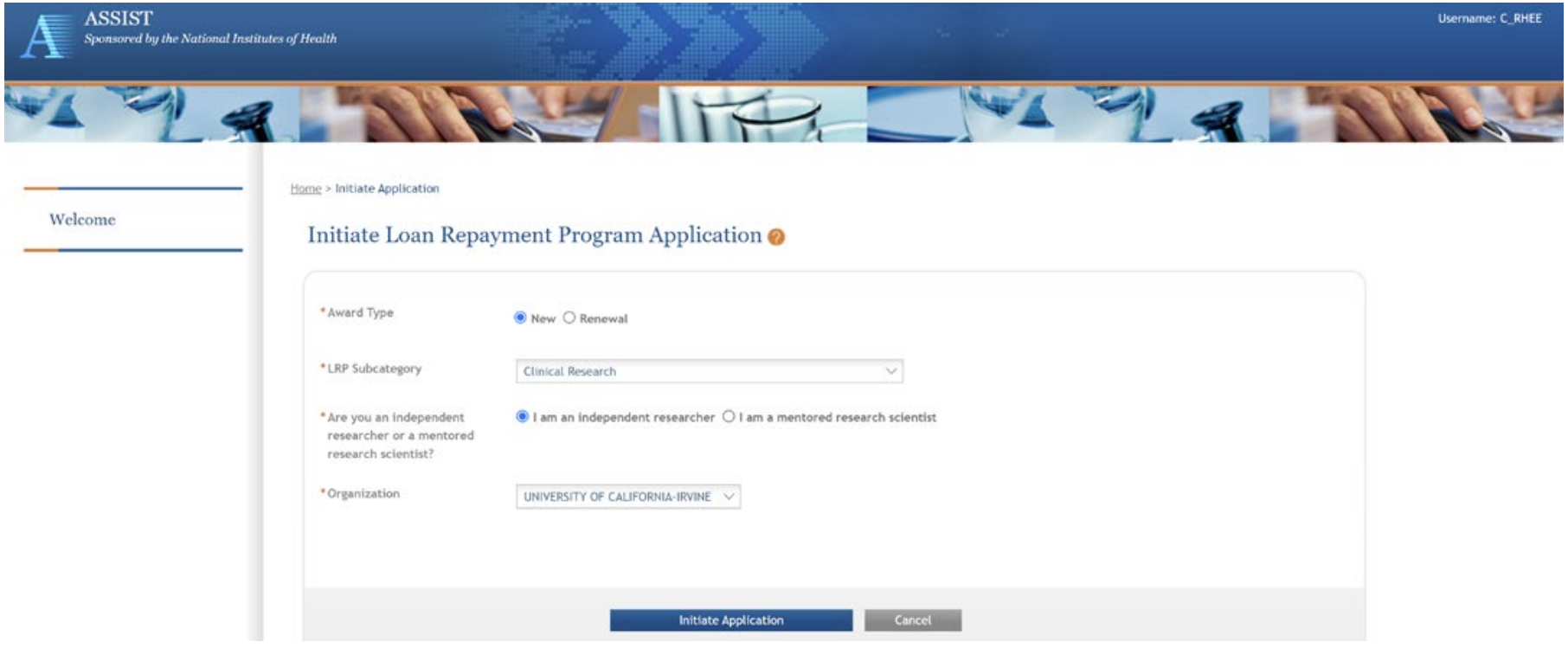


LRP application is now a part of ASSIST

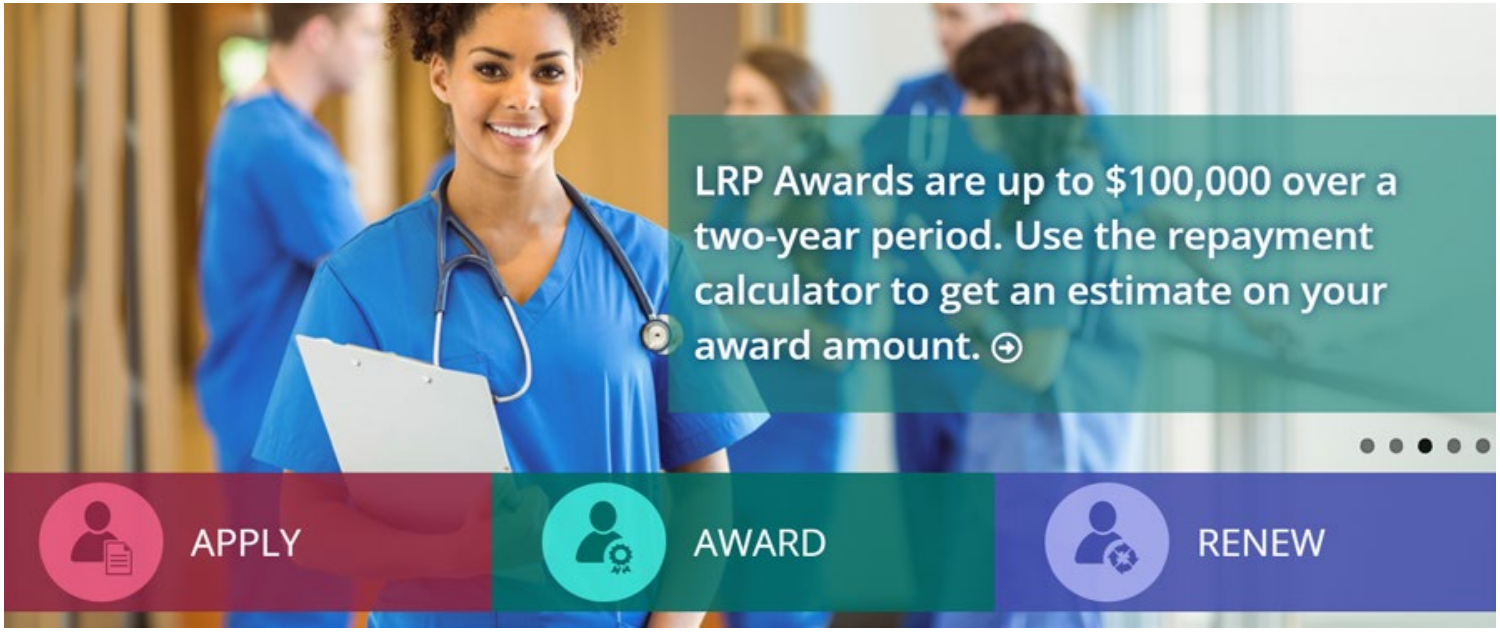


Need to have an eRA commons ID →
Do not leave this step until the last minute!

Getting started in ASSIST



Repayment calculator



RESOURCES FOR WRITING A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

Check out the LRP twitter page!

NIH Loan Repayment

Repays Y
Student Loans

NIH Loan Repayment
@NIH_LRP

In exchange for a two-year commitment to con
educational debt. Privacy: grants.nih.gov/grant

Bethesda, MD lrp.nih.gov Joined M

665 Following **8,153** Followers

NIH Loan Repayment
5,984 Tweets

Follow

NIH Loan Repayment @NIH_LRP · Sep 21

Thrilled to announce that we will host our annual Technical Assistance Webinar on October 4 at 3:00 PM EST. This webinar will provide applicants with an in-depth look at the application process. Register today
bit.ly/3u0yLJf #NIHLRP #NIH #AcademicTwitter

Videos on ASSIST

- **Loan Repayment Program – Extramural Application Submission**
- *This video focuses on the steps an LRP applicant will take to submit an extramural loan repayment application to NIH.*
- ***Anchor link to distribute for video:***
  https://era.nih.gov/era-training/era-videos.htm#lrp-assist
- **Loan Repayment Program – Submission of a Reference Letter**
- *This video demonstrates how a referee or recommender submits a reference letter to NIH on behalf of an LRP applicant.*
- ***Anchor link to distribute for video:***
  https://era.nih.gov/era-training/era-videos.htm#lrp-referee
- **Loan Repayment Program – How the Primary Mentor Submits a Reference Letter**
  This video demonstrates how the primary mentor submits a reference letter on behalf of an applicant of a Loan Repayment Program (LRP) award.
- ***Anchor link to distribute for video:***
  https://era.nih.gov/era-training/era-videos.htm#lrp-mentor

