

George Mason University Summary of NIH R15 – Research Enhancement Awards  
 AREA and REAP program eligibility and requirements  
 3/2/2020

	R15 AREA	R15 REAP
Status	Mason is ELIGIBLE through September 30, 2020.	ONLY Mason's College of Nursing (CHHS) is eligible through September 30, 2020.
Applicant	OSP determines Mason's eligibility annually by November 15th. <sup>i</sup>	Same as AREA, except: only eligible Health Professional Schools or Graduate Schools <sup>ii</sup> may apply. At Mason, the only eligible school is the College of Nursing.
PI	The PD(s)/PI(s) of the applicant institution: a) must have a primary appointment at the applicant institution b) may NOT be the PD(s)/PI(s) of an <b>active</b> NIH research grant, including another AREA grant, at the time of award of an AREA grant c) MAY be key personnel for an active NIH grant held by another PD/PI. d) may hold successive New or Renewal grants.	Only PD(s)/PI(s) within the College of Nursing may apply.
Required Documentation	OSP provides a letter verifying eligibility with the application.	Same as AREA.
Subawards	Permitted to a non-AREA eligible institution, excluding foreign institutions. <sup>iii</sup>  The majority of the research must be conducted by the PD(s)/PI(s) of the grantee institution. Applicants should keep the goals of the AREA program in mind when preparing the application, which include strengthening the research environment of eligible institutions and exposing students from eligible institutions to research.	Same as AREA.

<sup>i</sup> Applicant institution must 1) be an accredited public or non-profit private school that grants baccalaureate degrees in biomedical sciences; 2) have a greater undergraduate to graduate student enrollment; and 3) may not have received research support from the NIH totaling more than \$6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs) in 4 of the last 7 years (see Section I. Funding Opportunity Description for definition of "institution"). A year is defined as a federal fiscal year: from October 1 through September 30

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<sup>ii</sup> Definition of Health Professional Schools or Colleges: Health professional schools and colleges are accredited institutions that provide education and training leading to a health professional degree, including but not limited to: BSN, MSN, DNP, MD, DDS, DO, PharmD, DVM, OD, DPT, DC, ND, DPM, MOT, OTD, DPT, BME, MSEE, MS-SLP, CScD, SLPD, AuD, MSPO, MSAT, and MPH. Eligible health professional schools/colleges may include schools or colleges of nursing, medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, public health, optometry, allied health, chiropractic, naturopathy, podiatry, rehabilitation medicine, physical therapy, orthotics & prosthetics, kinesiology, biomedical engineering, occupational therapy and psychology. Accreditation must be provided by a body approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education. A graduate school offers advanced degrees, beyond the undergraduate level, in an academic discipline. Advance degrees include M.A., M.S., and Ph.D.

<sup>iii</sup> Applications may include a foreign collaboration, component, or consortium.

