

Can you confirm the indirects are included in the \$400,000 and not in addition?

Yes indirect cost is included in the 400,000\$

I am waiting on the award of a major NIH grant (it has been delayed) that might make my yearly total over \$750K. It will not happen before February deadline. Should I still apply for this grant?

Yes, just mark it as pending and let us know if the award comes through and you no longer remain eligible

The RFP says the award is intended to fund "create and novel lines of research that are distinct from the applicants' current research directions." Is there guidance for what counts as "novel and distinct"? (e.g. should the PI have some preliminary work/data in that direction? If they have a conference abstract or publication, is that no longer "novel and distinct"?)

The program usually wants applicants to dream big and go beyond the regular work of their lab. Previous applicants were successful with limited preliminary data but they had a strong collaborator who helped fill in the gaps

Is the focus here on traditional laboratory bench science, or could bioinformatics or mathematical/computational approaches to biological questions also be eligible?

The review team has a broad range of expertise and we see diversity in previously funded projects; if your project focuses on computational approaches, be very clear to show the conceptual novelty and what you're hoping to actually learn from it. Don't forget to include what system; don't get so in the weeds that you forget to mention where you're going to do experiments in/what kind of cells. Its important for people to understand clearly

To confirm, HMS instructorship does not count for eligibility, correct?

The eligibility states “for example, tenure-track assistant professor”, is this award available for non-tenure track faculty?

Is a tenure track position a hard requirement, or is an assistant professor in a non-tenure track able to apply?

Non-tenure track are unfortunately not eligible, instructorship usually is not tenure track and hence typically is not eligible

Strength of an earlier stage vs more mid-investigator, particularly in regard to publications

While it is up to the judgement of the individual investigator, just having the publication on bio-archive is sufficient for the reviewers.

Preliminary data, if we’re dreaming big (high risk high reward), is preliminary data from other projects that show feasibility is required?

Previous applicants were successful with limited preliminary data but they had a strong collaborator who helped fill in the gaps