The webinar will begin shortly

- **Questions/Comments:** Share questions and comments using the Q&A function. Questions will be reviewed during the Q&A period
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Expanding Research in AD/ADRD (ERA) R25 Awards

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
1 p.m. ET

NIH National Institute on Aging

Agenda

- Welcome
- Expanding Research in AD/ADRD (ERA) R25 Awards
- Moderated Q&A

Please use the Q&A function to submit questions at any time.

Speakers

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Disclaimer

This webinar is for informational purposes only and **does not replace** the detailed instructions in the Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs):

- RFA-AG-26-010
- RFA-AG-26-011

Overview

- NIA ERA Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed): RFA-AG-26-010
- NIA ERA Summer Research Education Program (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed): RFA-AG-26-011
- For each NOFO, NIA intends to fund up to 5 awards per year
  - **NIH will no longer request or accept Letters of Intent (LOI)**
  - **Applications Due:** May 27, 2026 and May 26, 2027
- **No late applications will be accepted.**

Background

National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (AD/ADRD)

Major goals: reduce the burden of AD/ADRD by:

- Address shortage of scientists conducting AD/ADRD research, including basic, clinical, translational, prevention, and treatment research.

- **NOFOs address:**
  - Goal G-3 of the NIA's Strategic Directions for Research: **Train and attract the workforce necessary for rigorous research on aging.**
  - **Early exposure** to high-quality, hands-on research education experiences in AD/ADRD as a pathway to increasing the AD/ADRD research workforce.

NIA Training and Career Development Landscape

Key

- Institutional
- Clinician-scientist
- No U.S. citizenship or permanent residency requirement

*NIA-hosted program

Acronyms

AD: Alzheimer's Disease

ADRD: Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

AREA: Academic Research Enhancement Awards

ERA: Expanding Research in AD/ADRD

ESI: Early Stage Investigator

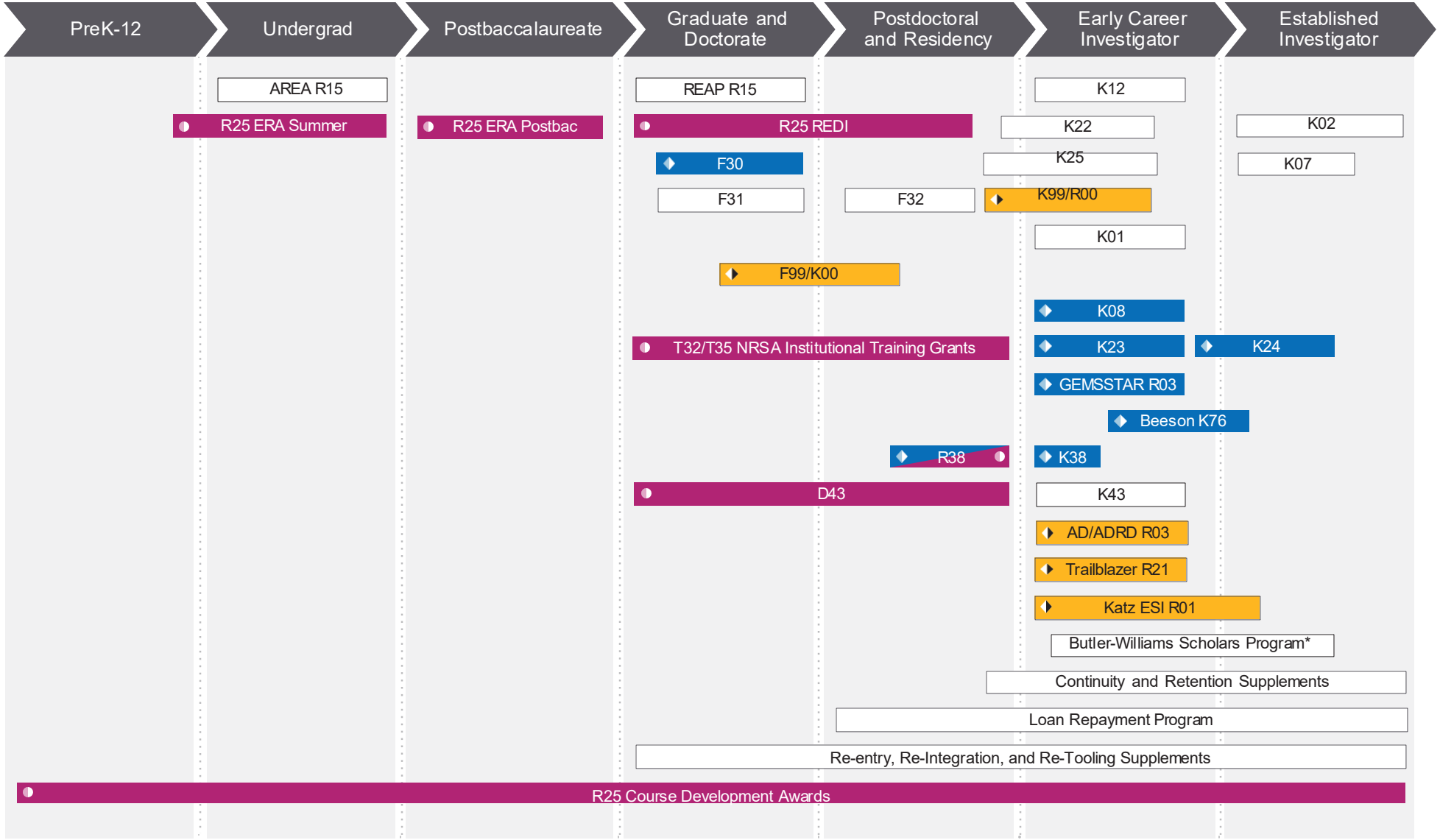
GEMSSTAR: Grants for Early Medical/Surgical Specialists Transition to Aging Research

