



National Institute  
on Drug Abuse

# *Avenir Award Programs*

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# NIDA *Avenir* Award Program

*Avenir is the French word for “future”*

[Avenir Award Program for Genetics or Epigenetics of Substance Abuse \(DP1\)](#)

**Deadline:** October 19, 2021, October 19, 2022

[Avenir Award Program for Research on Substance Use Disorders and HIV/AIDS \(DP2\)](#)

**Deadline:** August 13, 2021, August 15, 2022

The awards represent **NIDA’s commitment to supporting researchers** who represent the future of **addiction science**.

Supports **early stage investigators at domestic institutions** proposing **highly innovative** studies.

# NIDA *Avenir Award* – Evaluation & Selection Process

- Applications reviewed in two phases
  - Initial evaluation for scientific and technical merit **by outside reviewers.**
  - An editorial-style panel considers applications and comments of initial reviewers and selects the most meritorious applications.
- Candidates selected by the panel are invited for an interview by a multidisciplinary scientific review group of outside experts.
- Emphasis of evaluation is on:
  - The **importance of the scientific problem** and the **potential impact** of the research.
  - **Novelty and innovativeness** of the approach.
  - Evidence of applicant's potential for creative and innovative research as an ESI
  - Potential of being one of tomorrow's leaders in the field.
- Final selection of **awardees is made by the NIDA Director**

# NIDA *Avenir Award* Program-Highlights

- Must **propose high impact research** and show promise of being tomorrow's leaders **in SUD field**.
- **Preliminary data is NOT required**.
- Applicants must obtain an **independent research position** at a domestic (U.S.) institution by September 1 of the fiscal year of the competition.
- Awardees must commit **at least 25% of their research effort** to activities supported by the award.
- **Multi-PI applications are not allowed**; Collaborations are OK.
- The award provides **\$1,500,000 (direct costs)** for the duration of the award
- Requires **three reference letters** that must be submitted directly to the NIH

# Avenir Award Program for **Genetics or Epigenetics** of Substance Abuse

- Supports highly innovative studies that **open new areas of research for the genetics or epigenetics of SUD.**
- These may be **novel methods/approaches** that can be **applied to study the genetics or epigenetics of addiction.**
- Investigators outside the field of addiction are encouraged to apply.
- **The research plan essay (5-page limit) must address:**
  - **Significance and potential impact** of the project to open **new areas of the genetics or epigenetics of addiction** leading to **new avenues for treatment and prevention of SUDs.**
  - What makes the approaches **exceptionally innovative** and **how risks and challenges will be managed.**
  - **Applicant's qualifications** for this award.

[Avenir Award Program for Research on SUDs and HIV/AIDS](#)

- Supports creative individuals who wish to pursue innovative **research at the nexus of SUD and HIV/AIDS.**
- Supports basic and clinical research to benefit substance using populations with/at risk for HIV/AIDS to **reduce HIV incidence, optimize therapies for HIV and SUD, reduce the impact of comorbid conditions, and ultimately, eradicate HIV.**
- Applications must **clearly describe the intersection of substance use disorders with HIV/AIDS.**
- The research plan essay (5-page limit) must address:
  - **Significance and potential impact** to expand **understanding of HIV infection, pathogenesis, and persistence in the context of substance use and misuse.**
  - **How the project would open new avenues for treatment and prevention of HIV in PWUD.**
  - What makes the **approaches exceptionally innovative** and **how risks and challenges will be managed.**
  - **Applicant's qualifications** for this award and long-term goals.

# Avenir Award Program for Research on SUDs and HIV/AIDS

- Supports creative individuals who wish to pursue innovative **research at the nexus of SUD and HIV/AIDS.**
- Supports basic and clinical research to benefit substance using populations with/at risk for HIV/AIDS **to reduce HIV incidence, optimize therapies for HIV and SUD, reduce the impact of comorbid conditions, and ultimately, eradicate HIV.**
- Applications must **clearly describe the intersection of substance use disorders with HIV/AIDS.**
- The research plan essay (5-page limit) must address:
  - **Significance and potential impact** to expand **understanding of HIV infection, pathogenesis, and persistence in the context of substance use and misuse.**
  - **How the project would open new avenues for treatment and prevention of HIV in PWUD.**
  - What makes the **approaches exceptionally innovative** and **how risks and challenges will be managed.**
  - **Applicant's qualifications** for this award and long-term goals.

