



National Institutes of Health Diversity Supplements: Pathway to Independence

Executive summary

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a prime source of research funding for biomedical scientists. However, historically funding has not been distributed equitably across racial groups, with NIH R01 and career-development grants awarded at disproportionately low rates to Black and Latino scientists. To remedy the disparities, the NIH has created funding mechanisms and highlighted existing programs, such as its diversity supplement awards.

The NIH developed workforce diversity supplement awards in 1989 to increase participation by members of



National Human Genome
Research Institute

YES

YES

NHGRI Research Training and
Career Development Annual
Meeting

Additional programming included activities such as a two-day grant application and professional-

Policy recommendation for Congress

Recommendation 4: Allocate more funding for diversity supplements, specifically for NIGMS and NINDS. Overwhelmingly, NIH supplements have proved successful in increasing retention and diversity in scientific careers. Both NIGMS and NINDS have demonstrated success in providing pathways to independent research careers.