

# RFA-NR-23-003 Evaluating the Impact of Pandemic Era Related Food and Housing Policies and Programs on Health Outcomes in Health Disparity Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

## Technical Assistance Webinar

**Moderators:** Karen Huss, PhD, RN

Amanda Alise Price, PhD

03/20/2023



National Institute  
of Nursing Research

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Webinar logistics
- Purpose
- Background
  - Scope of Research
  - Application Information and Key Dates
- Scientific Review Process and Review Criteria
- Specific Research Priorities
- Questions and Answers

# WEBINAR PRESENTERS

**Karen Huss, RN, PhD**  
National Institute of Nursing Research

**Amanda Alise Price, PhD**  
National Institute of Nursing Research

**Liz Perruccio, PhD**  
National Institute of Nursing Research

**Elia Kwee Ortenberg, PhD**  
Center for Scientific Review

**Jennifer Humensky, PhD**  
National Institute of Mental Health

**Jarrett Johnson, DrPH**  
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

**Bramaramba Kowtha, MS, RDN, LDN**  
Office of Disease Prevention

# LOGISTICS AND Q&A PROCEDURES

- Attendees will be muted
- We will primarily address the questions that were submitted by email prior to the webinar
  - Additional questions may be submitted after the webinar to:
    - **NINRFOAFAQs@mail.nih.gov**
    - Scientific/Research Contacts listed in RFA,
    - Peer Review Contacts listed in RFA, or
    - Financial/Grants Management Contacts listed in RFA
- Registered participants will receive an email with a public hyperlink to the recorded webinar and the frequently asked questions information page when available

# Request for Applications – Open Date April 1, 2023

- **Purpose:** to identify and evaluate ongoing and long-term health impacts of disruptions experienced during the pandemic era and role of targeted policy and programmatic actions in mitigating those impacts:
  - Food/nutrition security
  - Housing security
- Applications are requested to examine how food/nutrition and housing policies and programs aimed at reducing disruptive impacts of the pandemic era, influenced health and health equity in individuals, families, and communities from health disparity populations

# Helpful Definitions

- **Pandemic era** is defined as the period from 2020 to present, which includes ongoing widespread adverse social, behavioral, and economic disruptions
- **Health disparity populations** include racial and ethnic minority populations (as defined in [OMB directive 15](#)), less privileged socioeconomic status (SES) populations, underserved rural populations, sexual and gender minorities (SGM), and any subpopulations that can be characterized by two or more of these descriptions

# Background

- Long-term disruptions on health and well-being extend beyond consequences of acute disease
- Of concern is the impact of ongoing disruptions on populations who experience health disparities
- Two social determinants of health for adults and children impacted by disruptions of pandemic era
  - food/nutrition security
  - housing security



# Background: Food and Nutrition Insecurity

- Adults in households with food insecurity are more likely to have chronic health conditions with increased risk of mortality
- Children who are food insecure:
  - Report fair or poor health compared to food secure children
  - Experience adverse behavioral and academic outcomes
- The pandemic era disrupted food access and negatively impacted food security, causing adverse health outcomes

# Background: Food and Nutrition Insecurity

- Prevalence of food insecurity
  - Rose to 20% in adults in 2020
  - Declined in 2021 due to safety net responses
  - Rose in 2022 due to inflation in food prices and elevated costs for basic needs
- Many safety net policies/programs that buffered food insecurity are no longer in place

# Background: Housing Insecurity

- Pandemic era disruptions highlighted ways in which housing impacted health
- Housing insecurity is a key to the spread of communicable diseases
- Risk of outbreaks is high in homeless shelters and long-term care facilities where racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented
- Pandemic era rental assistance programs have begun to sunset
- Little known about how discontinuation of housing security programs influence health outcomes and what influence ending such programs has on health equity

# Scope of Research

- Natural experiments include those where an exposure or change is not directly manipulated by the researcher, and where comparable control data are available and confounding variables can be limited through study design, sample selection, and statistical analysis.
- Use of a natural experiment approach to:
  - Examine how food and housing policies and programs aimed to lessen impact of pandemic era disruptions affected health, health disparities, and health equity
  - Understand pathways of these effects
  - Describe long-term consequences
- Other experimental designs are allowable if the study fits within the scope of the RFA

# Application Information

Application	RFA-NR-23-003
R01 (Clinical Trial Optional)	✓
Number of awards	4-6 awards
Application budget limits	Requests of $\geq$ \$500,000/year; encouraged to discuss w/scientific program officer of relevant Institute
Maximum project period	Maximum project period 5 years. Average NIH grant ~4 years.
Foreign institutions - non-domestic entities eligible?	X
Non-domestic (non-US) components of US organizations eligible to apply?	X
Are foreign components allowed?	✓

