Access to NIH Grant and Application Data for Scientific Research

NIH makes a large amount of its grant and funding information available for various reasons, including research. This document outlines the information we make publicly available and the process to access non-public data for specific selected research purposes.

NIH Funding Data Available to the Public

The NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT) website provides public access to a wide array of exportable administrative grants-related data and statistics. Examples include:

- NIH RePORTER (RePORT Expenditures and Results):
    - Online: search for funded projects, investigators, publications, and patents; see this NIH Open Mike blog for more.
    - API (application programming interface): allows users to review comprehensive and current grants data in a timely way; see this NIH Open Mike blog for more.

- Awards by Location: Provides year-by-year NIH funding data, filterable by institution, state, congressional district, and more.

- RCDC (Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization): actuals and future estimates of annual support level for various budget categories based on grants, research and development contracts, and other funding mechanisms used by NIH, as well as disease burden data published by the CDC National Center for Health Statistics. See this NIH Open Mike blog for more.

- RePORT's Funding section includes Budget and Spending and Success Rate information

- NIH Data Book: provides a wealth of summary statistics on extramural grants and research and development contract awards, including the organizations and trainees and fellows that NIH supports; application success rates; and the national biomedical workforce. See this NIH Open Mike blog for more.

We encourage you to first review these public resources to find answers to your questions. Please address questions or comments to RePORT@mail.nih.gov.

Access to Non-Public Data

If you seek data beyond what is publicly available, consider the following options:

1) FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request

a. Before submitting a request, you might find it helpful to review information available from the NIH FOIA Office and this Open Mike blog on what may or may not be released about NIH's grants administrative data.
b. If you are an NIH-funded investigator or applicant and NIH administrative data is part of your research, please discuss with an NIH Institute, Center, or Office (ICO) program official and, if they agree the data is necessary, you can add their concurrence to your FOIA request.
c. Please note that the government may withhold information pursuant to the exemptions and exclusions section of the FOIA.

2) Guest Researcher
a. An NIH ICO must agree to sponsor the guest researcher and assist with filing the appropriate documentation, including a confidentiality agreement.
b. A Guest Researcher data access and data use are subject to all the same rules, regulations, and procedures that apply to NIH employees, including a background check, security clearance, and disclosure/resolution of any financial conflicts of interest.
c. Research conducted with personally identifiable data qualifies as human subjects research and generally will require Institutional Review Board approval provided to the ICO prior to data access.
d. A Guest Researcher must provide their sponsoring NIH ICO a summary of their findings resulting from use of NIH administrative grants data as well as any manuscripts, presentations, or other documents for ICO review and approval prior to publishing or otherwise being made public. See the NIH Manual Chapter on Publications for more.