



Update on the NIH Extension Policy for Early Stage Investigator Status

NIH Notice: [NOT-OD-18-235](#)

The National Institutes of Health recently updated their Extension Policy for Early Stage Investigator (ESI) Status, related to extensions for child birth. ESI applications with meritorious scores are prioritized for funding due to the NIH's commitment to the [Next Generation Researchers Initiative policy](#) to fund more early career investigators, and to enhance biomedical research workforce diversity.

The NIH defines an ESI as a Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed her/his terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years, and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award.

The NIH considers requests for extension of the ESI period for various reasons, including medical concerns, disability, extended periods of clinical training, natural disasters, and active duty military service. Each of these requests is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Because close to 50% of the ESI extension requests are related to childbirth, **effective immediately, NIH will approve an ESI extension of one year for childbirth within the ESI period.** PDs/PIs must provide the child's date of birth in the extension request justification on the [NIH Extension portal](#).

Questions?

You may contact the NIH Division of Biomedical Research Workforce, Office of Extramural Research at:

Website: researchtraining.nih.gov

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