American Diabetes Association
Pathway to Stop Diabetes

2017

Initiator Award

http://professional.diabetes.org/grants-pathway
pathway@diabetes.org
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I. General Application Information

A. Pathway Program Purpose and Scope

The Pathway to Stop Diabetes Research Program intends to attract brilliant scientists at the peak of their creativity to diabetes research, and to accelerate their research progress by providing the necessary resources and support for conducting transformative science. This program will consider applications directed toward all topics relevant to prevention, treatment and cure of all types of diabetes (type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes), diabetes-related disease states (obesity, pre-diabetes, and other insulin resistant states) and the complications of the disease. The program intends to attract a broad range of expertise to the field of diabetes from various fields of science and technology, including medicine, biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics.

B. Nominations

Submissions will be accepted by institutional nomination only.

Each institution is allowed a maximum of one nomination per grant cycle. The nomination can be for any one of the Pathway Program Award types: Initiator, Accelerator or Visionary. Appropriate institutional representatives must complete a Nomination Form and provide an Institutional Nomination Letter (see Sponsoring Institution Stipulations requirements in Award Guidelines, section II.D). All nomination materials must be submitted at the time of application.

The Pathway program seeks to bring new investigators and new perspectives to diabetes research. Supporting scientists with different backgrounds and experience is critical to achieving that objective. Pathway accepts nominations for exceptional investigators with medical and scientific backgrounds who propose innovative basic, clinical, translational, behavioral, epidemiological and health services research relevant to any type of diabetes, diabetes-related disease state or complication. Pathway solicits nominations for candidates in all disciplines as applied to diabetes. In addition, nomination of scientists from diverse backgrounds, including minority groups that are underrepresented in biomedical research, is strongly encouraged. The challenges of comparing different research approaches and investigators across a broad spectrum are met by assembling a diverse group of reviewers with content expertise that give careful consideration to all types of proposals during the review process.

C. Applications

The applicant, also referred to as the Principal Investigator (PI), must have the institution’s nomination prior to submitting an application electronically. In addition, the application must be routed through and approved by the usual administrative channels of the Sponsoring Institution.

Applications must be submitted online via the Association’s official Grant Management Site, available through the Association’s Pathway website at http://professional.diabetes.org/grants-pathway. Emails and word processing files submitted outside the Grant Management Site will not be accepted.
D. **Deadline**

The submission deadline for Initiator applications is **July 3, 2017** for **January 1, 2018** funding. Electronic applications must be submitted by 8:00 PM Eastern Time on the deadline date.
E. **Letters of Recommendation**

Three Letters of Recommendation assessing the scientific abilities and potential of the applicant are required at the time of application.

The Grant Management Site requires blind submission of Letters of Recommendation. Each recommender must individually upload his/her Letter of Recommendation to the candidate’s application in the Grant Management Site. All three letters must be uploaded to the application prior to submission. **The system will prevent submission of any application without all three Letters of Recommendation uploaded by the application deadline.**

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that all three recommenders have submitted their letters on time. It is strongly suggested that all Letters of Recommendation be uploaded to the application a week before the deadline date. The Association will not accept letters separately after the application deadline.

F. **Resubmissions**

Previously unfunded Pathway proposals **will not** automatically be carried forward for consideration in future competitions, and cannot be resubmitted to the Association outside of the institutional nomination process. Investigators who would like to resubmit a previously unfunded proposal must proceed through their institutional nomination process, and these proposals will be considered to be new submissions by the Association. As such, all resubmitted proposals should be appropriately updated with any relevant new data, approaches, and external information that impact the project.

G. **Notification**

The applicant will be sent a receipt of application confirmation email from American Diabetes Association Pathway administration staff within four weeks of the application deadline. This notification will be sent to the PI email address as entered into the online application form. If the applicant does not receive a confirmation email within the indicated time frame, please contact pathway@diabetes.org.

There are two rounds of the review process: 1) Preliminary Review and 2) Final Review. Applicants will be notified of the disposition of their application only following the conclusion of the final review process. **Applicants will not be provided with written critiques of their application,** but will be informed of the final decision regarding the funding of the application and whether the application was advanced to final review.

