Objectives

1. Describe the NIH LRP Program as an opportunity for early research career investigators.

2. Review eligibility for the LRP Program.

3. Have a facilitated discussion about writing competitive applications and renewals.

4. Identify and organize UF HSC resources to support LRP applications.
General Overview of LRPCs
About the LRPs

NIH Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs) are a vital component in our nation's effort to keep health professionals in research careers.

Here’s how it works:

YOU: Commit to perform research for 2 years

NIH: Repays up to $35,000/year of your qualified educational debt and covers resulting Federal taxes (39%)

Outcome: Increase in nation’s stock of biomedical research scientists
5 Extramural NIH LRPs:
For individuals conducting research at non-profit Institutions

- Clinical Research
- Pediatric Research
- Contraception & Infertility Research
- Health Disparities Research
- Clinical Research DB
## Program Overview

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>2,720</td>
<td>2,685</td>
<td>2,736</td>
<td>2,579</td>
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<td>Number of Awards</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>1,357</td>
<td>1,351</td>
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<td>Success Rate</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<td>Mean Award</td>
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<td>$68,966,220</td>
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</table>
Applications and Awards by Degree

Fiscal Year

Number

MD

2013: 1,000
2014: 1,000
2015: 1,000
2016: 1,000

MD+PhD

2013: 150
2014: 150
2015: 150
2016: 150

PhD

2013: 1,000
2014: 1,000
2015: 1,000
2016: 1,000

Other

2013: 100
2014: 100
2015: 100
2016: 100
Numbers and Clusters by LRP

- Clinical Research (Clin)
- Pediatric Research (Ped)
- Contraception and Infertility Research (CIR)
- Health Disparities Research (HD)
- Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (DB)
Awardee by Distribution by State
# Funding by Institutes and Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IC</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>NIGMS</td>
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<td>NINDS</td>
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<td>$3,013,328</td>
<td>$2,915,532</td>
<td>$2,701,221</td>
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Basic Eligibility
LRP APPLICATION SECTION

LRP APPLICATION GUIDE

Start Your 2017 LRP Application Now!

Download the 2017 Application Guide

APPLY
AWARD
RENEW

Research Supervisors/Mentors
Referees/Recommenders
Institutional Business Officials
For NIH Employees
Extramural applicants complete application “pre-selection” information before system navigates inside of the application:

- Award Type
- Program Type
- Award Length
- Program
- Mentored/Independent Researcher
- Preferred IC/Not Preferred IC (available for clinical and pediatric extramural applicants only)
Basic LRP Eligibility Criteria

Extramural

Doctoral Degree
M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent
Exception: Contraception & Infertility Research LRP

Research Funding
Domestic nonprofit, university, or government organization; NIH grant support NOT required

Citizenship
U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

Educational Loan Debt
At least 20% of applicant's annual income

Research Time
At least 20 hours/week
1. Users are also prompted to provide answers to basic eligibility questions
   - Questions dependent on selected LRP
2. Statement of understanding (mandatory for all applicants).
3. Submit or Cancel completed form options.
1. Employment form is required for all applicants.
2. Organization section contains information about current employer.
3. Supervisor section contains contact info of applicant’s research supervisor, mentor and prior mentor (if applicable).
4. Academic Affiliation.
5. Institutional Business Official.
6. Options to:
   - Save
   - Cancel
Under Education and Training tab, applicants provide information about their:
1. Education and Training
2. Postdoctoral fellowship(s) (if applicable)
3. Options to save or cancel.
Under “Funding Information” tab, extramural applicants are required to provide information about their funding sources:
1. Salary
2. Any NIH Grant Support
3. Other Government Funding (not from NIH)
4. Or Non-Profit Research Funding (not from NIH)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Award</th>
<th>NIH Award Number</th>
<th>Award Status</th>
<th>Total Award Amount</th>
<th>Start Date of Award</th>
<th>End Date of Award</th>
<th>Are you PI/Co-PI on this Grant?</th>
<th>Does this Award support your LRP eligible project?</th>
<th>Action</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Organization</th>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Award Status</th>
<th>Title of Project</th>
<th>Total Award Amount</th>
<th>Start Date of Award</th>
<th>End Date of Award</th>
<th>Are you PI/Co-PI on this Grant?</th>
<th>Does this Award support your LRP eligible project?</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type of Organization</th>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Award Status</th>
<th>Title of Project</th>
<th>Total Award Amount</th>
<th>Start Date of Award</th>
<th>End Date of Award</th>
<th>Are you PI/Co-PI on this Grant?</th>
<th>Does this Award support your LRP eligible project?</th>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qualifying Loans

