



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
RESEARCH RESOURCES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

The National Center for Research Resources ensures that essential tools and research resources are readily available to NIH-supported investigators nationwide. NCCR-supported resources—a comprehensive range of human, animal, technology, and more—enable biomedical research advances.

Research and Animal Facilities Improvement

Improvements to research and animal facilities enhance our nation's ability to conduct state-of-the-art biomedical and behavioral research. These facilities are increasingly critical as our nation makes large investments in cutting-edge biomedical research to address AIDS, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and many other major illnesses.

The Division of Research Infrastructure of the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) provides funding to improve research and animal facilities by way of two distinct programs:

- Research Facilities Improvement Program
- Animal Facilities Improvement Program

Research Facilities Improvement Program (RFIP)

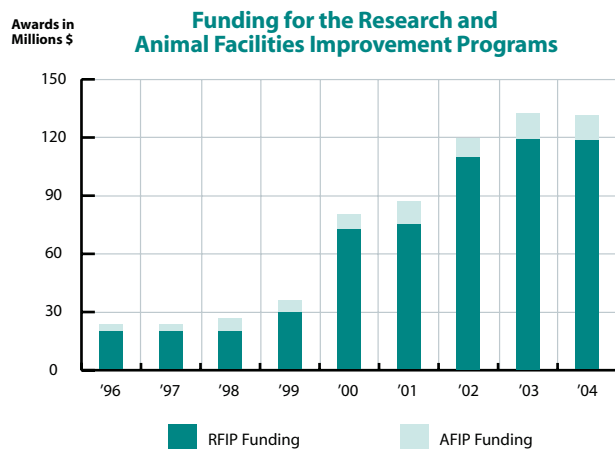
Grants are provided to public and nonprofit private institutions under the RFIP program to expand, remodel, renovate, or alter existing research facilities or construct new research facilities. These facilities must support basic and/or clinical biomedical and behavioral research, and they may also support research training.

A recent federal study established the need for greater attention to research facilities. According to the National Science Foundation study, biomedical research institutions have deferred nearly \$5.6 billion in repair, renovation, and construction projects due to lack of funds. More than half of the institutions that conduct biological or medical research have inadequate research space to meet their current research commitments.

To meet this infrastructure problem, NCRR provides extramural RFIP grants for new facilities, additions to existing buildings, completion of "shell" space, and alterations and renovations.

RFIP grants do not support construction of "shell" space; instrumentation or moveable equipment (usually requested as part of a research project grant); land acquisition; or off-site improvements.

Domestic, non-federal, public and private nonprofit institutions, organizations, and associations that conduct or support biomedical or behavioral research are



eligible to apply. Applications are encouraged from institutions of emerging excellence—those health profession schools that received grants in the previous year from the Centers of Excellence (COE) Program of the Division of Health Professions Diversity, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Additional information about the COE program may be found at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/diversity/default.htm>. Special consideration will be given to smaller and developing institutions.

The applicant institution must plan, direct, and execute the proposed project. The total project period may not exceed 5 years, and facilities and administrative costs or continuation costs will not be awarded. The initial budget period is usually 2 years, although extensions may be granted. The annual application receipt deadlines for a construction grant are February 1 and October 1.

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated at two levels. First, the Scientific and Technical Review Board on Biomedical and Behavioral Research Facilities will evaluate the applications for scientific and technical merit after they are determined to be complete and responsive to the NCRR Program Announcement. Second, the NCRR's National Advisory Research Resources Council will assess the quality of the scientific merit review and will consider program and policy relevance.

Construction project applications must meet two primary criteria: 1) the proposed construction project must enhance the institution's ability to conduct, expand, improve, or maintain biomedical/behavioral research; and 2) the proposed project must be used for biomedical/behavioral research, research training and/or research support facilities.

Animal Facilities Improvement Program (AFIP)

NCRR also awards institutional grants to upgrade animal facilities that support Public Health Service-funded biomedical and behavioral research. In addition to upgrading the facilities, these grants assist institutions in complying with the Animal Welfare Act, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as DHHS policies related to the care and use of laboratory animals. Support is limited to alterations and renovations to improve laboratory animal facilities, and to the purchase of equipment items for animal resources, diagnostic laboratories, transgenic animal resources, or similar associated activities.

Additional eligibility criteria, guidelines, application procedures, and evaluation criteria for both the RFIP and AFIP are described in either a Request for Applications or a Program Announcement, accessible from the NCRR Web site: www.ncrr.nih.gov.



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