

Upcoming Grants Academy Session

November 17th 3:30-4:30

Working with Foundations

- Elizabeth Thompson
Director of Foundation Relations
- Heather Cross
Director of Corporate Relations

@ WVU Foundation

Spring 26

Inside a Review Panel

Planning for a Center

We welcome your ideas and suggestions for additional session topics

Grants Academy - HSC

Focused on resources to support healthcare and biomedical research.

**Oct 8 Building Research Infrastructure: Winning Strategies for NIH
S10 Shared Instrumentation Grants**

Karen Martin, HSC Office of Research & Graduate Education

301 Erma Byrd

Nov 12 Insider Tips on Applying For and Managing an NIH Grant

Anneliese Galczynski, HSC Office of Research & Graduate Education

301 Erma Byrd

Recent Research Awards at the HSC

Celebrate the outstanding achievements of our investigators and build collaboration within our research community.

4:00 PM Wednesday, October 29 (301 Erma Byrd)

Bradley Webb, PhD

Structure and function of glycolytic enzymes and their cellular regulation

Alfgeir Kristjansson, PhD

Shifting the landscape in primary substance use prevention for rural America: The Integrated Community Engagement Collaborative Cluster Trial

Kevin Courtney, PhD

Regulation of SNARE-mediated autophagosome-lysosome fusion by accessory proteins

Visvanathan Ramamurthy, PhD

Therapies for defective photoreceptor outer segment development in blinding diseases

