

MULTIPLE PD/PI LEADERSHIP PLAN SF 424 (R&R) - Version H

BACKGROUND

NIH requires a Multiple PD/PI (MPI) Leadership Plan if the more traditional, single-PD/PI model is not a good fit for a proposed research project. The MPI plan allows applicants and their institutions to indicate more than one PD/PI on a single grant application requiring more of a *team science* approach.

It is important to understand that the NIH and other Public Health Service agencies do not recognize a “Co-PI” category. Applicants should not have any misunderstandings regarding the appropriateness of proposing multiple PD/Pis for a single project. In NIH eyes, a Co-PI is not the same as an MPI. MPIs have equal responsibility, accountability, and authority towards the direction of a single project. Yet, while these MPIs may be at multiple institutions, the investigators and applicant/awardee institution (associated with the Contact PI named first - followed by other PI names in alphabetical order - in the application) makes the decision on whether to submit as a single or MPI project.

Each MPI project is reviewed as a single project. Projects are to be managed via the traditional consortium and subaward arrangements. The distinction between an MPI versus single PI applications is that MPI applications include an expanded PIs list as well as a Leadership Plan. The LP does not count towards Research Plan page limits.

CONTENT INSTRUCTIONS

Please follow the [Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan Application Guidelines](#) and any guidance provided in your specific funding opportunity announcement (FOA) when completing the Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan attachment.

- 1) Describe the rationale for choosing a multiple PD/PI approach.
- 2) Describe the governance and organizational structure of the leadership team and the research project, including:
 - a) communication plans
 - b) processes for making decisions on scientific direction
 - c) procedures for resolving conflicts
- 3) The roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project or program should be delineated for the PD/Pis and other collaborators.
- 4) If budget allocation is planned, the distribution of resources to specific components of the project or the individual PD/Pis should be delineated.

Resubmission Applications: For resubmission applications changing from a single PD/PI to multiple PD/Pis, changing the number or makeup of the multiple PD/Pis, the applicant must provide a rationale for the change in the introduction to application attachment and include the required Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan.

Renewal Applications: For renewal applications changing from a single PD/PI to multiple PD/Pis, changing the number or makeup of the multiple PD/Pis, the applicant must provide a rationale for the change in the progress report within the research strategy and include the required Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan.

Use of URLs and hyperlinks in this attachment is not allowed unless specified in the FOA.

RESOURCES

[Multiple Principal Investigators Policies & Guidance](#)

Review NIH policies on Multiple Program Directors/Principal Investigators and learn more about the Multiple-PD/PI Model.

[Multiple Principal Investigators FAQs](#)

Visit this FAQs page for answers to frequently asked questions about Multiple Principle Investigators.

[Considerations for a Multiple PD/PI Application](#)

This NIAID-provided resource outlines tips and considerations for writing a strong Multiple PI Leadership Plan.

[Examples of Project Leadership Plans for Multiple PI Grant Applications](#)

This NIH-provided resource includes multiple examples of Leadership Plans for single project applications (i.e., R01, R21, etc.).

[Sample Applications with Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plans](#)

Further examples of Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plans can be found within the sample grant applications provided below.

- [Example #1](#)
- [Example #2](#)
- [Example #3](#)