H. **Status Changes**

The PI must notify the Association in writing regarding any change in application status after submission. Status changes include the following:

**Contact Information Change**
Send an email to pathway@diabetes.org and specify the PI’s name, application type, application title, and contact information changes.
Application Withdrawal
To withdraw a pending application, the applicant must complete and submit a Grant Application Withdrawal Form per the instructions on the form.
II. Award Guidelines

A. **Purpose**

Pathway Initiator awards are designed to support early career researchers who have distinguished themselves during their research training as exceptionally talented and promising research investigators with a high likelihood of establishing successful, independent research programs and making seminal contributions in diabetes research. These awards provide salary and research support for applicants during late stages of mentored training through establishment as independent research faculty.

B. **Support**

Awards will provide two distinct phases of research support. Combined support for Phase 1 and Phase 2 can total up to $1,625,000 over up to seven years.

- **Phase 1** will support up to two years at up to $100,000/year (including 10% indirect costs) for mentored research training to allow investigators to complete ongoing research, publish results, receive additional training and develop independent research plans. Phase 2 support will be approved by the Association contingent upon adequate progress in Phase 1, and receipt and approval of documentation verifying that:
  1. The candidate has obtained a faculty appointment at an accredited research institution
  2. The institution has agreed to provide adequate laboratory space necessary to perform the proposed research and adequate time (75%) to dedicate to research
  3. The institution provides the candidate with an adequate and protected start-up package

- **Phase 2** will support up to five years at up to $325,000/year (including 30% indirect costs) for independent research.

C. **Applicant Eligibility Stipulations**

Candidates will be identified through institutional nominations. Applications will be accepted from only individuals with the appropriate institutional support; any applications received without the appropriate institutional nomination will be administratively disapproved.

Eligible applicants must currently be in research training positions (post-doctoral fellow, research fellowship) and can have no more than seven years of training since their terminal doctoral degree.

Candidate’s appointment at the Sponsoring Institution must be full-time. Rare exceptions to full-time positions may be granted on a case-by-case basis, and must be pre-approved by Pathway administration staff prior to application submission.

Applicants must hold a MD, PhD, DMD, DO, PharmD, DVM or an equivalent health- or science-related degree.

Applicant fellowship positions must be at university-affiliated institutions or other non-profit research institutions within the United States and U.S. possessions.
Individuals must have permission to work within the U.S., either as U.S. citizens or permanent residents, or with appropriate work visas/permits. Institutional certification of permission to work within the U.S. will be required prior to activation of the award.

Recipients of Initiator Awards cannot concurrently hold an NIH K99/R00 grant. All other Career Development awards are allowable (unless holding of concurrent awards is prohibited by the other granting agency).

One person must be specified as the PI; co-PIs are not permitted.

Initiator applicants must agree to devote at least 75% of total time and effort towards research during the period of Association funding. In other words, 75% of the PI’s time overall must be dedicated to research. This percentage includes time dedicated to the Association-funded grant in addition to grants supported by other funding agencies.

Applicants are required to provide an Institutional Nomination Letter from the appropriate institutional representative (Chair of Nominating Committee, Dean of Research, Division Head, etc.), co-signed by the applicant’s Division or Department Head, delineating the institution’s nomination and commitment to the applicant. In addition, applicants must provide a completed Nomination Form, signed by the appropriate institutional representatives, acknowledging the nomination and endorsing the grant application (see Sponsoring Institution Stipulations below). Nomination materials must be submitted through the Association’s online Grant Management Site at the time of application. The Association will not accept such materials separately after the application deadline. Applications submitted without the appropriate nomination forms are considered incomplete and will be administratively disapproved.

D. Sponsoring Institution Stipulations

Each institution is allowed a maximum of one nomination per grant cycle. The nomination can be for any one of the Pathway Program Award types: Initiator, Accelerator or Visionary.

Nominations are accepted from U.S. accredited academic and non-profit research institutions. For the purpose of this award, an institution generally includes all associated departments, medical schools and graduate schools. Individual components of multi-component institutions (e.g., University of California Los Angeles and University of California Berkeley within the University of California system, or Harvard University and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center within the Harvard system) are sufficiently independent to be considered individual institutions. Institutions must have a unique (DUNS) and/or (IPF) number to be considered independent. If there is any uncertainty regarding institutional status regarding nomination, please contact Pathway administration for clarification.