**NIH WILL Repay:**
- Educational loans backed by the U.S. government
- Educational loans from accredited U.S. academic institutions and commercial lenders

**NIH Will NOT Repay:**
- Non-educational loans (e.g. home equity loans)
- PLUS loans to parents
  - **EXCEPTION:** PLUS loans disbursed to graduate and professional students on or after July 1, 2006, qualify for LRP repayment
- Loans from non-US governments or institutions
- Loans converted to a service obligation, delinquent or in default
- Loans consolidated with another individual (e.g. spouse or child)
- Loans of full-time Federal government employees or VA Fellows
• Getting Started
• Anatomy of an LRP Application
Get Ahead of the Curve, Start Now!

1. Contact your lender to get specific loan information (including account numbers and amounts owed)
2. Read LRP website, published notices and determine which NIH LRP is the right one for you
3. Talk to an NIH LRP Program Officer/Liaison
4. Talk to your mentor and potential recommender about your interest in applying for the NIH Loan Repayment Program
5. Make sure you have an eRA Commons ID

**Deadline = November 15th!**
Preparing for Your LRP Application

As a part of your application, you will need to submit:

• Biosketch
• Personal Statement – (e.g., career goals)
• Training/Mentoring Plan (mentored researcher) or Career Development Plan (independent researcher) – (e.g., research methods and scientific techniques to be learned)
• Research Activities Statement – (e.g., current or proposed research)
• Research Environment Statement
• Research Accomplishments (Renewal Applicants Only)

*Please confer with your mentor/supervisor on the development of these items; they will be asked to concur with this information; see the LRP site for more information on each statement
• Use standard NIH form
• Personal statement – has own one page document.
• List all training described in Eligibility.
• List all significant honors and awards
• Identify grants that may support you now or in the past (e.g. T, F, K Awards)
• List up to five areas of science in which you work and publications/contributions in those areas.
Goal: Commitment to a clinical research career
Strength of your candidacy for an LRP

• Previous training
• Previous research
• Short and long-term academic/research objective
• Relevant academic/professional achievements or honors
• Research project grants or awards
• Significant contributions to science
Goal: Appropriate training and experience to prepare for a clinical research career.

- Independent Researchers
  - Career Development Plan (? Timeline)
    - Research Planning
    - Career Development Activities (seminars, national meetings, etc.)
    - Presentations and publications planned
    - ? Research funding plan
• Mentored Researchers:
  - Training Components
    • Types of training (didactic, mentored, skill building, grant writing)
    • Research methods and techniques
    • Informal curriculum (Journal clubs, etc.)
    • Professional societies/national meetings
• Role of Mentor in training
  - Prior mentoring experience
  - Frequency and duration of meetings
  - Mentor will review CDP for accuracy
LRP Research Project/Activities (8 pages)

- Name, employer, title of research project, date
- Goal: Appropriateness of activities to foster a career in clinical research
  - Relate to scientific career plan and goals
  - Will it provide experience, knowledge, skills necessary to advance career development plan?
LRP Research Project/Activities (Continued)

- **Research Plan**
  - Specific role and responsibilities of LRP applicant in plan
  - Specific hypothesis addressed
  - Specific aims and objectives
  - Methods/approaches to advance each aim
  - Tables, graphs, citations, etc. included in page limit

- Mentored applications will be reviewed by mentors for accuracy.
LRP Research Environment (1 page)

• **Goal:** UF as a supportive environment conducive to success of the LRP.

• **UF environments’ benefits to the research**
  – Institutional support
  – Facilities, equipment, cores, etc.
  – Intellectual environment/mentoring

• **Mentored applicants may have didactic, conference, and other training support.**

• **LRP Toolkit has descriptions of 112 resources supportive of UF research.**
Research Accomplishments (2 pages) (Renewal applications only)

• Goal: LRP for this applicant has provided research accomplishments during the previous period of support and has contributed to development of the applicant as an independent investigator.
• Progress toward the achievement of specific aims
• Justification for significant changes in specific aims and new directions
• Explanation of “breaks” between LRP awards and description of progress during the breaks
• Mentored applications will be reviewed by mentor for accuracy.
Three individuals are selected to submit a recommendation letter on applicant’s behalf.
- If mentored researcher, one should be mentor.