Videos on ASSIST

- **Loan Repayment Program – How the Institutional Business Official Certifies an LRP Applicant**
  This video tutorial demonstrates how an Institutional Business Official (IBO) certifies an applicant of a Loan Repayment Program (LRP) award.
- ***Anchor link to distribute for video:***
  https://era.nih.gov/era-training/era-videos.htm#lrp-ibo
- **Loan Repayment Program – How an Application Checks the Status of an Application Submission**
- *This video tutorial demonstrates how a Loan Repayment Program (LRP) applicant checks on the status of their application submission through the Status Information screen in eRA Commons. It focuses on the steps an applicant will take to review the status and various components of their LRP application.*
- ***Anchor link to distribute for video:***
  https://era.nih.gov/era-training/era-videos.htm#lrp-status

UCI resources

Grant Library
ICTS has a library of successful LRP grants

Affiliated Scholars Advancement Program
ICTS program to develop career development support

Statistical Support
Center of Statistical Consultation offers 1-hour free consultation

Grant Writing Support
ICTS offers a K grant writing program. UCI SOM offers an R01 boot camp.

https://icts.uci.edu/education/loan%20program.php

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Application tips

- ✓ Contact a program officer WELL BEFORE submitting
- ✓ Ensure strong letters of recommendation
- ✓ Have a well-defined commitment research
- ✓ DO NOT rush an application (mistakes, misspellings)
- ✓ Emphasize your publication record
  - ✓ If your record is slim, NEVER state, “I have a slim publication record, but…”
  - ✓ Reviewers can tell by your CV; focus on identifying steps to improve
  - ✓ Include publication plans in your research plan (shows you’re thinking about how to increase)
  - ✓ Also, your mentor can help here by discussing in their recommendation how they will help you in this area

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Questions?

Contact ICTS or us for Support

Brooke Piercy, MA
UCI LRP Institutional Business Officer
Workforce Development Manager
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LRP REVIEW PROCESS

Ruth Mulnard McCargar, RN, DNSc, FAAN

LRP Reviewer for the National Institute on Aging

Types of LRP Reviews

- New (Type 1)
- Renewal (Type 2)
- L30 Clinical Research
- L60 Health Disparities Research
- L70 Research in Emerging Areas Critical to Human Health
- L32 Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds

Who Are The Reviewers

Reviewers for each NIH entity

- Chosen for familiarity with the work of the entity
- Usually must have prior funding from the entity
- Reviewers are assigned 10-15 applications

Review is done electronically, no convened meeting

Review Criteria

THE PRIMARY GOAL IN THE REVIEW PROCESS IS TO HELP THE ENTITY ASSESS THE POTENTIAL FOR THE APPLICANT TO PURSUE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN THEIR FIELD OF STUDY

Criteria 1: appropriateness of the applicant's previous training and experience to prepare for this career focus

Criteria 2: appropriateness of the proposed research activities during the LRP award period to foster this career focus

Will these research activities provide the vehicle for their success in this career?

