



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. NCRP-supported resources—a comprehensive range of human, animal, technology, and more—enable biomedical research advances.

Shared Instrumentation Grants

The Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG) Program provides a cost-effective funding mechanism (\$10) for groups of National Institutes of Health (NIH)-supported investigators to obtain or update commercially available equipment that costs more than \$100,000. The maximum award is \$500,000. Instruments in this price range are typically too expensive to be obtained through research project grants.

Instrumentation purchased with a SIG award must be shared by at least three NIH-supported scientists. This arrangement optimizes the use of Federal funds. To promote sharing by a number of investigators and to foster collaborations, SIG-supported instruments are typically located in central core facilities that provide technical expertise and user education.

The SIG Program is administered by NCRP's Division for Biomedical Technology Research and Research Resources. Types of instruments supported by SIG funding include nuclear magnetic resonance systems, electron and confocal microscopes, mass spectrometers, protein and DNA sequencers, biosensors, X-ray diffractometers, and cell sorters, among others.

Eligibility

Applications are accepted from domestic public and nonprofit institutions only. These include health professional schools, graduate institutions, hospitals, health departments, and research organizations. To be eligible, the application must identify three or more NIH-funded investigators (principal investigators of active P01, R01, U01, R35 or R37 research grants) who will be users of the instrument. However, the principal investigator of a SIG does not have to be NIH funded.

Since the SIG Program interfaces with other NCRP and NIH grant programs, applicants are strongly encouraged to telephone NCRP SIG Program staff at (301) 435-0772 or submit an e-mail inquiry to SIG@mail.nih.gov before applying for a grant.



Guidelines

Features of the SIG Program, including research objectives, eligibility criteria, application and review procedures, award criteria, and contact information, are published annually as a *Program Announcement (PA)* or *Request for Applications (RFA)* in the *NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts* (<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>). SIG applications are submitted to NIH on Form **PHS 398**, *Grant Application*; specific instructions for completing the Form 398 can be found in the PA or RFA. There is only one receipt date each year, usually in March. The specific date is identified in the PA or RFA. Additional information about the SIG Program is available on the NCCR web site at www.ncrr.nih.gov.

Review Criteria

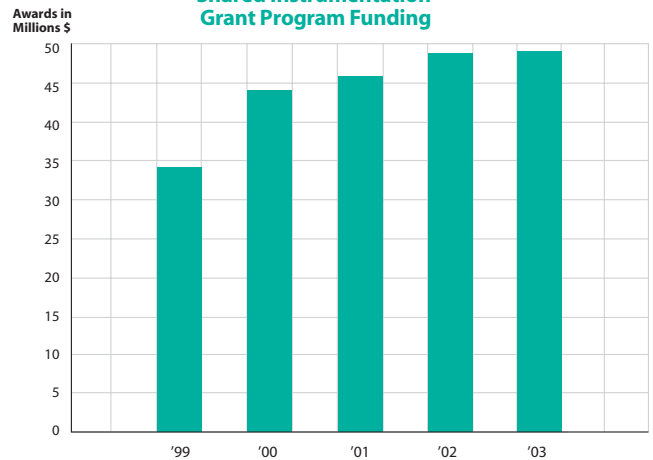
Instrument-specific study sections review SIG applications and base their evaluations on the following criteria: demonstrated need for a new or updated instrument; enhancement of NIH-funded research projects; appropriate technical expertise; adequacy of the plan to administer the grant and assure equitable use; institutional commitment; and benefit to the biomedical research community.

Funding

Awards are made for one year for the direct cost of the instrument only. No indirect costs are provided. Matching funds are not required. Institutions must meet the costs required to set up, maintain, and operate the instrument. Personnel costs also are the responsibility of the institution.

From FY 1993 to FY 2003, the SIG Program provided 1,082 awards to biomedical research institutions in 45 states and the District of Columbia, totaling more than \$296,000,000.

Shared Instrumentation Grant Program Funding



For further information:

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Prepared: December 2003