

K99/R00 “Pathway to Independence Award”

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/New-Investigators-Program?anchor=10831>



What are the goals?

Applicants seeking the [K99/R00 award](#) are postdoctoral scientists in biomedical science who require at least 12 months of mentored research training and career development to become a competitive candidate for an independent faculty position.

- **Goal 1:** Acquire and gain skills with new research tools, systems or methodological approaches
- **Goal 2:** Obtain organizational and management skills critical for an independent research career in an academic setting.

The K99/R00 award supports both research project aims and career development objectives, and both elements are evaluated during application review.

The Mentored Phase (K99): \$125K/year

The Mentored Phase (K99) supports 1-2 years of mentored postdoctoral research training

- *Applicants must currently be in a mentored postdoctoral position*
- *Applicants typically apply during their 2nd or 3rd year of postdoc training*
- *Applicants become ineligible after their 4th year of postdoc training*
 - *The K99 is not intended to extend time in the postdoctoral lab for an individual that is competitively prepared for an independent faculty position. Individuals nearing the end of their four-year eligibility must make a strong case for the need for additional mentored training. Exceptions and extensions are possible for compelling, documented reasons (family or health-related, change of research field, etc.)*
- *12 months minimum for the K99 phase before transitioning to R00 phase*
- *No other pending applications for other NIH Career Awards are permitted (e.g., K01, K07, K08, K22, K23, K25)*



The Independent Research Phase (R00): *\$249K/year*

The Independent Research Phase (R00) is a research project grant for up to 3 years, contingent on the scientist securing an independent, tenure track faculty position.

- R00 funding begins when the faculty appointment begins. NIH approval of position is required.
- While the R00 is “non-competing”, it must be applied for by the hiring institution before the PI begins, and by the PI within 1-2 months after beginning their faculty position
- Application must include a letter from the department chair describing the institution's commitment to the candidate and supporting his/her plans for establishing their research program and career development.
 - minimum 75% annual effort by PI
 - equipment costs often limited, varies by institution (e.g., \$50K total)

