

NIH DIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTS: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Who is eligible to apply for NIH Diversity Supplements?

Eligible applicants are **US Citizens, non-citizen nationals of the US, and individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence** (i.e., in possession of Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551) that meet ONE or more of the following eligibility criteria:

1. **Individuals from racial and/or ethnic groups.** The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. Also, individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis and the report Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering. In addition, it is recognized that underrepresentation can vary from setting to setting; individuals from racial or ethnic groups that can be demonstrated convincingly to be underrepresented are encouraged to apply.
2. **Individuals with one or more disabilities.** Defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and also defined with NSF Data.
3. **Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.** Defined as those who meet two or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 - b. Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families
 - c. Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years
 - d. Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree, which is seen as a barrier to higher education by the U.S. Department of Education
 - e. Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell Grant Program
 - f. Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child
 - g. Grew up in one of the following areas:
 - i. A U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer OR
 - ii. A Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas.

NOTE: Only one of the two possibilities in this category can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged definition.