Budget and Period of Support Information

Reviewer Guidance
Updated March 2023

Unless specified otherwise in the Funding Opportunity Announcement, consideration of the budget and project period should not affect the overall impact score.

Reviewer Information

- The reviewer should determine whether the requested budget is realistic for the conduct of the project proposed. It is the Scientific Review Group (SRG) that makes a committee recommendation on the budget request and project period requested. Budget recommendations may be made to adjust the level of support to that appropriate for the work recommended.
- ***Starting with applications received on or after January 25, 2023**, as part of the budget consideration the reviewer should consider the 'Data Management and Sharing Justification'. Reviewers will not have access to the full Data Management and Sharing Plan, so the review of their assessment of this aspect of the budget will only include information from the 'Data Management and Sharing Justification'.
- Reductions may be recommended under circumstances such as:
  - The budget is considered to be insufficiently justified by the project described in the application
  - Insufficient information is provided in the application about the work to be done in later years of the project
  - The reviewers deem that the project can be completed in fewer years or for a smaller budget than requested
- If recommending reductions or increases in time or amount, please provide comments in the review critique template (the Scientific Review Officer will summarize the discussion of the budget and project period in the budget paragraph of the summary statement)

Reviewing Applications with Modular Budgets

- The SRG may recommend the elimination or addition of one or more $25,000 modules or specific budget items
- Applications from foreign institutions with budgets of any size must use budget requests that are itemized and justified (see NOT-OD-06-096)
- See NIH Modular Research Grants Applications for general information about modular budgets
- See Review of NIH Modular Research Grants Applications for review information

Reviewing Applications with Non-modular Budgets

- The SRG may recommend that:
  - certain positions or other requests be deleted from the budget or reduced if they do not appear necessary to conduct the research, or
  - the percent effort to be devoted to the project by certain individuals be reduced if judged to be insufficiently justified by the needs of the project
  - the budget is judged to be adequate to support the proposed work without recommending line item changes
  - additions or increases to the budget request, if it is judged to be insufficient to support the work proposed
- Reductions of salary rates may not be recommended by the SRG

Reviewing Budget Requests for Revision Applications

- Reviewers must include comments on the revision budget in relation to the originally approved parent budget

Identifying Budget Overlap

- Overlap may be difficult to identify since applicants are not required to list all active or pending research grants
- If potential overlap is identified by reviewers, it should be indicated in the comments on the review critique template
- The Scientific Review Officer will include overlap concerns in an administrative note in the Summary Statement

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