NIA: National Institute on Aging

NRSA: National Research Service Award

REAP: Research Enhancement Award Program

REDI: Research and Entrepreneurial Development Immersion



ERA R25 Research Education Awards

Required focus on AD/ADRD research, including **genetic, biological, clinical, behavioral, social, and economic research**

R25 NIA ERA Summer Research Education Experience Program	8- to 14-week summer research programs for undergraduates, high schoolers, or K–12 teachers.
R25 NIA ERA Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program	1- to 2-year intensive research experience for recent graduates, with mentoring on research careers.

NIA AD/ADRD Research Interests

- **Epidemiology & Population Studies**
- **Disease Mechanisms**
- **Diagnosis, Assessment, & Monitoring**
- **Translational Research & Clinical Interventions**
- **Dementia Care & Impact of Disease**
- **Research Resources**

Goals of the ERA Programs

Summer Program	Postbaccalaureate Program
• Provide **paid** avenues for critical research training	
• To further expand the AD/ADRD research workforce pathways for earlier stage students and recent college graduates	
• Increase enrollment, retention, and completion of undergraduate studies in STEM • Enhance K–12 STEM curriculum	• Provide research exposure; training opportunities; and preparation for graduate school, medical school, or biomedical careers

Non-Responsiveness Criteria
Applications that propose research programs primarily outside of AD/ADRD research, or have a general STEM focus, will be considered non-responsive to this NOFO and will be withdrawn prior to review.