Careful selection of recommenders
- Knowledgeable of research accomplishments, career development
- Spoken to in advance to assure meeting of deadline (late applications not accepted)

Benefits of sample letters of reference
Weak references are a major reason for non-funding.
1. Referee/Recommender will upload reference letter using “Browse” option. Option to replace previously uploaded file is available for every document users upload.
2. To review uploaded documents, user can use “View Document” option.
3. Referee/Recommender is allowed to save, submit or cancel complete form.
1. Once Mentor selects an applicant name, system will display applicant’s identifying information (name, LRP, etc.)

2. The list of research forms/documents that should be reviewed by Mentor are found here.

3. Mentor will need to upload NIH Biosketch(s) for themselves or anyone else helping to support the applicant.

4. Certify required Mentor’s Assurances.

5. Mentor is allowed to save, submit or cancel completed form.
1. Once IBO selected name in the grid, system will display applicant’s identifying information (name, LRP, etc.)
2. Section where IBO will provide the information about applicant’s salary.
3. Complete certifications for protected research time and resources.
Extramural LRP Application Cycle Timeline

- **Sept 1 – Nov 15**: Application Cycle Open
- **Nov 15**: Application, Colleague, and IBO Deadline
- **Feb - May**: Application Peer Review
- **May - June**: Financial Vetting
- **Mid-July-August**: Final Funding Decisions
- **October**: 1st Lender Payments
- **Quarterly verifications required for future payments**

Selected applications require quarterly verifications for future payments.
LRP Review Criteria

1. Potential of the applicant to pursue a career in clinical research
   a. Applicant’s training and experience
   b. Appropriateness of proposed research to foster a research career
   c. Commitment to a clinical research career
   d. Strength of reference letters
   e. Renewals: Progress during the previous period of support

2. Quality of overall environment to prepare the applicant for a clinical research career
   a. Quality and quantity of scientific mentors and colleagues
   b. Quality and appropriateness of institutional resources and facilities
Tips for Writing a Competitive LRP Application

These tips will help you strengthen your application

• Know the funding priorities of the NIH Institute or Center that will review your application

• Effectively demonstrate your qualifications and commitment to research.

• Describe resources and support thoroughly.

• Write a strong research plan.

• Provide strong reference letters.

**To download this complete document, visit http://www.lrp.nih.gov/writing-lrp-application**
What Are Reviewers Looking For?

Reviewers evaluate applicant’s potential to succeed in a research career by rating:

• Applicant’s previous training and research experience
• Applicant’s commitment to a research career
• Strength and quality of letters of recommendation
• Quality and appropriateness of the research environment
• Research progress (for Renewal applications only)
Common Mistakes to Avoid

The following conditions often weaken an applicant’s competitiveness

• Weak or lukewarm recommendation letters
• Questionable research commitment
• Mediocre research plan
• Rushed application
• Inadequate research environment
• Slim publication record
Applicant Checklist

Before Submitting the Application

- Reach out to the NIH LRP Program Officers and liaisons.
- Develop a timeline for completion and start early.
- Review the NIH LRP ‘Tips for Writing a Competitive LRP Application’ document.
- Determine and clearly indicate whether you are a principal investigator. If not, designate a mentor.
- Carefully review your application before submitting. If you find errors that you cannot fix, contact the LRP Information Center as soon as possible.

After Submitting the Application – Keep Track of Your Application Status

- Ensure all online forms are complete -- including forms from your mentor, recommenders and institutional contact.
- Mail your contract and fax or upload your online certification and citizenship forms.
- Keep your e-mail address current.
- Contact the LRP Information Center if you need to make major updates (e.g. change your institution or research project) as soon as possible.
Contact LRP

Website: www.lrp.nih.gov
Phone: 866-849-4046 (9am to 5pm, EST)
Email Inquiries: lrp@nih.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nihlrp
Twitter: @NIH_LRP