Nomination of more than the one allowable nominee may result in the administrative disapproval of all nominations from the institution.

The Association encourages nomination of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including minority groups that are underrepresented in biomedical research. For the purpose of this program, underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups are defined as African American, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander descent.

The Association requires a signed Nomination Form from the institution certifying that the application has been routed through the usual administrative channels of the sponsoring institution, that the institution has reviewed and agreed to all policies and stipulations and has approved submission of the application.
An appropriate institutional representative (Dean of Research, Nominating Committee Chair, Division Chair, etc.) must submit a letter of nomination on behalf of the institution, co-signed by the nominee’s Division or Department Head, outlining the commitment of the institution to the nominee. A sample letter is available for reference.

The letter of nomination from the sponsoring institution must:

- Provide rationale for institution’s nomination of candidate, including why candidate is uniquely suited for the award.
- Certify that the candidate has the appropriate full-time position at the sponsoring institution as required by the award.
- Outline the candidate’s responsibilities and ensure that at least 75% of the nominee’s total time and effort will be allocated to research during the term of this award.
- Provide assurance of an academic commitment to the candidate and to the research proposal.
- Outline the institution’s plans to support the long-term development of the candidate, including specific expectations for the individual’s career course.

E. Review Criteria

Scientific excellence is the primary benchmark to be evaluated for all Pathway applications, with an emphasis on the investigator’s potential to significantly impact the field of diabetes research. The proposed research strategy serves as a reflection of the individual’s capacity for innovation, creativity and collaboration. The review will include the following components:

Principal Investigator:

- Strong potential to establish independent diabetes research program
- Strong potential/proven ability for creativity, collaboration and innovation
- Institutional commitment

Research Strategy:

- Innovation and creativity
- Potential impact for understanding/treatment of diabetes
- Clarity of thought and approach

F. Budget Guidelines

The following budget stipulations apply to Initiator Awards:

Salary for Principal Investigator

Salary allocations should be in accordance with the PI’s percent effort on the grant, and be within allowable salary guidelines for each Pathway award phase.

- Phase 1 of the Initiator Award provides PI salary support for levels of effort between 75-100% (full-time professional effort). Applicants may request up to a maximum of $65,000 for PI salary support per year, plus 25% for fringe benefits.
• Phase 2 of the Initiator Award provides PI salary support for levels of effort between 50-75% (full-time professional effort). Applicants may request up to a maximum of $100,000 for PI salary support per year, plus 25% for fringe benefits.

The actual salary provided by the award is based on a full-time, 12-month appointment at the PI’s institution, the PI’s institutional salary, and the level of effort requested.

Technical Personnel
Technical personnel may receive salary support. Technical personnel include any individuals working on the research project in a scientific or technical capacity. For example, collaborating investigators, postdoctoral fellows, lab technicians, nurses, statisticians and patient recruiters are all considered technical personnel. Administrative, secretarial and/or custodial personnel are not considered technical personnel and are ineligible to receive salary from this award. If technical personnel have not yet been hired or identified, simply note the position and indicate the individual is “TBD” (to be determined).

Subcontracts
Subcontracts should be indicated with the total amount included on the main budget form, with the itemized subcontract budget outlined on a subsequent budget form. Any indirect costs associated with a subcontract must be incorporated into the yearly maximum indirect costs allowed for the entire award (i.e., 10% of total direct costs in Phase 1 and 30% of total direct costs in Phase 2). The combined indirect costs for the grant and any subcontracts cannot exceed the maximum indirect rate allowed for the award.

Supplies
There is no limit on the amount of budget funds that can be used for supplies. A categorized supply list must be included on the required annual financial reports. Office supplies are not permitted to be categorized as a direct cost.

Equipment
Purchases of equipment greater than $25,000 must be justified by the applicant and approved in advance by Pathway administration staff. The Association defines equipment as any item costing more than $5,000 with a lifespan of two or more years.