# Key Dates

Description	Date
Posted Date	<b>February 27, 2023</b>
Open Date (Earliest Submission) Date	<b>April 1, 2023</b>
Letter of Intent Due Date (Optional)	<b>April 1, 2023</b>
Application Due Date	<b>May 1, 2023</b>
Scientific Merit Review Date	<b>July 2023</b>
Advisory Council Review Date	<b>August 2023</b>
Earliest Start Date	<b>September 2023</b>

# Non-responsiveness Criteria

**Applications will be considered non-responsive to this FOA if the proposed study:**

- Does not focus on one or more of the following populations within the United States:
  - Racial and ethnic minority populations
  - Less privileged socioeconomic status (SES) populations
  - Underserved rural populations
  - Sexual and gender minorities (SGM)
  - Any subpopulations that can be characterized by two or more of the descriptions above
- Does not focus on local, state, tribal, or federal food/nutrition policies or programs and/or housing policies or programs
- Focuses only on surveillance of health outcomes (e.g., # of lives saved) related to the governmental programs and policies of interest without investigation of the causal pathways underlying those health outcomes
- Does not include a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives

# Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives

## Required

- Applications must include a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP) submitted as Other Project Information as an attachment
- The PEDP will be assessed as part of the scientific and technical peer review evaluation, as well as at the programmatic level with respect to funding decisions



# NIH DMS Policy

## Key Points for Researchers



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# KEY POINTS

- Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Policy is in effect as of **January 25, 2023**. **All applications submitted after this date require a DMS Plan!**
- NIH Program staff need to review and approve your DMS Plan **before an award can be made**
- **A Single Plan** required for research subject to both the Genomic Data Sharing (GDS) Policy and the Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Policy
- Always **check the FOA** for specific/additional ICO-specific requirements for DMS
- **Allowable DMS costs** can be requested in the budget and budget justification sections
- *Your Best Friend:* [sharing.nih.gov](https://sharing.nih.gov) website...lots of details/resources, including [DMS Plan optional format page](#), [sample DMS plans](#), [selecting a data repository](#), [NIH-supported repositories](#), [DMS Policy FAQs](#), and other guidance!



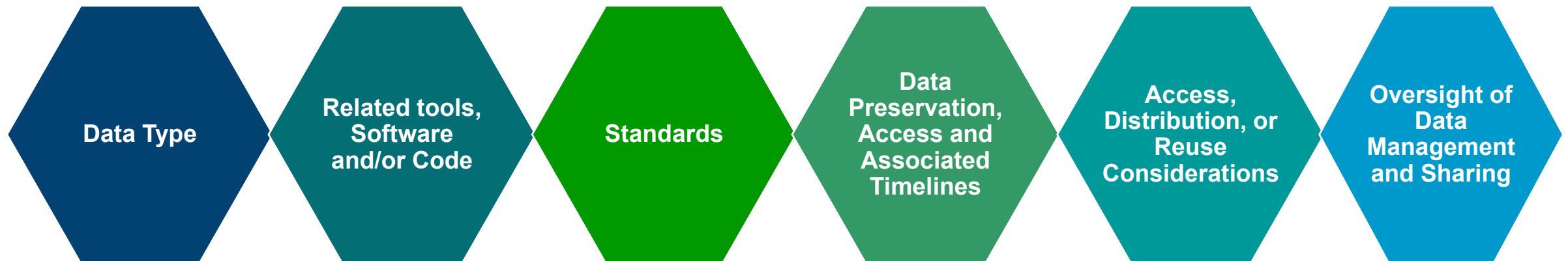
# Policy Requirements

- Applies to all research generating [scientific data](#)
- NIH Activity Codes Subject to the DMS Policy: Research Projects, Certain Career Development Awards (Ks), Small Business SBIR/STTR, Research Centers [i.e., not to training grants (Ts, Fs), conference (R13), or others (Gs, S06)]. A complete list is found [here](#).
- Attach DMS Plan in new “Other Plan(s)” section. Plan should not include proprietary/private info.
- Hypertext not allowed (after May 25, 2023, applications with hypertext will be withdrawn)
- Harmonization of Sharing Plans: Genomic Research? Now, GDS Plan is included in the DMS Plan
- Researchers working with [large-scale human genomic data](#) need to submit an [Institutional Certification](#) and register large-scale human genomic studies in [dbGaP](#)
- When to Share: No later than accepted publication, OR at the end of the award, whichever is first
- Where to Share: NIH encourages use of established repositories (data-type or discipline-specific)
- Limitations for sharing must be justified



# Policy Requirements, Cont'd

## Six Elements to be Addressed in the DMS Plan





# Peer Review Process



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# Scientific Review Process

## OVERVIEW

Scientific Review Officer

**Maria de Jesus Diaz-Perez**

Email: [mariadejesus.diazperez@nih.gov](mailto:mariadejesus.diazperez@nih.gov)

**Who?** Special emphasis review panel of experts from the extramural community will review applications submitted under this RFA.