Tips for Competitive Proposal Writing

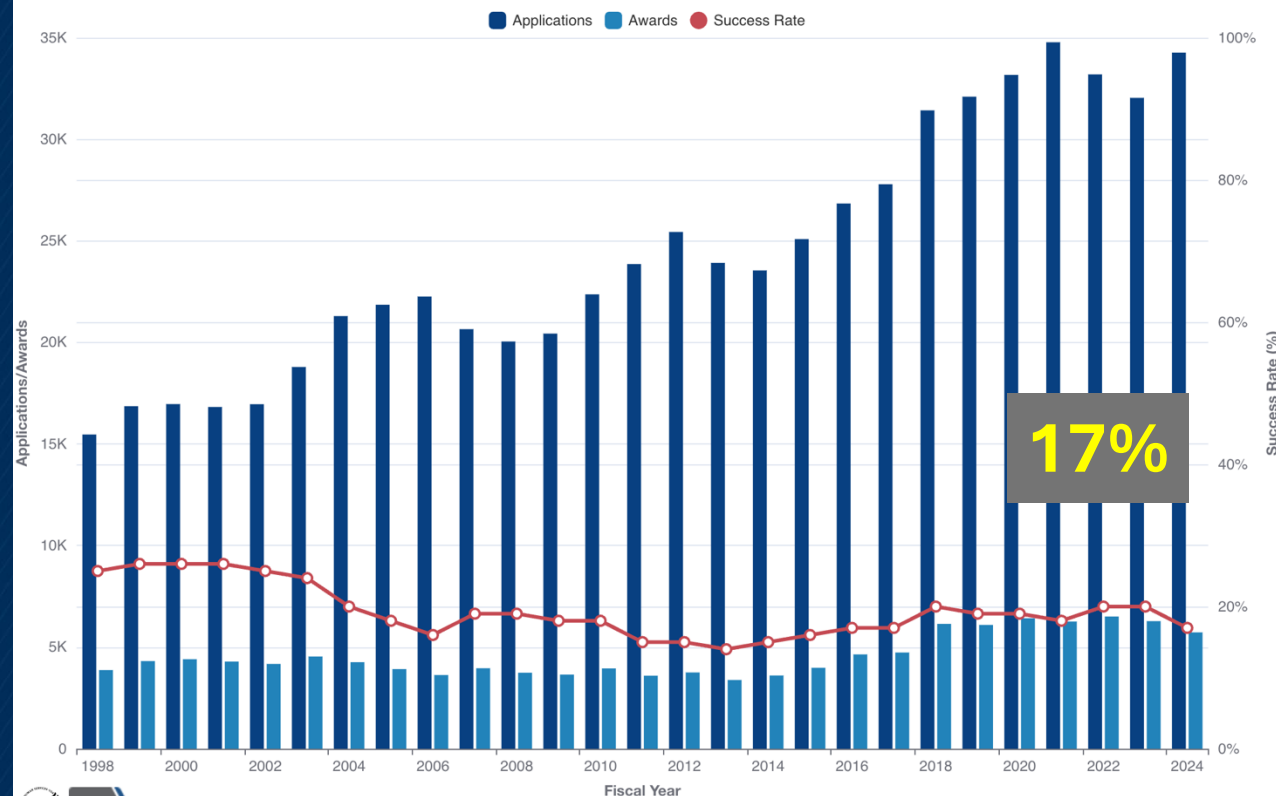
10/20/2025

Sheena Murphy
Assoc. VP for Research Development

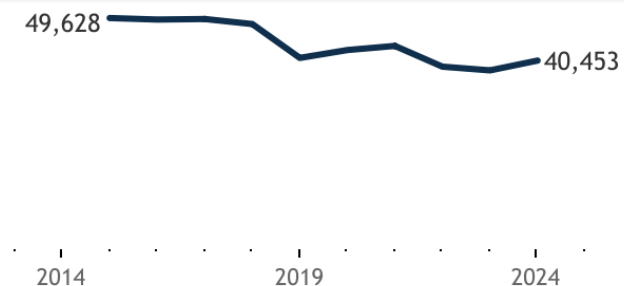
Proposal success rates NIH and NSF in 2024

R01-Equivalent Grants, New (Type 1): Competing Applications, Awards, and Success Rates, by Career Stage of Investigator