Computer Equipment and Software
Computer equipment and software purchases are allowable. Any purchase greater than $3,000 must be directly related to the research strategy and must be justified by the applicant and approved in advance by Pathway administration staff.

Other Expenses
Some examples of additional expenses eligible to be included in this category are as follows:

• Travel to diabetes-related scientific meetings
• Publication costs (page charges, reprint costs)
• Books
• Animal housing and acquisition costs
Direct Costs
Direct costs include any direct expenses toward performing and completing the research. The following items cannot be purchased with direct cost funds:

- Rent for office or lab space
- Telephone service or support, or internet service
- Non-technical (e.g., custodial or administrative) support
- Tuition
- Relocation costs
- Memberships and subscriptions (including American Diabetes Association Professional Section membership)
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) administration fees
- Grantsmanship consultant fees
- Office supplies
- Liability insurance

This list is not exhaustive. Any questions about whether a particular item or service may be purchased with direct costs should be referred to the Association’s Research Program Office. The Association reserves the right to refuse to pay for items or services with direct costs. Unsanctioned purchases will be deducted from the recipient’s grant account.

Indirect Costs
For Initiator Awards, indirect costs are limited to an additional 10% of the direct costs during Phase 1 of the award, and 30% of the direct costs during Phase 2. For example, those applying for a Initiator Award are eligible to include indirect costs up to $9,091 (10% of $90,909) for a total of $100,000 per year in Phase 1, and indirect costs up to $75,000 (30% of $250,000) for a total of $325,000 per year in Phase 2.

Budget Revisions
Once an award is activated, revisions greater than 25% in any budget category (i.e., PI salary, Technical Personnel, Supplies, Equipment, Other) require written approval from Association staff.

Under no circumstances will the total budget for a project be increased beyond the original terms.
III. Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted online via the official Grant Management Site, available through the Association’s website at professional.diabetes.org/grants. Emails and word processing files submitted outside the site will not be accepted.

Applicants must complete the online application form and upload the complete Body of the Application (page 13) as an attachment in Portable Document Format (PDF). Applicants must convert the necessary components of the application into a single PDF document; multiple attachments and other formats will not be accepted. All award guidelines and stipulations for preparing applications must be followed (e.g., supporting documents, page limits, font sizes).

Follow the steps below to create a new application in the Grant Management Site. If you have any difficulties accessing the site, contact pathway@diabetes.org for assistance.

1. Access the Pathway Program website
2. Click on/expand the Initiator Award Category
3. Click the Create a New Application link at the bottom of the section.
4. Create a new user account, or log in using an existing account.
5. Complete the eligibility quiz to confirm your eligibility status – be sure to respond candidly for accurate results. Submitted applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be administratively disapproved.
6. After successful completion of the quiz, the application process will begin.
7. After saving your work by clicking the "Save & Finish Later" button located within each section, you can log out and complete your application at a later time.
8. To resume an in-progress application, log in to your Grant Management Site account.

Required details for each section of the online form are outlined below.

A. Nomination

The applicant must attest to being the official nominee of the Sponsoring Institution and upload the signed Nomination Form.

B. Principal Investigator

Contact Information

The applicant must provide the institution’s Tax ID and full name of the institution where the research will be conducted. Incorrect or incomplete information may cause a delay in application and award notifications. Do not abbreviate the institution’s name. In addition to the institution’s name, the current complete mailing address, phone number, fax number, and email address must be provided.
ORCID Identifier
ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) provides a unique, persistent identifier for researchers that supports automated linkages to the investigator’s digital research output. PIs are required to have an ORCID identifier at the time of application. Registration is available free of charge online at orcid.org.

Association Membership
All funded investigators will be required to be current professional members of the Association during the grant period. Professional membership is not required at the time of application. Information on professional membership may be found at http://professional.diabetes.org.

Work Permission
All investigators must be able to legally work in the United States. Institutional certification of work permission will be required for all funded awards.

C. Award Administration

Financial Office Contact Information
Please provide the name and contact information for your institution’s financial officer. Please note that the PI must have the institution’s approval prior to submitting an application electronically. Incorrect or incomplete information may cause a delay in correspondence and payments.