AD/ADRD Summer Research Experience

$200,000 in direct costs, up to 5 years

Participants

High School Students	or	Undergraduates	or	K–12 Teachers
• AD/ADRD research exposure • Interest in major • 15–20 participants per year		• AD/ADRD research intensive summer • Persistence in biomed major • 10–15 participants per year		• Curriculum-relevant research exposure • Understanding of research careers • 5–8 participants per year

Application requirements

- Mentor training
- Evaluation plan

AD/ADRD Postbaccalaureate Research Experience

$400,000 in direct costs, up to 5 years

75%

Research

Cutting-edge lab research experience with dedicated mentorship

25%

Professional Development

Coursework, journal club, technical training (methods, programming etc.), conference participation, application prep

Typical length

- 2 years program with expectation that some participants will complete only 1 year

Application requirements

- Mentor training
- Evaluation plan

Annual Award Budgets

	Summer Program	Postbaccalaureate Program
Total Direct Cost	**$200,000**	**$400,000**
Personnel Cost	Directors and administrators may request salary + fringe in alignment with person-months committed to program	
Participant Cost	Allowable cost depends on educational level/career status of participants	Up to 12 participants, committing 100% effort
Program-Related Expenses	Evaluation costs allowable up to $3,000 Reasonable costs for participant travel allowable	
Indirect Cost	8%	8%
Maximum Budget Period	5 years	5 years

Eligible Institutions

- **U.S. institutions only**
- Variety of institution types encouraged
- Should not duplicate existing R25 or T32 programs but can augment
- Recommended partnerships with NIH- and NIA-funded centers:
  - Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ARDCs)
  - Centers on the Demography and Economics of Aging
  - Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC)
  - Edward R. Roybal Centers for Translation Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences of Aging
  - Nathan Shock Centers
  - Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA)

Application Structure and Page Limits

Section of Application	Page Limits
Project Summary/Abstract	30 lines of text
Project Narrative	3 sentences
Specific Aims	1 page
Research Education Program Plan	25 pages
Biographical Sketches	5 pages each

Research Education Program Plan — 25 pages

1. Proposed Research Education Program
    a) Program Rationale, Mission, Objectives, and Overall Research Education Plan
    b) Professional Development
    c) Program Oversight, Participating Faculty Selection, and Mentor Training
2. Program Director/Principal Investigator
3. Program Faculty/Mentors
4. Program Participants
5. Institutional Environment and Commitment

Research Education Program Plan, cont'd — 25 pages

6. Plan for Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility **(Postbaccalaureate only)**
7. Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research
8. Evaluation Plan
9. Dissemination Plan

1. Proposed Research Education Program

A. Program Rationale, Mission, Objectives, and Overall Research Education Plan

Postbaccalaureate and Summer Programs

- Program mission — broad statement of purpose
- Program objectives — specific measurable outcomes the program intends to achieve
- Rationale and strategies used for selecting participants
- Clear articulation of overall didactic philosophy, strategy, concepts and benefit for selected participants
- Planned research and professional development activities

1. Proposed Research Education Program

B. Professional Development

Postbaccalaureate Program	Summer Program
Program participants will: • Be provided with information regarding the variety of careers in the biomedical research workforce • Learn the skills, knowledge, and steps needed to attain positions across the AD/ADRD research workforce	High school student participants will: • Develop an enhanced interest in college level STEM education • Gain an increased understanding of opportunities across the AD/ADRD research workforce Undergraduate participants will: • Experience increased retention in STEM degrees • Develop an enhanced interest in graduate level science education or scientific careers related to AD/ADRD Science teachers will: • Gain an enhanced scientific knowledge base • Develop hands-on scientific curriculum focused on AD/ADRD

1. Proposed Research Education Program

C. Program Oversight, Participating Faculty Selection, and Mentor Training

Postbaccalaureate and Summer Programs

- Planned strategy to oversee the program and to ensure appropriate participant progress
- Training for participating faculty in **evidence-informed approaches** to teaching, training, and mentoring practices that promote the development of all participants
- Mechanisms to monitor mentoring, including:
  - oversight of the effectiveness of the participant/faculty match,
  - plan for removing faculty displaying unacceptable mentorship qualities from the research education program

2. Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI)