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**What?** Reviewers will evaluate according to guidelines listed in Section V of RFA: General, specific, and additional review criteria.

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**When?** Level I peer review – July 21<sup>st</sup>  
Level II Advisory Council review – August.

A **summary statement** (official record of the review process and results) will be provided to all applicants at the end of Level I review (within 30 days after the review meeting).

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**Where?** Center for Scientific Review will oversee Level I review (see applicant resources).

# Scientific Review Process

## OVERVIEW

Scientific Review Officer  
**Maria de Jesus Diaz-Perez**  
Email: [mariadejesus.diazperez@nih.gov](mailto:mariadejesus.diazperez@nih.gov)



## PEER REVIEW PRINCIPLES

Peer Review: Evaluation  
of scientific/technical  
Merit

**LEVEL I REVIEW**  
**Scientific Review**  
**Group (Special**  
**Emphasis Panel)**

Non-federal scientists &  
experts will be assembled for  
the review of applications  
submitted under this FOA.



Council Review: Funding  
decisions based on IC  
priorities

**LEVEL II REVIEW**  
**Council Review**  
**NIH Institute/Center**

Appointed members of  
scientific community and  
public representatives will  
discuss Level 1 review  
outcomes.

RESOURCE: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peerreview22713webv2.pdf>

# Scientific Review Process

## OVERVIEW

### Reviewing & Scoring of applications

#### 5 REVIEW CRITERIA (Scored from 1-9)

\*your application is assigned to 3 primary reviewers.

- Significance
- Investigator(s)
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

#### RFA-Specific Review Criteria

- **PEDP: Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives** – The PEDP will be evaluated in light of each of the 5 review criteria (i.e., how the efforts described in the PEDP strengthen or enhance *significance*, *investigative team*, *innovation*, *approach (timeline)*, and *environment*.

#### OVERALL IMPACT SCORE (SCORED 1 -9)

**\*The likelihood for a project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on research field(s) involved.**

Applications in the top half of preliminary overall impact scores are brought forward to full panel discussion and are given a final score. Applications in the lower half are not discussed; only the 3 reviewers' critiques and scores for review criteria are provided.

Scientific Review Officer

**Maria de Jesus Diaz-Perez**

Email: [mariadejesus.diazperez@nih.gov](mailto:mariadejesus.diazperez@nih.gov)

#### ADDITIONAL REVIEW CRITERIA

\*not scored but contribute to overall impact

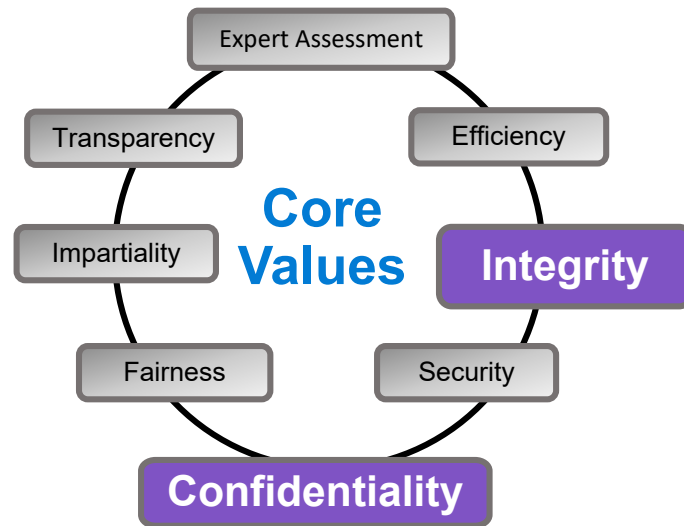
- Study Timeline (required for clinical trials)
- Protection of human subjects
- Inclusion of women, minorities, and individuals across the lifespan
- Vertebrate Animals, Biohazards

# Scientific Review Process

## OVERVIEW

Scientific Review Officer  
**Maria de Jesus Diaz-Perez**  
Email: [mariadejesus.diazperez@nih.gov](mailto:mariadejesus.diazperez@nih.gov)

## Peer Review: Core Values



- Review materials and reviewer assignments represent confidential information for reviewers and NIH staff. The statute of confidentiality is life long.
- Reviewers should not discuss review proceedings with anyone except the SRO. The review meeting is a *closed, federal meeting*. Only designated NIH are eligible to participate or attend the meeting.
- **Applicants may NOT reach out to reviewers about their application (or vice versa).** Doing so violates review integrity policies.
- Violations of review integrity are taken seriously and handled by review staff and a designated Review Integrity Officer.
- NIH follows **conflict-of-interest rules** that define whether a reviewer may or may not serve on a study section or review an application.
- Questions and concerns (by PIs and reviewers) about review proceedings should be referred to the SRO.