Payment Information
Applicants must provide the institution name and the current complete mailing address for award payments. Checks will be made payable to the institution as entered in the “Payee Institution Name” field. The institution name should be entered as it appears on the institution’s W-9 Tax Certification Form. Incorrect or incomplete names may cause a delay in correspondence and payments.

Please note that the institution name to which checks should be made payable frequently differs from the institution name where the applicant is employed. For example, an applicant employed by the University of the American Diabetes Association may request that the check be made payable to the University of the American Diabetes Association, Research Foundation. Keep in mind there is a character count limit of 39 characters for this field. Please provide appropriate abbreviations if available (example: Association Research Foundation).

Grant Administration Office Contact Information
Applicants must provide the grant administration office email address and phone number. Individual names and/or email addresses are not accepted.

D. Budget

Enter the requested amounts for the total amount and each year of the award. A categorized budget form and budget justification must be included in the Body of the Application.
E. Proposal Details

Title of Proposal
Only the first letter of the title’s first word should be capitalized. The title of the application should not have symbols, such as “β.” Instead of the symbol, type the full name. For example, instead of “β,” type “beta.” The database system will convert all unfamiliar characters into illegible symbols.

Research Type
Indicate whether the proposed research basic, clinical, or translational. For the purpose of this award, clinical research is defined as research directly involving humans, and includes educational, psychosocial, behavioral, epidemiologic, and health services research as well as clinical studies of normal physiology and mechanisms of disease. Translational research is defined as research that accelerates the transition of scientific discoveries into clinical applications, by efficiently advancing knowledge of efficacy to the next level of clinical application.

Diabetes Type of Proposed Research
Select the diabetes category relevant to the proposed research:

- Both Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes
- Type 1 Diabetes
- Type 2 Diabetes
- Gestational Diabetes
- Obesity
- Pre-diabetes/insulin resistance

Research Program Area
Select up to three program areas that describe the type of research being proposed. Program areas may be used as a general guide to help match grant applications to appropriate reviewers; however, selecting any given area does not limit the proposal to a specific reviewer pool.

Abstract
(250 word limit)
The abstract must not exceed 250 words. The abstract must be a description of the research strategy(ies), including scientific question(s) and approach(es) and should specifically highlight the relevance to a cure, prevention, and/or treatment of diabetes. The abstract should be written in the third person.

Abstracts should not include symbols, such as α. Use the full term instead of the symbol. For example, instead of “α,” use the term “alpha.”

Abstracts should not be included as separate attachments or in the Body of the Application. The abstract should be included in the online portion of the application only.

Animal and/or Human Experimentation
Indicate the type of IRB and/or IACUC approval that corresponds with the proposed research being conducted. The Association requires IRB and IACUC assurances for human and animal subjects, respectively, if these are used in the funded research. Funded applicants must obtain IRB and/or IACUC approval and must submit documentation of such approval.
If applicants already have an IACUC and/or approval for the project, it should be included in the Body of the Application.

*The Association will accept just-in-time submission of IRB and/or IACUC assurances. Applicants must submit approval(s) by the funding start date of January 1.*
IV. **Body of the Application**

**A. File Format**

Applicants must combine all requisite components of the application into one (1) PDF document, ordered and named in accordance with application instructions.

*Hard copies, multiple attachments, or other formats will not be accepted and will result in administrative disapproval of application.*

The Association advises that the applicants complete and acquire all required documents before creating the PDF. Hardcopy materials must be converted into electronic format before combining into the single PDF file. Applicants must scan hardcopy materials in order to create the required electronic file.

PDF-creation software is necessary to create a single merged PDF document. There are many options for PDF generator software, many of which are free or can be purchased at a nominal cost. Refer to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for a list of suggested PDF conversion programs. The Adobe® Acrobat® Reader free version will not create a PDF. Adobe Acrobat version 6.0 or later can merge electronic files into a PDF document by following these steps:

1. Click the **Create PDF** button from the toolbar.
2. Select **From Multiple Files**.
3. Browse for all of the required files that should go in your application.
4. Arrange the files in order by selecting the **Move Up** and **Move Down** options. Use the Table of Contents to determine page order.
5. Select **OK** after all the documents are in order.
6. The Body of the Application PDF document is created.
7. Save the combined file according to the following naming convention: **Last Name, First Name - Project Title**. If Project Title is too long for the file name, use just the first five words.

