Smith Family Foundation: Odyssey Award
Frequently Asked Questions, 2021 Grant Cycle

Program

Do I need to be nominated by my institution?

No. New for the 2021 grant cycle, institutions will no longer be limited to two applicant submissions. However, your institution does need to confirm your eligibility for the program as described in the program guidelines.

Is the Smith Family Foundation: Odyssey Award the same program as the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research?

No, the Smith Family Foundation: Odyssey Award is a separate grant program and will not replace the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research.

Will you continue to offer the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research funding opportunity?

Yes. Please see the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research website at https://hria.org/tmf/Smith/.

Eligibility

Are awardees of the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research eligible to apply for the Smith Family Foundation: Odyssey Award?

Yes, awardees of the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research are eligible to apply for the Smith Family Foundation: Odyssey Award.

Does it matter whether the first independent faculty appointment is Instructor or Assistant professor or are both acceptable? Is an instructor appointment considered an ‘independent’ faculty position?

The window is 4-9 years in a tenure track assistant professor position. We understand that there is a continuum of independence at many institutions beginning with emerging independence at the Instructor level. However, in order to level the playing field and ensure that all applicants have only one window of eligibility, we are considering the Assistant Professor appointment to be the first independent faculty appointment.

Regarding the $750,000 limit on direct costs from federal and non-federal sources, I have two private sector awards at $400,000 each. Would this preclude me from applying?

Applicants are ineligible if, at the time of application, they have combined federal and non-federal funding totaling $750,000 or more in direct costs in either of the first two years (10/1/21 - 9/30/22 or 10/1/22 - 9/30/23) of the two-year Smith Odyssey Award. This figure refers to external funding only and...
not an Applicant’s start-up package, other intramural support, or the Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research.

If I have $750,000 or more in direct costs during the first year of the Smith Odyssey Award and nothing in the second year, will I still be eligible?

No, you are not eligible.

If an investigator has a 5-yr R01 that gives $250,000 per year does that count toward the $750,000 as $250,000, $500,000 (two years combined) or $1.25 million?

The $750,000 cap is per year so this would count as $250,000.

Application Instructions

May I include supplemental materials with my Initial Proposal, such as letters of collaboration/recommendation or a budget form?

No. Supplemental materials submitted during the Initial Proposal stage will be removed.

Do I need to include biosketches for Co-investigators on the project (those who will be receiving salary support)? Should these be uploaded after my biosketch?

Yes and yes.

Are subcontracts allowable?

Yes. Please include a subcontract budget sheet with your Full Proposal budget and include the description of the relevant work and role on the project within the proposal.

For the Full Proposal budget information should I include each page of the spreadsheet as an individual page in the combined PDF document?

Yes, each page of the budget should be included in your final PDF. Please change the numbering in the table of contents to reflect all budget pages.

For the applicant biosketch, instructions state to use the latest NIH biographical sketch form, to list all pending support, and to make sure that all active and pending support matches the support listed on the Other Funding Support form (Full Stage Application). However, per NIH guidelines the biosketch should not include pending support. Can you please advise if pending support should be listed on the biosketch for the Odyssey Award proposal?

Please list pending in additional to current and completed, although this does deviate slightly from the NIH guidelines.
Is it permissible to include graduate student tuition in my budget for the Smith Family Foundation Odyssey Award?

If the graduate student has a significant role on the proposed project, tuition may be charged as a personnel expense.

Do I need to mail a hard copy of my PDF proposal?

No, please do not mail any hard copies.

**Online Submissions**

I have started and saved an application but when I try to log in, I cannot find my previous application and need to start a new one.

There is a separate log-in for saved applications. Instead of using the link for, “Start a New Application,” click the link that states, “Continue a Saved Application.” After logging in, you will see the name of the application that you started. Click on that link and then continue the submission process.

Where do I get an ORCID ID number?

Please visit [https://orcid.org/](https://orcid.org/) to register for an ORCID ID. You are not required to provide an ORCID ID to submit your Smith Odyssey application.

How many letters of recommendation do I need?

New for the 2021 Full Stage: **ONE confidential** letter is required which must be submitted through the online system, from a Recommender of your choice. The Recommender does not need to be based at your institution. We encourage you to choose someone who knows your work well, and who can present some aspect of your professional background or project that we might not appreciate otherwise, and/or who can explain why you are a great match for this funding opportunity and its focus on innovation. Department Chair letters are no longer required for this program. Only one Recommender letter may be submitted.