

Changes to NIH Competing Application Forms and Instructions (New, Renewal, and Revision)

- All new or resubmission applications with due dates on or after 1/25/2010 must use the new application forms and instructions.
- New application packages will be posted in December 2009, with the exception of the following, which will be available in early 2010: SBIR/STTR grants; Conference grants (R13/U13); Individual NRSA Fellowship applications (F30, F31, F32, and F33).
- You must go to the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) on Grants.gov to download the new application forms and instructions.

New Application Structure and Length

- **Research Plan:** The current three sections of the Research Plan (3. Background and Significance, 4. Preliminary Studies, and 5. Research Design) will now be consolidated into a new single section entitled “**Research Strategy.**”
- The **Research Strategy** will be a single PDF. It is sub-divided into three parts: Significance, Innovation, and Approach. The Approach sub-section will include both Preliminary Studies for New Applications or Progress Report for Renewal/Revision Applications.
- **Shortened Page Limits:** The Research Strategy section will be 6 or 12 pages long. One additional page will be allowed for 2. Specific Aims. For resubmission and revision applications for most programs, the 1. Introduction will be limited to one page.

Current Page Limit (Section 2-5 of the Research Plan)	New Page Limit (Research Strategy)
<25	6
25	12
>25	Follow FOA Instructions

- Current Research Plan Sections 6-17 will be renumbered.
- **Resources:** This section will require a description of how the scientific environment will contribute to the probability of success of the project, unique features of the environment, and Early Stage Investigators must include the institutional investment in the success of the investigator (e.g. resources, classes, etc.).
- **Biographical Sketch:** A new Personal Statement will be incorporated as Part A, changing the parts formerly called A, B, and C to Parts B, C, and D.

Applicants should limit the list of selected peer-reviewed publications to no more than 15. These 15 publications should be chosen on the basis of recency, importance to the field, and relevance to the proposed research.

- NIH Notice NOT-OD-09-149 highlights the above changes. More details will be incorporated into the new instructions NIH will roll out at the end of the year.