

QUICK GUIDE

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Career Development (K) Grants

Why apply for a K Award? NIH career development grants (K series) provide support for trainees and early- to mid-career researchers to develop their competitiveness for continued NIH (or equivalent) research support. Reasons to apply for a K-series grant include:

- Awards include career development support including mentorship, training and protected time to conduct research.
- K awards can help early-stage researchers establish independent research programs, collect preliminary data, generate publications and learn new skills.
- Earning a K award is a significant achievement and will increase your reputation and visibility in the scientific community.
- K-award recipients are more likely to remain in research, publish in prestigious journals and achieve later success with an R01 grant.

Am I a good fit for a K Award? The NIH K series provides opportunities for researchers at different career development stages. If your research is in alignment with the NIH mission and you have a development or training need, a K-series grant may be right for you. You must review all of the K mechanisms, choose one that is a fit for your needs and career stage, and then justify that you need the training and support that the award provides.

Which of the K Awards should I apply for? Review the NIH Research Career Development Awards (K) Kiosk to learn more about each mechanism, eligibility criteria and active funding opportunities. Your college [research development professional](#) also can help you identify mechanisms that align with your research goals and development needs. Alternatively, you can [schedule an appointment](#) with the Division of Research professional development team.

K-SERIES AWARDS BY CAREER STAGE

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS:

- [K99/R00](#) - NIH Pathway to Independence Award
- [K01](#) - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award
- [K07](#) - Academic Career Development Award
- [K08](#) - Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award
- [K22](#) - Career Transition Award
- [K25](#) - Mentored Quantitative Research Development Award

- [K76](#) - Emerging Leaders Career Development Award

EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS:

- [K01](#) - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award
- [K02](#) - Independent Research Scientist Development Award
- [K07](#) - Academic Career Development Award
- [K08](#) - Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award

EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS CONTINUED:

- [K22](#) - Career Transition Award
- [K23](#) - Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award
- [K25](#) - Mentored Quantitative Research Career Development Award
- [K76](#) - Emerging Leaders Career Development Award

ESTABLISHED INVESTIGATOR:

- [K05](#) - Senior Research Scientist Award
- [K07](#) - Academic Career Development Award
- [K12](#) - Clinical Scientist Institutional Career Development Program Award
- [K18](#) - Research Career Enhancement Award for Established Investigators
- [K24](#) - Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research
- [K25](#) - Mentored Quantitative Research Career Development Award
- [K26](#) - Midcareer Investigator Award in Biomedical and Behavioral Research