



NIH Fiscal Policy for Grant Awards-FY 2008

NIH has announced its FY2008 fiscal policy in the NIH Guide Notice of January 28, 2008. The policy reflects the \$29.2 billion NIH appropriation for FY2008; a 1% increase over the FY2007 funding level.

Highlights of the NIH fiscal policy include:

- 1) Non-Competing (Continuation) Awards: These will be funded, on average, at approximately a 98 percent level of the previously established commitments. Note, previously established commitments were based on a 3% inflation allowance. Since the NIH appropriation resulted in only a 1% increase, the previously established commitments had to be adjusted, accordingly.
- 2) Competing Awards: The average cost of competing awards will increase by 1% over the FY2007. It is estimated this will allow the NIH Institutes to support the NIH investigator pool with approximately 9,700 new and competing Research Project Grants, and will allow the number of new investigators to be comparable to the average of the most recent five years.
- 3) Career Awards (K series), SBIR/STTRs: These programs will generally be funded at the committed levels.
- 4) Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA Individual and Institutional Training Awards): Funds for stipends, tuition and training-related expenses are being held at the FY2007 levels.

Each NIH Institute will be required to manage its portfolio in compliance with the 1% NIH appropriation increase. However, the FY2008 fiscal policy does allow each Institute more flexibility than was provided in FY2006 and FY2007 (both years also experienced sub-inflation appropriation increases). For example, individual non-competing awards may be funded at higher level, or a lower level, as long as the Institute (in total) remains in compliance with its funding target (i.e., 1% increase).

Additional information on specific funding strategies for each Institute will be available at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/financial/index.htm>