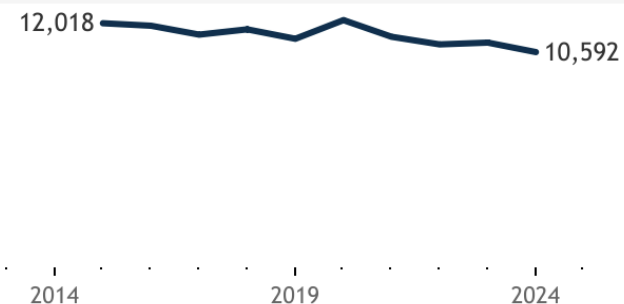
All Applications



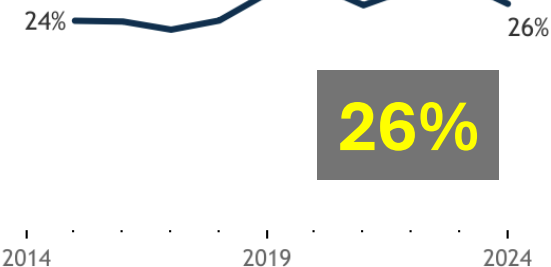
Proposals Evaluated



New Awards Funded



Funding Rate

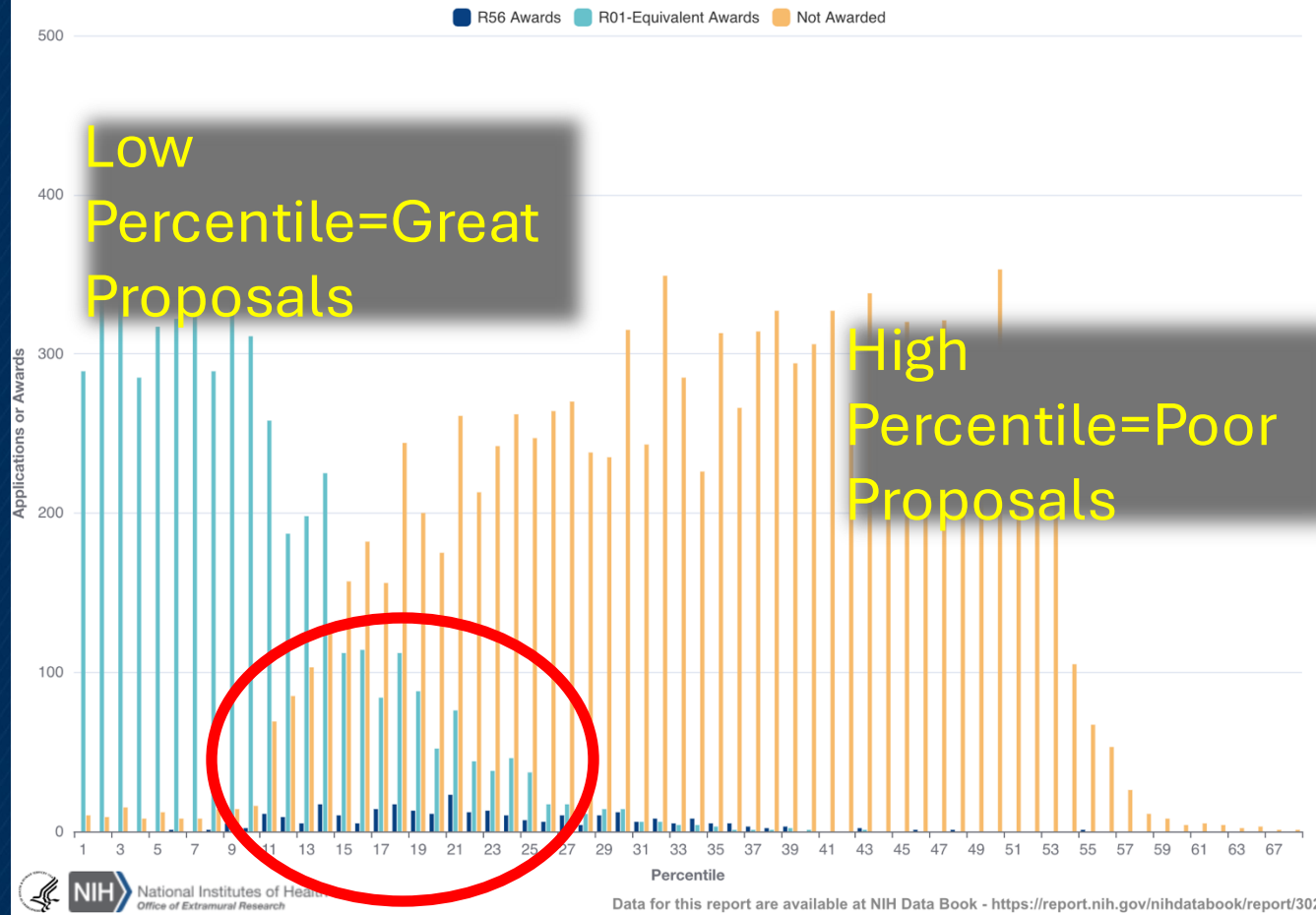


<https://report.nih.gov/nihdatabook/category/10>

<https://www.nsf.gov/about/about-nsf-by-the-numbers>

Close But No Cigar

Funding Patterns by Institute or Center (IC)
ALL NIH, 2024



Same story at NSF where Ratings range from 5-Excellent, 4-Very Good, 3-Good, 2-Fair, 1-Poor

In 2024, 3,900 with an average score of 4 or better were declined.

Factors influencing a program officer's discretion

After receiving and analyzing input from external peer reviewers, a program officer can consider additional factors, including:

- **Portfolio balance:** They may recommend proposals that explore different approaches to research questions or fill a gap in a program's overall portfolio.
- **High-risk, high-reward proposals:** A program officer may choose to fund proposals with potential for "transformational advances," even if the peer reviewers were not unanimous.
- **Programmatic objectives:** They can consider proposals that address special program objectives, such as capacity-building in a specific research area.

<https://research.wvu.edu>

- Infoletter
- Funding
- Proposal Development Tools
 - Thinking like a reviewer
 - Heilmeier Catechism
 - External Review

The Heilmeier Catechism

- What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no jargon.
- How is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?
- What is new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful?
- Who cares? If you are successful, what difference will it make?
- What are the risks?
- What are the mid-term and final “exams” to check for success?
- How much will it cost?
- How long will it take?

From an NSF Program Officer

Two types of non-competitive proposals

- Poor quality proposals
Fair or Poor ratings, Triaged, Unscored
- Great ideas but not yet ready
Usually because of methodological flaws

Competitive or Medium/Low Competitive

- Solid proposal but not the most innovative
- Some flaws but not fatal – fundable but not at top

Getting back on the horse



- Read reviews carefully
- Email Program Officer
- Write up a concept paper
- Get feedback
- Try again

University and College Resources

<https://research.wvu.edu>

<https://health.wvu.edu/research-and-graduate-education/research/>

<https://www.wvctsi.org/programs/education-mentoring-career-development/>

<https://eberly.wvu.edu/research/research-office-staff>

<https://landgrant.wvu.edu/about/directory/research-evaluation-and-compliance>

<https://research.statler.wvu.edu/about/meet-our-team>

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