NIH LRP

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What does LRP do for you?

- The NIH repays 25% of repayable debt, up to a maximum of $35,000/year.
- Payments made on a quarterly basis during the 2-year LRP contract period.
- You receive maximum of $35,000/year only if your repayable debt is $140,000 or more.
- Loan payments are taxable income.
  » NIH pays federal income tax directly to participants IRS tax account (39% rate)
What do you owe NIH?

- LRP participants are legally bound to a service obligation to conduct qualifying research supported by a domestic nonprofit or U.S. government (federal, state, or local) entity for 50% of their time (≥20 hours per week based on a 40-hour week) for two years.

- No double dipping: Since the LRPs require a service obligation during the entire period of participation, individuals cannot satisfy two service obligations concurrently.
  - T32 and F32/33 awardees incur a service obligation in the first award year that is paid back during the second award year
    - *T32 and F32/33 may have to defer service payback until the completion of the LRP.
Service obligation

Under what circumstances will NIH consider early release from the service obligation?

Early termination of a service obligation will not be considered a breach of contract in cases where such termination is beyond the control of the participant. For example, sometimes a participant's research assignment changes to the extent that the project is no longer qualified research. Similarly, sometimes the needs of the supporting institution demand that the participant be reassigned to another project. However, an individual who voluntarily terminates his/her research activities to pursue private practice is in breach of the LRP contract.

What is the penalty for participants found in breach of contract?

The penalty for breaching the LRP contract is $7,500 for each month of unserved service, plus all amounts paid on behalf of the participant for any period of obligated service not served. Interest shall be charged on the amount owed to NIH from the date of breach. The amount the U.S. government is entitled to recover shall not be less than $31,000.
LRP purpose: Promote clinical research

- To recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals as **clinical** investigators
What is clinical research?

- Patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects, or research on the causes and consequences of disease in human populations involving material of human origin (such as tissue specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator or colleague directly interacts with human subjects in an outpatient or inpatient setting to clarify a problem in human physiology, pathophysiology or disease, epidemiologic or behavioral studies, outcomes or health services research, or developing new technologies, therapeutic interventions, or clinical trials.
Types of LRP

- Extramural
- Intramural (NIH employees)
Types of LRP

- Extramural
  - Clinical research
  - Pediatric research
  - Health disparities research
  - Contraception and infertility research
  - Clinical research for individuals from disadvantages backgrounds

Can only apply to one per cycle
5 Extramural types

**Clinical Research LRP:** patient-oriented clinical research conducted with human subjects, or research on the causes and consequences of disease in human populations involving material of human origin (such as tissue specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator or colleague directly interacts with human subjects in an outpatient or inpatient setting to clarify a problem in human physiology, pathophysiology or disease, or epidemiologic or behavioral studies, outcomes research or health services research, or developing new technologies, therapeutic interventions, or clinical trials.

**Pediatric Research LRP:** Qualified Pediatric Research is defined as research directly related to diseases, disorders, and other conditions in children.

**Health Disparities Research LRP:** The scope of research qualified for this program includes basic research, clinical research or behavioral research directly related to health disparity populations and the medically underserved. Group is defined as a health disparity population: If there is a significant disparity in the overall rate of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality, or survival rates in the population as compared to the health status of the general population.

**Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds LRP:** For this program, an individual from a disadvantaged background is defined according to low family income levels set by the U.S. Bureau of the Census - as published in the Federal Register.

To meet this low-income requirement candidates must demonstrate their disadvantaged status by submitting (1) a written statement from former school(s) where he/she qualified for Federal disadvantaged assistance, (2) verification of receipt of loans from either the Health Professions Student Loans (HPSL) or Loans for Disadvantaged Student Program, or (3) verification of a scholarship from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Scholarship for Individuals with Exceptional Financial Need.