The document header must include the applicant’s name (Last Name, First Name) and type of application submitted (Initiator). The footer must contain the page number. The header and footer should be added to the PDF file after all sections have been merged and collated.

**B. Formatting Requirements**

Applications must abide by the following format specifications:

- **Font**: Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger. (A Symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters; the font size requirement still applies.) Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than six lines per inch. Because font size can appear larger on a computer screen, applicants are responsible for printing the PDF and measuring the font size. Applications that do not adhere to these formatting requirements will not be reviewed.
• **Font for Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes:** Font may be a smaller point size, but it must be in a black font color, readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirement. Color can be used in figures; however, all text must be in a black font color, clear and legible.

• **Margins:** Margins must be at least one-half inch.

• **Spacing:** Single-spacing is acceptable.

• **Legibility:** The PDF document should be easy to read. The Association’s Mentor Advisory Group members review many applications and respond favorably to organized, well-written proposals.

**Header**
Applicant name and award type must be in the header of the Body of the Application. Please format as last name, first name. For example: Smith, John.

Applicants can use Adobe Acrobat 6.0 or later to create the header across the entire combined PDF. Follow the steps below:

1. Select **Document**, followed by **Add Headers and Footers**.
2. Select the **Headers** tab.
3. Select right justification.
4. Type the applicant’s last name and then the first name in the **Insert Custom Text** section.
5. Select **Insert**.
6. Select **OK** to see the header that was created.

**Footer**
Number the pages sequentially in the footer of the Body of the Application. The Table of Contents must be numbered as page 1 of the application, in order to correspond to the PDF file page. Applicants can use Adobe Acrobat 6.0 to create page numbers across the entire combined PDF. Follow the steps below:

1. Select **Document**, followed by **Add Headers and Footers**.
2. Select the **Footers** tab.
3. Select **Insert** in the **Insert Page Number** section.
4. Select **Insert**.
5. Select **OK** to see the page numbers that were created.

**Table of Contents**
The completed Body of the Application **must** include a Table of Contents so reviewers can easily locate application contents. Each section of the Table of Contents must include the page number according to the final Body of the Application PDF file. If a section does not apply to the proposal, the applicant should enter “N/A” rather than leaving the page number blank. The Table of Contents must be numbered as page 1 of the application, in order to correspond to its position within the final Body of the Application PDF file.

The Table of Contents Template specific for the Initiator Award is available for download on the Pathway Program website, within the Initiator Application Materials section. An example of the Table of Contents is available on the following page.
EXAMPLE
Initiator Award

Project Title

Table of Contents (Sample)

Page #

1. PI Biographical Sketch (5 page maximum) .................................................................

2. Annotated Publications (limit 1 page, 5 references) ......................................................

3. Essay Question Responses (limit 1 page) ....................................................................

4. Research Strategy (limit 4 pages) ..............................................................................
   a. References (limit 1 page) ......................................................................................

5. Budget Form ..............................................................................................................
   a. Budget Justification (limit 1 page) .............................................................

6. Nomination Letter from Institutional Representative ..............................................

7. Collaborator(s) Biographical Sketch(es) (Optional) ..............................................

8. Letters of Support (must be submitted independently)
   a. Letter of Support from Graduate/Medical Training Advisor/ Mentor
   b. Two Additional Letters of Support

9. IRB and/or IACUC Approval ....................................................................................

(Only required if obtained by application submission deadline)
C. **Body of the Application Contents**

Specifications for Body of the Application contents are described below. Begin each text section in the PDF file with the section label (e.g., Biographical Sketch, Annotated Publications, etc).

*Please note that the Association will not accept other materials that are not listed in the Table of Contents. Inclusion of any additional materials will result in administrative disapproval of application.*

1) **PI Biographical Sketch (5 page maximum)**
   The Association accepts the [NIH Biographical Sketch Format](https://nihbiographicalsketch.nihbiographicalsketch.org). Applicants that do not have an NIH Biographical Sketch should use the automated NIH SciENcv utility to create one. The SciENcv tool is available through myNCBI at [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv).