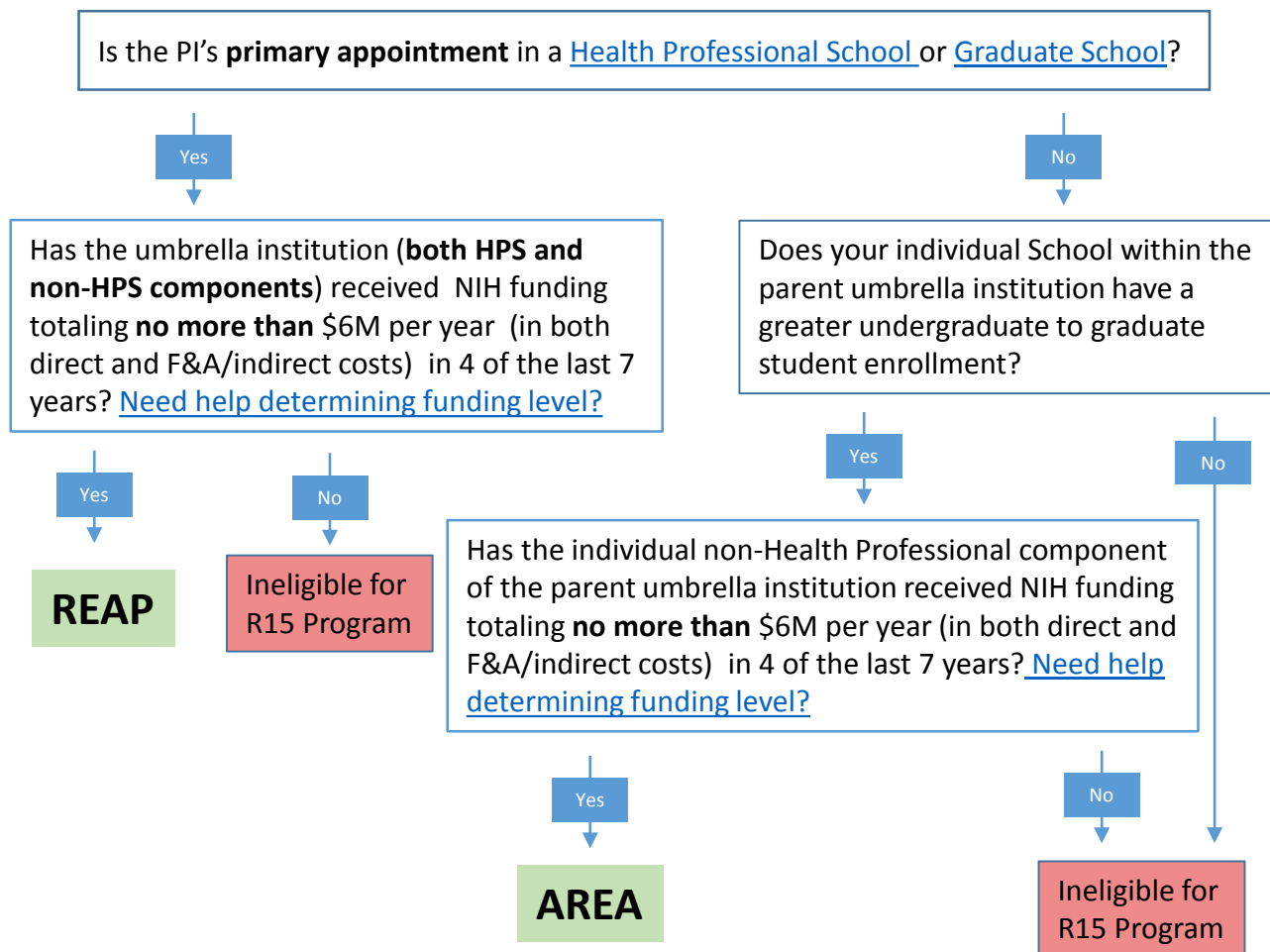
# Is one of the R15 programs (REAP or AREA) right for me?

There are two programs administered under the R15 activity code

1. Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) for Health Professional Schools and Graduate Schools
  - [PAR-19-134](#) - REAP, Clinical Trial Not Allowed; [PAR-19-135](#) - REAP, Clinical Trial Required
2. Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) for Undergraduate-Focused institutions
  - [PAR-18-714](#) - AREA, Clinical Trial Not Allowed; [PAR-19-133](#) - AREA, Clinical Trial Required

Each R15 funding opportunity includes detailed organization and Principal Investigator (PI) eligibility information. All eligibility criteria must be met to qualify, including the requirement that the PI not have any other active research grants at time of award. Use the decision tree to identify a potential fit, then check the appropriate funding opportunity announcement to confirm full eligibility.

## R15 Eligibility Decision Tree





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Home » About Grants » Grant Process Overview » Types of Grant Programs » NIH Research Enhancement Award (R15)

## NIH Research Enhancement Award (R15)

### Definition of an R15

Supports small-scale research projects at educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists but that have not been major recipients of NIH support.

The goals of the R15 are to:

- support meritorious research,
- expose students to research, and
- strengthen the research environment of the institution.

Awards provide limited Direct Costs, plus applicable F&A costs, for periods not to exceed 36 months. This activity code uses multi-year funding authority.

### R15 Changes in 2019

The R15 activity code will be rebranded as "NIH Research Enhancement Award" and will include two programs:

1. Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions

## 2. Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) for Health Professional Schools and Graduate Schools

An institution letter verifying eligibility with the criteria listed in the funding opportunity announcement will be required with each application and the ineligible institution list will no longer be maintained.