**Contraception and Infertility Research LRP:** Contraception research is defined as research whose ultimate goal is to provide new or improved methods of preventing pregnancy. Infertility research is defined as research whose long-range objective is to evaluate, treat, or ameliorate conditions which result in the failure of couples to either conceive or bear young.
To participate in the NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Programs, you must: Meet the general eligibility requirements. Meet any additional eligibility requirements for the specific LRP to which you are applying. Have qualified educational debt.
General Eligibility requirements

- US citizen
- Doctoral degree
- Qualified educational debt
  - First time applicants: Must exceed 20% of institutional base salary
  - Renewals: does not apply
- Domestic, non-profit funding to support your research
  - Need not be grant support
  - University, hospital (non-profit) salary
  - Any additional salary cannot represent significant amount of your income
- Qualified research
  - Legal research
  - Commit 50% effort and ≥20h per week on average
Ineligibility

- Not US citizen
- Federal judgement lien
- Owe an obligation of health professional service to feds
  - K awardee (NRSA award)
  - Armed Forces
  - Nurse Faculty Loan Program
  - Etc
- You can get LRP but must defer NRSA or other payback until end of LRP contract.
- Derive any income from for-profit source (private practice)
- Illegal research
- Breached prior LRP contract
On-line application

- Due in early December
- Application portal opens in early fall
Start Early!

NIH National Institutes of Health
Division of Loan Repayment

Loan Repayment Programs
866-849-4047 | lrp@nih.gov

If you are a Research Supervisor/Principal Investigator, Recommender, or Organizational Official who has been asked to complete a form on behalf of an LRP applicant, Click here to register. If you have already registered, Click here to log in.

Click here for helpful guide on writing competitive Intramural LRP application.

NIH 2674-15

Apply Here

Get started with your LRP application by telling us who you are. Please enter the information below. If you experience any problems, please contact the LRP Information Center at lrp@nih.gov or call 866 849-4047 for assistance.

Your Name: ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________
First Middle Last Suffix

Your Email Address: ____________________________

Reenter Email Address: ____________________________

Social Security Number: _______ _______ _______

Note: We collect your Social Security Number (SSN) to verify your identity, to determine your eligibility for loan repayment assistance and to keep track of the federal funds you receive. We also use your SSN for loan repayment and servicing purposes under the Loan Repayment Program. We also use this information to determine whether you are eligible for loan repayment and the amount of that assistance. See Privacy Act information for additional information.
NIH LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (LRP)

ABOUT THE NIH LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (LRP)

The National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Program provides support to health professionals in order to repay their student loans via five (5) extramural programs:

- Clinical Research
- Pediatric Research
- Health Disparities Research
- Contraception and Infertility Research
- Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds

http://osr.northwestern.edu/policies/LRP
Application System Login

Log in here if you are:
- Completing or checking the status of your own application.
- Providing information and certifications in support of an applicant.

Your Email Address: 
Password:  
Submit

Forgot your password? Click here to recover your password!
Applying to the program and don't have a Password? Click here to apply!
Completing forms for an applicant and don't have a password? Click here to register!
Application assistance

• Two webinars that have been watched > 7,000x (www.lrp.nih.gov)
• Application Tutorial outlines the sections of the application and shows applicants how to avoid common pitfalls
Grant Components

- Personal information
- Research
- Certification of on-line application
Grant Components

Personal information
• Applicant information
  » 7 pages easy information to complete
  » List ≥ 3 recommenders
  » Institutional contact
  » Primary mentor
• Loan Information
• LRP biosketch
• Funding Information (your support)
Grant Components

Research
- Personal statement: ≤8,000 including spaces
  - Describe your previous research training
  - Your short-term academic and research activities
  - Your long-term career objectives and your plan for achievement
  - Specific how research training in the last two years has helped your realize these goals
  - Specify what will be achieved in the next year of the program
- Research Accomplishments: 5000 characters including spaces (~one page)
  - Your primary mentor will be asked to concur with your statement and to provide their assessment of your research accomplishments
  - Your primary mentor will not have access to his/her necessary form until you complete this form
- Research Activities (Grant application): ≤20,000 characters including spaces (~six pages)
  - Describe the research activities
  - Your specific responsibilities
  - Role in research project
  - Describe overall research environment (intellectual and physical resources)
  - Literature citations are included in the character count (listed on last page)
Scoring

- Only outstanding (not just excellent) applications are funded
- No comments are provided unless you specifically ask
- New applications scored for:
  - The NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) each convene peer review groups of scientists from outside NIH to review the applications most closely aligned with the IC’s mission. Reviewers are asked to consider 1) the potential of the applicant to pursue a career in research and 2) the quality of the applicant’s overall research environment as preparation for a research career. This is a competitive review.
- Renewal applications scored for:
  » Same as above
  » +assessment of your research accomplishments
  » +development as independent investigator
LRP Personal History

2005 application funded
2006-2008 LRP
2008 application not funded
2009 application not funded
2010 did not apply (spent time getting papers published!)
2011 application funded
2013 application funded

Contract Payments Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Total Payments To Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Renewal</td>
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$140,687.73

*Both loan and reimbursement payments are included.*
Two rejections-why?

