

NIH Stimulating Access to Research in Residency Transition Scholar (StARRTS) K38 Grant Overview

The StARRTS K38 grant is designed to support early-stage clinician-scientists during their residency or fellowship training who have completed 1-2 years as a R38 scholar. Below is a high-level overview of the application process and requirements:

1. **Eligibility:**
 - a. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, or permanent residents.
 - b. Applicants must have completed their medical degree and be enrolled in a clinical fellowship program or an early faculty position (<40 months at time submission)
 - c. Applicants must have completed 1-2 years on an R38
2. **Research Focus:**
 - a. The proposed research should align with the NIH mission to improve human health.
 - b. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to pursuing a research career while maintaining clinical duties.
3. **Mentorship:**
 - a. Applicants must identify a primary mentor who is an established investigator with a track record of successful research funding and mentorship.
 - i. May have co-mentors with complementary expertise
4. **Application Components:**
 - a. Application should include a research plan, career development plan, mentorship plan, and institutional commitment.
 - b. The research plan should outline the proposed project, its significance, innovation, approach, and expected outcomes.
 - c. The career development plan should detail goals for research and career advancement, as well as the activities and training needed to achieve these goals.
 - d. The mentorship plan should describe how the mentor will support applicants research and career development.
 - e. The institutional commitment should demonstrate support provided by the applicant's institution for protected research time, resources, and mentorship.
5. **Budget:**
 - a. K38 provides up to \$60,000 per year for salary support, \$20,000 research costs, and career development activities as proposed in the application, and up to \$3,000 per year to attend or present research at domestic scientific conferences or NIH-sponsored workshops

- b. Up to 2 years of support
 - c. Budget should be justified based on the needs of proposed research project and career development activities
6. **Application Submission:**
- a. Deadlines for application submission are typically in the fall – see RFA for details.
7. **Award Notification:**
- a. Successful applicants receive funds for a period of up to two years.
8. **Additional Information and FAQ's**
- a. **The full StARRTS K38 RFA can be found here:**
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HL-23-007.html>
 - b. **Does the StARRTS K38 cover the cost of tuition?**
 - i. The StARRTS K38 grant does not provide tuition support but does provide salary support for the applicant, support for research costs and career development activities, and support for approved travel expenses. If you plan to pursue coursework during the award period of your K38 it is essential for you to discuss this with your institution's grant management office and the NIH program officer responsible for overseeing your grant. They will be able to provide additional guidance regarding what expenses are allowable under the terms of your K38 grant and any steps needed to request approval for such expenses.
 - c. **Should I apply for the T32 prior to the K38?**
 - i. While having a T32 Institutional Training grant is not a requirement to apply for the K38 it can be beneficial and strengthen your K38 application for several reasons:
 - 1. **Research Productivity:** Participation in a T32 program may result in publications, presentations, or other research outputs that strengthen your research portfolio and can strengthen your application for the K38.
 - 2. **Research Training and Mentorship:**
 - a. Participating in a T32 program can enhance your research skills, build your network, and provide valuable mentorship opportunities, which can strengthen your application for the K38.
 - ii. Receiving a T32 grant prior to applying for the K38 grant is not always feasible or necessary for every applicant. Ultimately, the decision of when to apply for the T32 and K38 depends on individual circumstances, career goals, and availability of T32 opportunities within your field of interest.
 - d. **Additional information regarding frequently asked questions can be found here:** <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/node-general/frequently-asked-questions-limited-competition-stimulating-access-research-residency>