



The Ins and Outs of NCI K Awards

*Planning and Positioning for
Success After Graduate School*

| CENTER TO REDUCE
CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES

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Outline

- *Explore Career Options and Recognize Your Skills*
- *Introduction to NCI Diversity K Awards*
- *Application Core Components*
- *Role of Mentors*



Explore Your Career Options and Recognize Your skills

■ **Career Options:**

- Traditional career path for PhDs: Academia
- Life science PhD graduates have a 16% chance of finding a tenure-track position
- Careers beyond academia: Pharma/biotech, science policy, management, finance, clinical trials (*Put your science to work: The take charge career guide for scientists*)
- Career exploration is sometimes challenging and prepare for unexpected turns

■ **Skills required for success in Academia:**

- Independent thinking, creativity, persistence, productivity, along with intelligence
- Publish or perish: use traditional and creative avenues for publications
- Grants writing to sustain research and provide salary support
- Effective networking, building collaborations, trusted **mentors** and advisers,

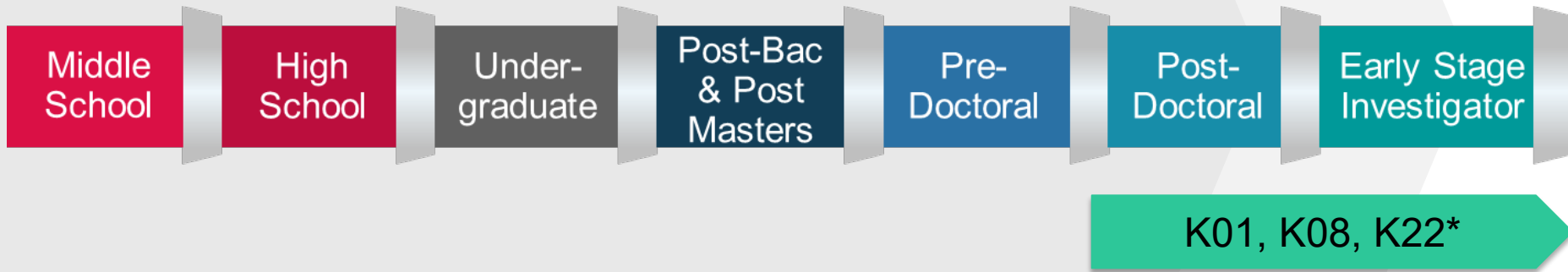
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Career Development K Awards to Promote Diversity



**Investigators in tenure-track faculty positions are not eligible*

NCI Career Development (K) Awards to Promote Diversity

■ Objectives:

- Provide protected time and salary support for 3-5 years of intensive training and research
- Promote career development activities to enhance candidate's research capabilities
- Expectation is that awardees will be prepared to lead independent research programs and become competitive for NIH research project grants (R21, R01)

■ Requirements:

- An academically strong candidate with prior research experience and publications
- A well-defined research project and structured career development activities
- Experienced, committed & funded mentor/mentoring team (advisory committee for K22)
- Institutional commitment to candidate's career development and 75% protected time for research and training activities

NCI K Awards supported by CRCHD

Application Due dates: February 12, June 12, October 12

K Award	Mentored or Non-Mentored	Research Focus	Max Salary	Max R&D Support	Duration
K01	Mentored	All Cancer-Related Research	\$100k	\$30k	3-5 years
K22	Non-Mentored			\$50k	3 years
K08	Mentored	Clinical, Translational & Patient-Oriented Research	\$189k	\$50k	3-5 years

Institutional Eligibility Certification Letter must be submitted with the application

FOAs: Clinical Trial Allowed vs No Independent Clinical Trials



- FOAs

- NCI **Mentored** Research Scientist Development Award to Promote Diversity (K01)

PAR-18-364: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-364.html>

PAR-18-365: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-365.html>

- NCI **Mentored** Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award to Promote Diversity (K08)

PAR-18-336: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-336.html>

PAR-18-337: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-337.html>

- NCI **Transition** Career Development Award to Promote Diversity (K22)

PAR-18-366: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-366.html>

PAR-18-367: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-367.html>

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What Do We Look for in a Career Development Application?

Candidate	Career Development and Mentoring Plan	Research Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent training & research experience• Highly productive (peer-reviewed publication record)• Clear career goals• Eligibility letter*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structured career development plan• Matched expertise & strong mentoring track record of mentor(s)• Strong reference letters• Strong environment & institutional support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good training vehicle to establish applicant's niche• Sound approach (appropriate research design and feasible)• Well written with good alignment with applicant's career goals

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Mentor and Co-Mentor(s)

- Assemble a mentoring team with complementary expertise
 - Primary mentor - a senior investigator with appropriate expertise and NIH funding
 - Include co-mentors that complement the primary mentor's expertise
 - Co-mentors also provide additional project-related expertise
 - Co-mentors can be at a different institution but must include a communication plan
- Scientific advisory committee can also be proposed
 - These are external scientists with expertise in areas related to the application
 - Meet with the applicant once or twice a year to provide additional guidance and evaluation
 - Willing to provide strong letters of support

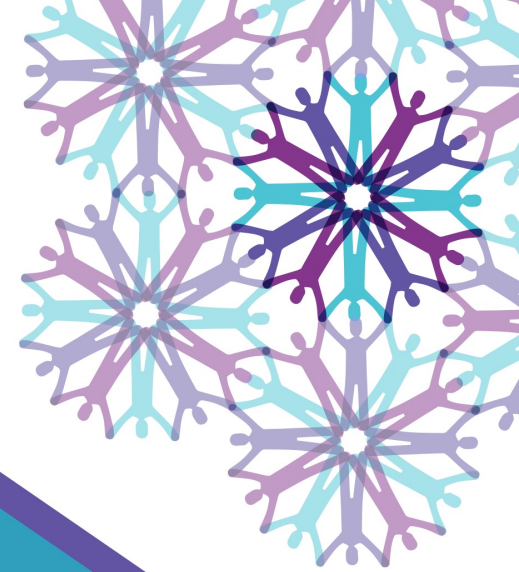
Mentors' Statements

- Demonstrate mentoring team is committed to the candidate's CDP
- Mentors are qualified and have the experience to mentor candidate to independence
- Candidate will have access to resources, facilities and expertise required for the proposal through collaborators and consultants
- The institutional environment is adequate for the career development activities
- The institution is committed to the candidate's career development

Tips for Grant Applications:

- Find NIH grants and funding information:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>
- Visit NIH extramural diversity website:
<https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov>
- Learn about peer review at NIH Center of Scientific Review:
<https://public.csr.nih.gov/ApplicantResources/Pages/default.aspx>





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