

CFAR-SERIES REVIEW CRITERIA

Weight	Item	Section of application scored
40%	Future: Does the proposed project have a high potential of contributing to a future NIH K- or R-level application?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Entire narrative • “Future Plans for NIH Applications” statement • “Applicability to NIH/OAR Research Priorities” statement
20%	Writing: Does quality of writing in the application (including grammar and spelling) meet the standard found in successful NIH applications?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire narrative
25%	<p>Approach: Does the application describe how the experimental design and methods will achieve robust and unbiased results? Does the proposal explain how relevant biological variables, such as sex, are factored into research designs and analyses? For example, is strong justification provided for applications proposing to study only one sex? Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well reasoned and appropriate for accomplishing the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?</p> <p>If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves human subjects research, are the plans for 1) protection of subjects from research risks, and 2) decisions about the inclusion or not of minorities, women, children, and/or vulnerable peoples justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific Aims • Research Strategy: (c) “Approach” • Letters of support • Protection of Human Subjects • Inclusion of Women and Minorities • Inclusion of Children • Vertebrate Animals
15%	<p>Significance*: Does the proposal describe a research problem considered to be High Priority by NIH/OAR? Does the proposal describe the scientific premise for the proposed project? Will successful completion of the aims lead to larger research studies that can change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Strategy: (a) “Significance” • “Applicability to NIH/OAR Research Priorities” statement
	<p>Innovation: Does the application seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are they novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Strategy: (b) “Innovation”
	<p>Investigators: Is the research team well suited to the project? Do the PI(s) have appropriate experience and training? If dual PI, do the PIs have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosketches • Dual PI Leadership Plan
	<p>Environment: Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the CFAR scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources page • Letters of support • “CFAR Scientific Core” statement