- PD/PIs must provide both **administrative and scientific leadership** to the program
- Multiple PD/PIs are encouraged, at least one PD/PI with active research program in AD/ADRD
- Additional PD/PIs may have complementary expertise, for instance, in areas such as:
  - Science of education
  - Relevant social science disciplines
  - Program evaluation
  - Mentoring
  - Experience in expanding participation in the AD/ADRD research workforce
  - University administration
- PD/PIs must have a **demonstrated commitment** to developing the next generation of AD/ADRD research workforce, leading efforts to expand participation in biomedical and behavioral sciences, and fostering supportive research environments

3. Program Faculty/Mentors

- Faculty should have:
  - Relevant research expertise and experience, including in AD/ADRD;
  - Sufficient time to commit to the program;
  - A record of conducting ethically sound and responsible scientific research;
  - Training in effective, evidence-informed mentoring and teaching practices; and
  - A commitment to mentoring program participants in a supportive research environment.

Researchers from a variety of scientific backgrounds are encouraged to participate as program faculty.

4. Program Participants

- Unless strongly justified, participants should be U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Each program is strongly encouraged to identify candidates who will strongly benefit from participating in the NIA ERA program
- Programs should describe:
  - Rationale and strategies used for selecting participants
  - A clear description of why the participants selected would benefit from the program
    - **Postbaccalaureate only:** Why participants will benefit from additional preparation prior to applying to AD/ADRD-focused research positions or advanced degree programs
  - A plan to oversee and monitor the program and ensure appropriate participant progress
- Positive career outcomes not limited to academia

5. Institutional Environment and Commitment

Each application must additionally describe:

- An institutional commitment to advance the highest standards of safety, scientific rigor, reproducibility, and responsible conduct of research;
- Policies and procedures in place to protect the participants from harassment and other prohibited practices;
- Accessibility of the research facilities to participants with disabilities;
- Institutional support for any core facilities or technology resources necessary for the success of the program; and
- Where applicable, how the proposed program will add significant value over existing programs at the applicant institution.

6 and 7. Plans for Instruction in Reproducible and Responsible Research

Plan for Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility (Postbaccalaureate only)

- Describe how participants will be instructed in principles important for enhancing research reproducibility
- Applicants are encouraged to consult the NIGMS Clearinghouse for Training Modules to Enhance Data Reproducibility and other resources when developing the plan

Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research

- Address the five required instructional components outlined in the NIH policy:
  1) Format, 2) Subject Matter, 3) Faculty Participation, 4) Duration of Instruction, and 5) Frequency of Instruction
- Appropriate and reasonable for the nature and duration of the proposed program

8. Evaluation Plan

- Specify baseline metrics and measures to gauge success in achieving objectives
  - Is the overall program effective in achieving objectives?
  - Is the research climate supportive of participant development?
- Include feedback from participants to help identify weaknesses and provide suggestions for improvements
- Plan to track participant career outcomes
- Can budget up to $3,000 per year for evaluation

9. Dissemination Plan

- Specific plan to disseminate nationally any findings resulting from or materials developed within the research education program, such as:
  - Course curricula and related materials
  - Presentations at scientific meetings
  - Workshops