2) **Annotated Publications (1 page maximum)**
   Provide a list of your five most impactful publications to date and briefly describe the qualities of these publications that make them notable. Include examples that represent/demonstrate independence, innovative approaches and any other unique characteristics that demonstrate your qualifications for the award.

3) **Essay questions (1 page maximum)**
   Provide answers to each of the following three essay questions, using specific examples.
   a) What makes your research strategy particularly innovative and important for people with diabetes? What makes it uniquely suited for this program rather than a traditional research grant program?

   b) Describe your most significant research accomplishments to date and the personal qualities/characteristics that were required for these accomplishments. For example, provide evidence of innovation and creativity, the ability to challenge paradigms, identify opportunities and take intellectual risks, establish collaborations, integrate diverse sources of information, or develop novel alternative approaches when new challenges or opportunities arose.

   c) What are your future career plans and how will this award will further those objectives? What is your long-term commitment to diabetes research?

4) **Research Strategy (4 page maximum)**
   The research strategy should provide a high level description of your scientific question(s) and the strategy(ies) and approach(es) that you will employ to address this question. It should be written with a level of detail appropriate for reviewers who are knowledgeable of the field, but who may not be directly involved in the proposed area of research. The research strategy section is flexible in format and does not require a detailed project plan, description of methods or preliminary data. Figures are allowed, but must be included in the 4 page limit.
The research strategy should address the following components:

a) Scientific question(s)/specific problem(s) to be addressed

b) Specific approach(es) that will be employed

c) Significance and potential impact of the work

d) The potential risks and challenges, and how they will be overcome

References may be included, but may not exceed 1 page and are not included in 4 page limit. Applications exceeding any of these limits will be administratively disapproved.

5) Budget Form and Budget Justification

A categorical budget must be included. The Excel spreadsheet budget template specific for the Initiator Award is available for download on the Pathway Program website, within the Accelerator Application Materials section.

A one page budget justification should include descriptions for expenses in each budget category, and justification for equipment purchase requests >$25,000.

Please refer to the Budget Guidelines section (page 6) for specific budget details.

6) Institutional Nomination Letter

The appropriate institutional representative (Chair of Nominating Committee, Dean of Research, Division Head, etc.) must delineate the institution’s nomination and commitment to the applicant in an Institutional Nomination Letter. The letter must be included in the Body of the Application PDF file.

Letter should be addressed as “Dear American Diabetes Association Mentor Advisory Group.” Letter must be signed by the institutional representative and co-signed by the Department or Division Head of the applicant, certifying that the department or division is aware of and agrees to the institutional commitment outlined in the letter.

The Letter must specifically address the following points:

• Provide rationale for institution’s nomination of candidate, including why candidate is uniquely suited for this award.

• Certify that the candidate has the appropriate full-time position at the sponsoring institution as required by the award.

• Outline the candidate’s responsibilities and ensure that at least 75% of their total time and effort will be allocated to research during the term of this award.

• Provide assurance of an academic commitment to the candidate and to his or her research proposal.

• Outline the institution’s plans to support the long-term development of the candidate and specific expectations for the individual’s career course.

A sample letter is available for reference.
7) **Collaborator(s) Biographical Sketch(es) (Optional)**

If applicable, the Association accepts biosketches from project collaborators. Collaborator biosketches should follow the [NIH Biographical Sketch Format (5 page maximum)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/appendixes/022.html). Applicants that do not have an NIH Biographical Sketch should use the automated NIH SciEcnv utility to create one. The SciEcnv tool is available through myNCBI at [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv](https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv).

8) **Letters of Recommendation**

Three Letters of Recommendation assessing the scientific abilities and potential of the applicant are required at the time of application. The Grant Management Site requires blind submission of Letters of Recommendation. Each recommender must individually upload his/her Letter of Recommendation to the candidate’s application in the Grant Management Site (see upload instructions). All three letters must be uploaded to the application prior to submission. **The system will prevent submission of any application without all three Letters of Recommendation uploaded by the recommenders by the application deadline.**

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that all three recommenders have submitted their letters on time. It is strongly suggested that all Letters of Recommendation be uploaded to the Grant Management Site a week before the deadline date. The Association will not accept letters separately after the application deadline.

