Grant Title: UNDERSTANDING AND PROMOTING HEALTH LITERACY (R01, R03, R21)


Agency/Department: Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR), National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Library of Medicine (NLM).

Area of Research: Encourage empirical research on health literacy concepts, theory and interventions.


Amount: R01: Typically up to $500,000. Applicants requesting $500,000 or more in direct costs in any year (excluding consortium F&A) must contact NIH program staff at least 6 weeks before submitting the application. R03: Direct costs are limited to $50,000 per year and a project duration of up to 2 years for a maximum of $100,000 over a two-year project period. R21: Up to $275,000 for direct costs for the two-year project. No more than $200,000 may be requested in any single year. Applicants may request direct costs in $25,000 modules, up to the total direct costs limitations of $275,000 for the combined, two-year project.

Length of Support: R01: Up to five years. R03, R21: Up to two years.

Eligible Applicants: Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education. See the full announcement for a complete list of eligible applicants.

Summary: The goal of this program announcement is to encourage methodological, intervention and dissemination research for understanding and promoting health literacy. Health literacy is defined as the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions (Ratzan and Parker, 2000). Several NIH Institutes/Centers (ICs) and Offices support this initiative. Applications should be relevant to both the general objectives of the FOA and to the specific research interests of at least one of the participating organizations. Applications that address generic health literacy issues, but do not delineate clear relationships to the specific interests of at least one of the participating organizations may not secure funding. Researchers are strongly encouraged to review the illustrative examples of topics relevant to health literacy provided below, as well as the specific research interests of the participating organizations supporting this announcement. Applications should address health promotion, injury or disease prevention, environmental exposure reduction; treatment or management of injuries, diseases or health conditions, and/or the improvement of health or health care outcomes within specific populations (e.g., children, older adults, lower income or vulnerable and underserved populations). Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the relevant program administrator for this health literacy FOA as listed in Section VII. Agency Contacts of this announcement prior to preparing an application.