

End of Continuous Submission & Updated Late Application Submission Policy

NOT-OD-26-064

NIH is ending the Continuous Submission Policy and updating the Late Application Submission Policy to designate participation in a recent review or advisory group meeting as an acceptable reason for late submission.

Continuous Submission applications will be accepted through August 10, 2026 (the end of the continuous submission receipt period for the June/July standard due dates) for assignment to January 2027 Council.

The updated Late Application Submission Policy is effective for applications submitted for due dates on or after May 25, 2026.

NIH only accepts late applications in limited situations and considers each late application for acceptance on a case-by-case basis. Decisions are based on the cover letter explanation, the funding opportunity, and the completed submission date.

To be considered under the late policy, you must submit your application within two calendar weeks of the original due date, even if there is more than one reason for the delay. We consider those two calendar weeks the late application period. If an application due date extends to the next business day because it falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the late application period is calculated from that business day.

You may submit during the late application period if all the following are true for the PI/PD only, late application due to any reason related to all other investigators or personnel are not allowable:

- One or more of the PD/PIs listed on the application encountered extenuating circumstances that led to the missed deadline
- The PD/PI's extenuating circumstances are documented in the cover letter submitted with the late application
- Your application is in response to a program that allows late submission

NIH Review Service

You may also submit within the late application period, if within four calendar weeks before or after the due date, any PD/PI named on the application participates in

- An NIH peer review study section or special emphasis panel
- An NIH Board of Scientific Counselors, Program Advisory Committee, or an NIH Advisory Board or Council

This specific review service is the only pre-authorized reason for a late submission (i.e., automatically accepted once review service information provided in the cover letter is

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confirmed). Other types of NIH activities and services for other federal agencies or private organizations are not acceptable reasons for late submission.

No Advance Permission is Given to Submit Late

NIH does not provide advance permission to submit late. No NIH staff member (including receipt and referral, review, grants management, and program staff) has the authority to evaluate or pre-approve reasons for late submission.