We are no longer posting an AREA/R15 parent announcement. Instead, participating NIH institutes and centers work with a lead institute to post AREA and REAP opportunities.

See NOT-OD-19-015 for additional information.

## Eligibility

Each funding opportunity announcement includes detailed eligibility information that supersedes any general information listed here.

To assist in determining eligibility, organizations are encouraged to use the NIH RePORT website (see Need Help Determining Organization Funding Levels for R15 Eligibility?).

## Organization Eligibility

### Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions

- The applicant institution must be an accredited public or non-profit private school that grants baccalaureate degrees in biomedical sciences.
- At the time of application submission, all the non-health professional components of the institution together have not received support from the NIH totaling more than \$6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs) in 4 of the last 7 fiscal years. Note that all activity codes are included in this calculation except the following: C06, S10, and all activity codes starting with a G.
- A signed letter is required from the Provost or similar official with institution-wide responsibility verifying the eligibility of the applicant institution at the time of application submission.

### Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) for Health Professional Schools and Graduate Schools

- The applicant organization must be an accredited public or non-profit private school that grants baccalaureate or advanced degrees in health professions or advanced degrees in biomedical and behavioral sciences.

- At the time of application submission, the applicant institution may not have received support from the NIH totaling more than \$6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs) in 4 of the last 7 fiscal years. Note that all activity codes are included in this calculation except the following: C06, S10, and all activity codes starting with a G.
- A signed letter is required from the Provost or similar official with institution-wide responsibility verifying the eligibility of the applicant institution at the time of application submission.

## R15 Principal Investigator Eligibility

- The PI must have a primary appointment at the R15-eligible institution.
- The PI may not be the PI of an active NIH research grant at the time of a R15 award, though he or she may be one of the Key Personnel for an active NIH grant held by another PD/PI.
  - Instrumentation awards (S10), conference grants (R13), and institutional training grants (T32) are examples of grants that are not considered research grants.
- The PI may not be awarded more than one R15 grant at a time.
- Eligibility applies only to the PI and Multiple PIs, not to collaborators, consultants, or sub awardees.

## Application Characteristics

- Project period is limited to 3 years.
- Direct costs are limited to \$300,000 over the entire project period.
- R15 grants are multi-year funded awards. The entire budget, for all years of the award, must be requested in the first budget year.
  - Do not complete budget periods 2 or 3. They are not required and will not be accepted with the application.
- NIH's Modular Budget Policy apply
  - Applicants submitting an application with direct costs of \$250,000 or less (total for all years, excluding consortium Facilities and Administrative [F&A] costs) must use the Modular Budget.
  - Applicants submitting an application with direct costs of \$250,001 - \$300,000 (total for all years, excluding consortium Facilities and Administrative [F&A] costs) must use the Research and Related (R&R) Budget form.
- Awards can be renewed by competing for an additional project period.
- The application should propose a research team, including undergraduate and/or graduate students, that is appropriate to accomplish the specific aims and to make an important scientific contribution.

## Due Dates

Standard R15 receipt dates are **February 25, June 25, and October 25**. AIDS and AIDS-related grant application due dates are May 7, September 7, and January 7. For additional information, the receipt, review and award cycle schedules are posted on: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm>.

## Award Data

The Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT) website provides information about research grants including the number of funded new and competing R01s, average award dollars and characteristics of research project grants.

- NIH AREA/R15 Competing Applications, Awards, Success Rates and Total Funding by NIH IC

## Active Funding Opportunity Announcements

- NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts search results for active AREA/R15 opportunities

Note: NIH no longer posts Parent Announcements for the R15 program.

### Did you find this page helpful?

Yes

No

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## RESOURCES

- [FAQs - AREA and REAP \(R15\)](#)
- [R15 Research Areas listed by NIH Institute](#)
- [R15 IC Scientific/Research Contacts](#)
- [R15 Eligibility Decision Tree](#)
- [Help Determining Organization Funding Levels for R15 Eligibility](#)
- [Sample Provost Letters Certifying Eligibility](#)
- [Sample Biosketch Personal Statement](#)
- [Sample Facilities and Other Resources](#)

Technical Issues: [E-mail OER Webmaster](#)

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