Review Criteria

Criteria 3: commitment to a career in the field of study as reflected in their personal statement of long-term goals and plans to achieve those goals

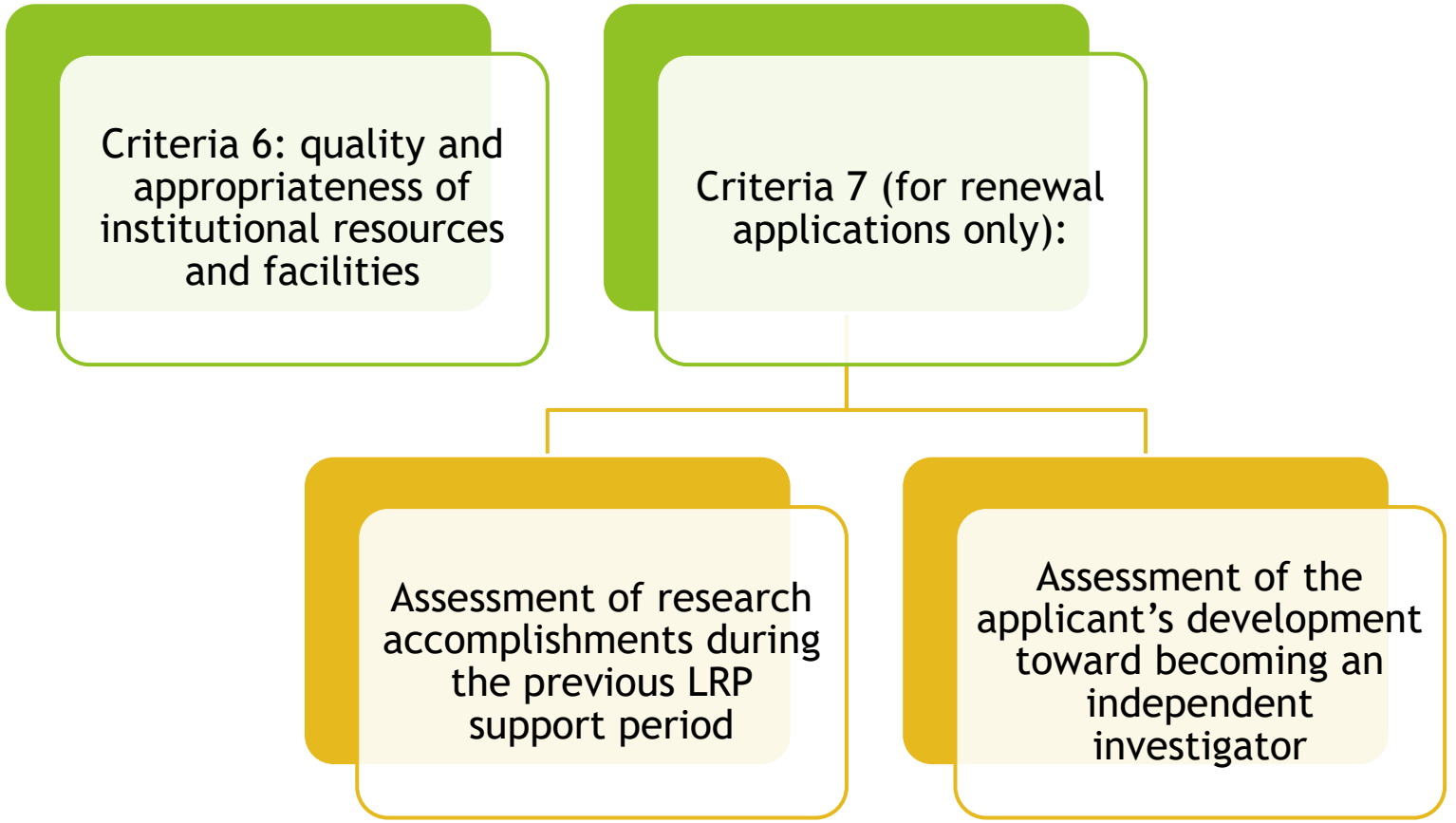
Criteria 4: Strength of the reference letters

How strong the support for this applicant's career success

Criteria 5: quality and availability of appropriate scientific mentors and colleagues to help achieve the applicant's research independence

Mentor's record in mentoring other researchers	Mentor's funding history	Mentor's research productivity

Review Criteria



Overall Merit Determination

Reviewer is asked to summarize the application

Highlighting strengths and weaknesses

More is expected from a renewal application

Reviewer gives overall score