- Lack of first-authored publications
  - Every project should result in +/- abstract followed by publication
  - The longer your research involvement the higher the bar
  - Limit reviews
  - Set clear priorities (keep a calendar)
  - Don’t be afraid to sack bad mentor
New applications
Renewal Applications

Renewal Applications for Clinical Research LRP

Applications
Awards

Source: NIH LRP
Data Accurate as of 03/31/14
If funded

- Signed contract
- Proof of citizenship
- Keep up to date on your log-in page
  » NIH now requires proof of payment before they release next payment
NIH tips for success

- Give yourself plenty of time to prepare
- Know the priorities of your NIH institute or center
  - Some PhDs will have difficulty getting funded (clinical research)
- Effectively demonstrate your qualifications and commitment to research
  - Don’t sell yourself short in the biosketch
  - Include anything that shows commitment to research
- Collaborate with your mentor to effectively communicate resources and support
  - LRP are not mentored awards, but many LRP applicants are early-stage investigators and are mentored
  - Make sure mentor is expert in field, published extensively, has grant support (*NIH)
  - If >1 mentor make sure that role of each clearly explained
- Show a strong research plan
  - There will be examination of the plan and methods
  - Needs to be innovative
- Provide strong “letters” of recommendation [current format is cut and paste]
  - Choose senior colleagues (well-funded, familiar with your work)
  - If no or few pubs, ask referees to highlight enthusiasm, strong work-ethic, research commitment
- Ensure a positive overall impression
LRP common rejection reasons

- Lukewarm letters of recommendation
  » Provide CV, research plan, research accomplishments, personal statement
  » Offer to meet with recommenders to review statements
  » Send them a draft
  » Send polite reminders well in advance of deadline
  » Request more than three recommenders?

- Research commitment
- Mediocre research plan
- Rushed application (sloppy doesn’t review well)
- Inadequate research environment
- Poor publication record without explanation
Interesting facts

- The NIH LRP have made approximately 15,508 awards totaling more than $714 million.
- 26 NIH Institutes and Centers have distributed awards. Since 2003, the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIHMD), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) have each contributed more than $50 million to the LRPs.
- Applicants’ overall success rate is 50%. Thirty-nine % of new and 69% of renewal applicants have received awards.
- Of the 5 programs, Clinical Research and Pediatric Research are the largest and account for nearly 81% of all awards.
- Applications grew by 32% from 2004 to 2005, but have been stable since 2005.
- The average debt of new award recipients is $95,235. Over 40% of new awardees have reported more than $100,000 of eligible educational debt.
- Overall, men and women have been equally competitive. However, more women have received awards from the Health Disparities Research LRP.
Interesting facts

- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, 2,721 individuals applied to the five Extramural LRPs
- Of those applicants, 1,328 were awarded contracts totaling $66,747,267
- Combined (new and renewal applicants) success rate for Extramural LRPs was 49%
- Extramural Clinical Research LRP received 55% (1,508) of all applications
- New applicants (those not previously funded) constituted 66% of all applications
- Renewal applicants (those previously funded) comprised 34% of all applicants
- New applicant success rate was 39%
- Renewal applicant success rate was 67%
- Most new FY 2013 awardees were early career investigators
  - 58% received their qualifying degrees within the last 5 years and 93 percent within the past 10 years.
- Physician doctorates (including dual physician doctorates and academic doctorates, for example, MD/PhD degrees) comprised 51% of the 1,328 awards
- Academic doctoral level degrees comprised 55% of the total awards
- Seventy-seven % of the new awardees had educational debt greater than $50,000, with 13% having debt levels greater than $200,000.
DANGER

WATCH FOR FALLING ICE