

Grant Title: EXPLORATORY/DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH GRANTS IN OBESITY (R21)

Funding Opportunity Number: PA-12-179. CFDA Number(s): CFDA Number(s): 93.213, 93.393, 93.837, 93.847, 93.865.

Agency/Department: Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

Area of Research: Exploratory and developmental clinical studies that will accelerate the development of effective interventions for prevention or treatment of overweight or obesity in adults and/or children.

Release and Expiration: Release Date: May 02, 2012. Expiration Date: May 8, 2015.

Application Deadline: New: February 16, June 16, October 16 annually. Resubmissions: March 16, July 16, November 16 annually.

Amount: Direct costs of up to \$275,000 for the 2-year period with no more than \$200,000 in any single year.

Length of Support: Up to 2 years.

Eligible Applicants: Public and State controlled institutions of higher education. See the full announcement for a complete list of eligible applicants.

Summary: The goal of this initiative is to encourage exploratory/developmental clinical research that will accelerate the development of effective interventions for prevention or treatment of overweight or obesity in adults and/or children. The goal of this mechanism is to provide flexibility for initiating exploratory, short-term studies, thus allowing new ideas to be investigated in a more expeditious manner without stringent requirements for preliminary data. Such support is needed to encourage investigators to pursue new approaches, underdeveloped topics, or more creative avenues for research including new partnerships. Epidemiological research with a goal of informing translational/clinical research on prevention or treatment of obesity or overweight in adults and/or children is encouraged. The emphasis is on the development of exploratory clinical studies, pilot and feasibility studies, or small randomized clinical trials that will provide preliminary data for intervention and epidemiological studies that will inform translational/clinical research. This initiative encourages applications for pilot and feasibility or exploratory studies related to obesity. These studies should focus on research that is particularly innovative and/or potentially of high impact. Innovative research includes feasibility studies in which the technological, methodological, or theoretical approach to a problem lacks historical precedent or sufficient preliminary data but is highly promising. High impact research involves studies where successful outcomes would have a major effect on the area of obesity. Clinical pilot and feasibility studies could provide the data needed to design appropriately powered efficacy studies. Such trials may use pharmacological, dietary supplement, dietary, surgical, medical device, physical activity, or behavioral interventions aimed at prevention or treatment of obesity or overweight in adults and/or children. Applications to identify novel risk factors for the development of overweight and obesity and their complications are encouraged. Clinical studies supported are intended to fund the acquisition of preliminary data from pilot and feasibility or exploratory studies. As part of the process for evaluating scientific merit and determining relevance of the proposed research, peer reviewers and NIH Program staff will take into consideration future research directions that would be enabled by the preliminary data. Therefore, investigators should include a statement in the application that at least broadly indicates their vision of the anticipated next steps for research that would subsequently follow, under the assumption that a pilot or exploratory study yields sufficient data to plan a more definitive project.

Detailed Information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-179.html>