Additional Attachments

Letters of support attesting to institutional commitment

Advisory Committee **(optional)**

Program faculty biosketches

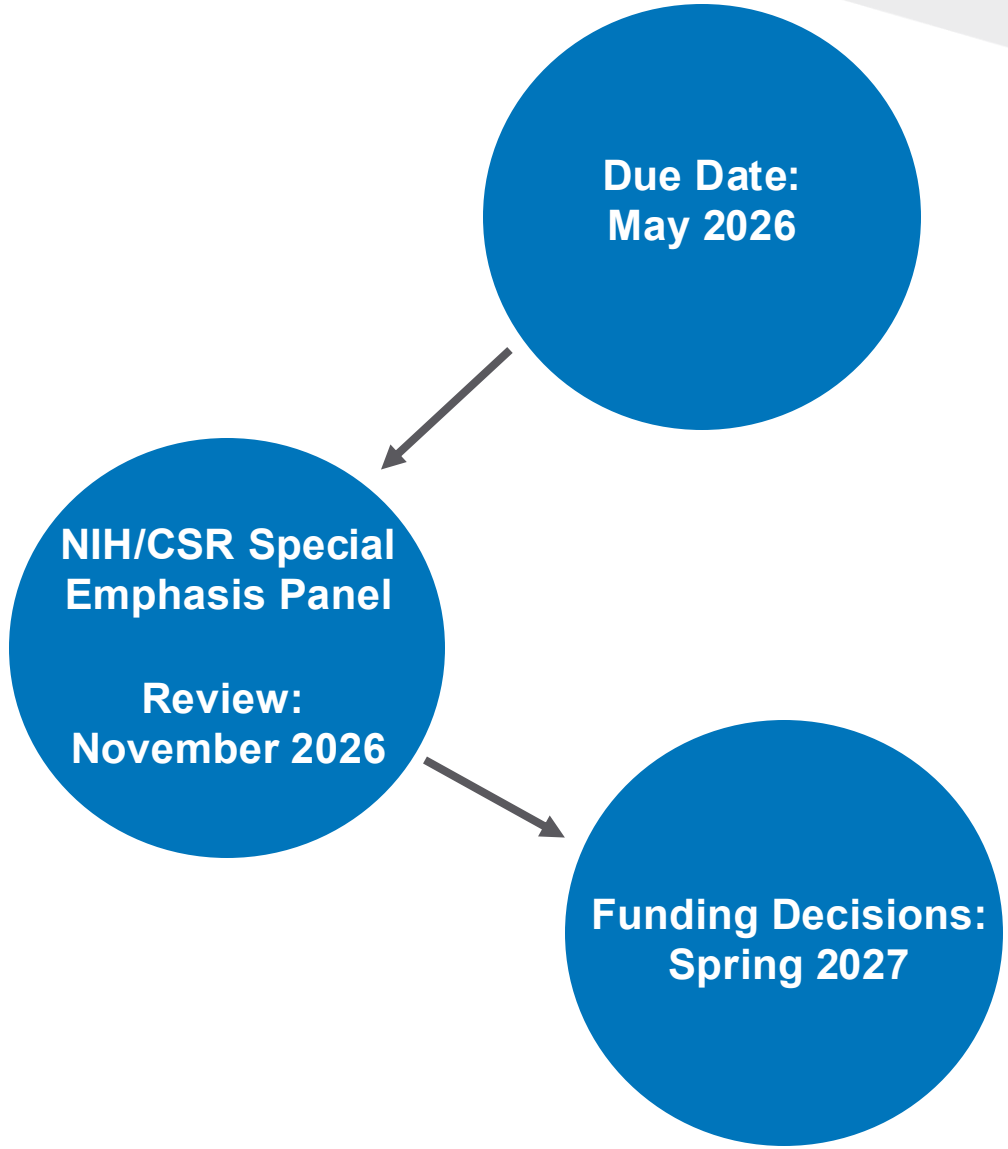
Review Process and Criteria

Scored Review Criteria:

- Significance
- Investigators
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

Additional Review Criteria:

- Plan for instruction in methods for enhancing reproducibility **(Postbaccalaureate only)**



Next Steps

- **Read the NOFOs**
  - RFA-AG-26-010
  - RFA-AG-26-011

- **Contact**
  NIATraining@mail.nih.gov
  with questions or to receive feedback on specific aims

- **Submit application by May 27, 2026**

Questions?

Submit using the Q&A function

Keep in touch with NIA training staff

Send your policy or eligibility questions and draft specific aims to NIATraining@mail.nih.gov

Maria Carranza, Ph.D.

Jamie Lahvic, Ph.D.

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