# Research Areas of Interest



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# Research Areas of Interest

Scientific Contact  
**Karen Huss, PhD**  
Email: [hussk@mail.nih.gov](mailto:hussk@mail.nih.gov)

- Applicants can propose research that studies one or more policies and programs and their combined impacts on child and/or adult health. Examples of topics of interest include, but are not limited to:
  - Studies examining changes in food/nutrition insecurity following implementation of policies and programs responsive to disruptions experienced during the pandemic era
  - Studies of the health impacts of housing-related policies and programs aimed at mitigating risk factors during the pandemic era
  - Studies embedded in existing research cohorts that take advantage of their rich longitudinal data

# Research Areas of Interest

Scientific Contact

**Karen Huss, PhD**

Email: [hussk@mail.nih.gov](mailto:hussk@mail.nih.gov)

- Examination of pandemic era disruptions related factors that hinder or enhance the successful implementation of food/nutrition security policies and programs and the resulting impact on health and health equity
- Studies of existing population and/or community-level barriers that reduced the widespread utilization of benefits or provisions due to pandemic era food/nutrition security policies and programs and the impact on health outcomes
- Research on the long-term impact of pandemic era food/nutrition and/or housing security policies and programs for reducing risk and severity of chronic illnesses symptoms of stress, substance misuse, and/or mental health outcomes

# Research Areas of Interest

Scientific Contact  
**Karen Huss, PhD**  
Email: [hussk@mail.nih.gov](mailto:hussk@mail.nih.gov)

- Studies of the impact of ending pandemic era food/nutrition and/or housing security policies and programs on health and health equity
- Studies of interactions between pandemic era food/nutrition and/or housing security policies and programs and other government policies and programs that address other social determinants of health in place prior to the onset of the pandemic era

# Specific Research Priorities for Institutes



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# NINR Research Priorities

Scientific Contact  
**Karen Huss, PhD**  
Email: [hussk@mail.nih.gov](mailto:hussk@mail.nih.gov)

- NINR is interested in applications relevant to the topics described in this RFA and that support the NINR 2022-2026 Strategic Plan priorities for research.
- Areas of programmatic interest to NINR include but are not limited to studies that:
  - **Explore** what happens when pandemic era policies and programs are sunset/discontinued;
  - **Examine** the intersectional nature of food and housing security along with other social determinants of health in a pandemic era;
  - **Address** experiences and outcomes based on the intersection of social identities (e. g. being Black and female, etc.).
  - **Attempt** to determine which policies and programs would best be continued to create the widespread and sustainable changes required to address factors that create social marginalization and poor health.



# NIMH Research Priorities

Scientific Contact

**Jennifer Humensky, PhD**

Email: [Jennifer.Humensky@nih.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Humensky@nih.gov)

NIMH is interested in research that supports the NIMH Strategic Plan for Research

- Examinations of the downstream impact of policies and programs designed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on **food and nutrition security** and/or **housing security/stability** for **health disparity populations** on **mental health outcomes** such as (but not limited to):
  - Engagement with and adherence to mental health treatment
  - Quality of mental health care received
  - Mental health outcomes (e.g., suicidal behavior, depression, anxiety).
- NIMH is interested in exploring the **mechanisms** by which policies and relevant interventions lead to better access/engagement in mental health treatment and in mental health outcomes.
- NIMH is **not** supporting clinical trials for this RFA
- NIMH encourages research projects that take into account the perspectives of relevant stakeholders
- Where possible, NIMH encourages capitalizing on existing infrastructure

# NIMHD Research Priorities

Scientific Contact

**Crystal L. Barksdale, PhD, MPH**

Email: [crystal.barksdale@nih.gov](mailto:crystal.barksdale@nih.gov)

- The mission of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) is to lead scientific research **to improve minority health and reduce health disparities**. Populations that experience health disparities include African Americans/Blacks, Hispanic/Latinos, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, and sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations.
- NIMHD is interested in and supports the study of multiple aspects of minority health and health disparities, **focusing on the full continuum of causes of health disparities and the interrelation of these causes** (e.g., biological, clinical, systems-level).
- NIMHD encourages projects that **encompass multiple domains of influence** (e.g., behavioral, environmental) **and multiple levels of influence** (e.g., interpersonal, community, societal) to understand and address health disparities and social determinants (see the [NIMHD Research Framework](#) for more information).
- Consistent with the Scope and Objectives of the RFA, NIMHD **projects should include human participants** and examine program and policy impacts on health disparities and health outcomes.