Letters should be addressed as “Dear Mentor Advisory Group” and must be provided from each of the following individuals:

- **Current Mentor:** The letter from the current mentor should specifically address the following points:
  - The applicant’s ability to advance to independence
  - The applicant’s ability to innovate and collaborate
  - How the applicant compares to previous trainees (percentile ranking - i.e. in the top 5% of previous trainees).

- **Graduate or Medical Training Advisor:** If applicant cannot provide a reference from their direct graduate or medical training advisor, it must come from another individual specifically involved in the applicants research or medical training at the graduate level. If the recommendation is not from the direct graduate or medical training advisor, the individual providing the reference must explain their relationship with applicant (e.g. thesis committee member, or investigator other than advisor that was a close collaborator/co-author, or that the applicant worked closely with as a student). The letter should specifically address the following points:
  - The applicant’s potential to make significant contributions to diabetes research
  - The applicant’s ability to innovate and collaborate
  - How the applicant compares to previous trainees (percentile ranking - i.e. in the top 5% of previous trainees).

Letters must be uploaded to the online [Grant Management Site](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/appendixes/022.html). Individuals providing recommendations must submit the letter directly to the Association by uploading it to the grant application. **Please note that the Association does not accept letters separately after the application deadline date.**
9) **IRB/IACUC Approval**

*Required for all applicants using human and/or animal subjects*

A copy of the IRB/IACUC approval letter should be uploaded to the final PDF copy of the application if available. If approval is not obtained by the application deadline (July 1), a just-in-time submission by the funding start date of the award is acceptable. If approval is not received by the start date of the award, an award letter will not be sent and the grant will not be activated until approval is received.

*Incomplete application submissions will be administratively disapproved.*
V. Application Checklist

Prior to submission, all applicants should check their application for the following:

1. Signed institutional nomination form
2. Required questions answered on the online form
3. Body of the Application is complete as described in the Application Instructions
4. Appropriate budget form and justification is complete and included in the Body of the Application PDF
5. Body of the Application uploaded to the online application as a single attachment
6. Proof of appropriate IRB and/or IACUC approval(s) included in the Body of the Application; if required approvals are not available, proof of approval must be submitted no later than award start date
7. Institutional Nomination Letter
   a. Letter is from the appropriate institutional representative (Chair of Nominating Committee, Dean of Research, Division Head, etc.)
   b. Letter is co-signed by the sponsoring department
8. Three letters of recommendation assessing the scientific ability and potential of the applicant, uploaded to the Grant Application Site directly by the individuals providing the recommendations

Incomplete application submissions will be administratively disapproved.
VI. Application Submission

To complete the online application process at a later date, select **Save and Finish Later** at any point during the online application process. Saved applications can be accessed via the **Grant Management Site**.

Select **Review & Submit** when ready to submit an application. **Changes cannot be made to submitted applications.** The PI must have approval from the sponsoring institution prior to application submission. When application is submitted, the institution agrees to accept responsibility for the scientific and technical conduct of the research project and accepts all terms and conditions of the award.

### Important Online Application Details

1. The online Grant Management Site utilizes cookies on your computer. To access the online application, you may need to:
   
   a. Close all open browser windows
   b. Clear your cache and cookies
   c. Open a new browser window
   d. Paste the link below into the address bar: [https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_320](https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_320)
   e. Change your security setting to allow cookies

2. Applications will not be saved unless applicant creates an account before beginning the process. Applications created without user accounts will have to start over with the online application process.

3. Changes cannot be made to submitted applications. Be sure to proofread your application carefully prior to submission.

Electronic applications must be submitted by **8:00 PM Eastern Time** on the deadline date. Any questions about online grant applications should be sent to pathway@diabetes.org.
VII. Questions? Contact Us

- Website URL: http://professional.diabetes.org/grants-pathway
- For answers to Frequently Asked Questions, access the FAQ’s on our website
- For grant application and eligibility questions, please contact pathway@diabetes.org