

NIH Administrative Burden Reduction Effort – Removal of Requirements for Letters of Intent and Unsolicited Applications Requesting \$500,000 or More in Direct Costs

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Letters of Intent

Effective immediately NIH will no longer request or accept Letters of Intent (LOIs) as part of the application process. NIH has occasionally requested LOIs within Section IV of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to help Institute, Center, and Office (ICO) staff estimate the potential peer review workload and recruit reviewers. An LOI was never required, binding, nor considered during the peer review process.

Unsolicited Applications Requesting \$500,000 or More in Direct Costs

Effective immediately, NIH will no longer require applicants requesting \$500,000 or more in direct costs (excluding consortium F&A costs) in any one budget period to contact the funding Institute or Center (IC) before application submission. In line with this change, applicants are no longer required to include a cover letter identifying the Program Official contact which notes that the IC has agreed to accept assignment of the application.