# ODP Research Priorities

Scientific Contact  
**Bramaramba Kowtha, MS, RDN, LDN**  
Email: [bramaramba.kowtha@nih.gov](mailto:bramaramba.kowtha@nih.gov)

## The Office of Disease Prevention (ODP):

- Is responsible for assessing, facilitating, and stimulating research on disease prevention.
- Provides **co-funding support** for research that has strong implications for disease prevention, advancing health equity, projects that address social determinants of health and those that include innovative design, measurement, and rigorous analysis methods.
- Is interested in applications that propose to study the impact of Pandemic related food and housing mitigation strategies on long term health effects of the Pandemic.
- Is interested in projects that propose evaluation of policy and programs that address food/nutrition and housing security and the resulting effects on health outcomes and health disparities.
- ODP **does not award grants** and prioritizes projects led by early- stage investigators. Applications submitted to this RFA will be assigned to one of the participating Institutes.

# Questions

**FAQs:** <https://ninr.nih.gov/newsandinformation/newsandnotes/rfa-nr-22>

## New NINR Funding Opportunities

 **PRINT**

SHARE 

March 1, 2023

NINR has published three new funding announcements in alignment with [NINR's Research Framework](#). NIH staff will host technical assistance webinars to provide overviews of each Request for Application (RFA) and to answer questions from potential applicants.

**RFA-NR-23-002: Advancing Integrated Models (AIM) of Care to Improve Pregnancy Outcomes among Women Who Experience Persistent Disparities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional).**

- [Register for the technical assistance webinar](#)  scheduled for **March 28, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. (ET)**.

**RFA-NR-23-003:** *Evaluating the Impact of Pandemic Era related Food and Housing Policies and Programs on Health Outcomes in Health Disparity Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Optional).*

- [Register for the technical assistance webinar](#)  scheduled for **March 20, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. (ET)**.
- [View Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for RFA-NR-23-003](#)

# FAQs: <https://nintr.nih.gov/newsandinformation/newsandnotes/rfa-nr-22>

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

### **Q8. How is this reissued RFA different from the original version published in 2022?**

A8. Rather than focusing specifically on COVID-19, this RFA focuses on broader pandemic era food and housing related policies. For the purposes of this RFA, pandemic era is defined as the period from 2020 to present which includes ongoing widespread adverse social, behavioral, and economic disruptions. Additionally, RFA-NR-22-001 was focused on the COVID-19 pandemic. RFA-NR-23-003 focuses more broadly on the widespread adverse social, behavioral, and economic disruptions during the period 2020 to present, caused by COVID-19 but also other concomitant viral threats. RFA-NR-23-003 also encourages studies that examine how discontinuation of food/nutrition and/or housing security programs influence health outcomes and health equity. Applicants should also pay close attention to the list of ICOs that are participating on RFA-NR-23-003, as it differs from RFA-NR-22-001. In addition, a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP) was encouraged in RFA-NR-22-001; however, a PEDP is now required.

# FAQs: <https://nintr.nih.gov/newsandinformation/newsandnotes/rfa-nr-22>

## **Q9. How can I determine whether my research topic is a good fit for RFA-NR-23-003?**

A9. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Scientific/Research contact at the intended IC listed in this [funding opportunity](#) announcement to ensure that proposed aims of the project are consistent with IC mission and priorities.

## **Q10. If my research project is relevant to more than one NIH Institute (IC), what information should I use to determine which IC is the best to receive my application?**

A10. Applicants whose research may be relevant to more than one NIH IC are highly encouraged to discuss potential research aims with the Scientific/Research Contacts at participating ICs well in advance of the application deadline to ensure overall fit of the proposed research with programmatic priorities, as stated in the funding opportunity announcement. The Contacts are the most appropriate individuals to help applicants identify alternative funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) if it is determined that the applicant's research goals are not well-aligned with any of the participating IC's research priorities.

# Have Questions?

Contact:  
[NINRFOAFAQs@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NINRFOAFAQs@mail.nih.gov)





# THANK YOU!

**Contact Info: [NINRFOAFAQs@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NINRFOAFAQs@mail.nih.gov)**



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