

Sponsor(s) Commitment

This is **limited to 6 pages**.

Who must complete the “Sponsor(s) Commitment” attachment:

The “Sponsor(s) Commitment Statement” attachment is required. The sponsor and each co-sponsor must provide statements as described below.

The Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Statements must be appended together and uploaded as a single PDF file. See NIH's Format Attachments page. Use of hyperlinks and URLs is not allowed unless specified in the funding opportunity.

Content:

Complete these items as comprehensively as possible so that a meaningful evaluation of the commitment to the research training can be made by the reviewers.

Create a heading at the top of the first page titled “Sponsor(s) Commitment” and organize each statement in the specified order and use the instructions below, unless otherwise specified in the NOFO. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – A. Mentoring Approach and Candidate Mentoring Plan; B. Prior Commitment to Training and Mentoring; C. Commitment to the Candidate’s Research Training Plan; D. Research Training Environment; and E. Candidate’s Potential.

Each sponsor and co-sponsor statement must address the following sections (A-E).

A. Mentoring Approach and Candidate Mentoring Plan

Effective mentorship is critical to the development and retention of scientists and the advancement of research. Sponsors and co-sponsors must describe their mentoring approach and the specific mentoring plan for the candidate to ensure career advancement in the biomedical research workforce. The mentoring plan should be tailored to the overall training goals outlined by the candidate and go beyond simply providing access to research environments. Effective mentoring plans may include areas such as enhancing the candidate’s understanding of scientific research, promoting the candidate’s professional development, maintaining effective communication, aligning expectations and fostering independence.

B. Prior Commitment to Training and Mentoring

This section may be used to demonstrate the sponsor(s) past commitment to effective training, mentoring, and career development. Previous experience is not a pre-requisite to serve as a sponsor. Sponsor(s) may provide examples from no more than 2-5 recent trainees at the level of the candidate and describe the individualized training and mentoring offered. Simply listing former trainees and their career outcomes does not provide evidence of effective mentoring. The sponsor(s) should describe the impacts of the individualized training and mentoring on each former trainee’s scientific, educational, or career development. For early-stage sponsor(s), examples may include informal training and mentoring activities conducted as a student or postdoctoral fellow.

C. Commitment to the Candidate’s Research Training Plan

This section should contain confirmation of the sponsor(s) commitment to the candidate’s research training plan and that sponsor(s) have sufficient time to devote to the training and

mentoring given their other professional and supervisory obligations. The sponsor(s) should provide:

- A description of the frequency, duration, and nature of meetings with the candidate throughout the training plan timeline.
- A listing of how many other scientists in the research team will be supervised during the proposed fellowship award period and how the candidate will receive consistent, individualized attention.

D. Research Training Environment

The information contained in the “Training Plan Environment” section of the Sponsor’s and Co-sponsors’ Statements should be coordinated with information provided in the Research Training Plan section or the Other Project Information Form: Facilities and Other Resources so that material is not duplicated.

The sponsor should describe the research training environment and how it will meet the needs of the candidate to achieve the outlined goals. The co-sponsor may include information if different from the sponsor’s description. Include any additional relevant items to promote the development of the candidate not listed elsewhere in the application. For example, describe:

- The sponsor(s) research training environment and how the environment will support the candidate’s development and attainment of the defined career goals. Sponsor(s) are encouraged to describe efforts to create safe, supportive, and accessible research environments. Describe the day-to-day research environment with special attention to training and how the candidate will benefit from the environment.
- Organizational research training environments such as available centralized research facilities or equipment needed to complete the research training project not listed elsewhere in the application.
- Relevant and accessible organizational research training program(s) related to the candidate's area of interest.
- Opportunities for professional development and intellectual interactions, for example, scientific meetings, journal clubs, seminars, and opportunities for presentations. Include items such as classes, opportunities for interaction with other scientists and any professional skills development opportunities. Describe how the sponsor will work with the candidate to develop and publish rigorous scientific products such as publications and presentations.

E. Candidate’s Potential

The section is intended to provide information about the candidate’s main areas for development during the training as well as their potential to benefit from the research training plan and to have a productive career in the biomedical research workforce. Sponsor(s) should provide the following for the candidate:

- Examples of personal characteristics (for example, skills, abilities, traits, attitudes) that are likely to significantly contribute to further advancement in the candidate’s defined career path. Take into consideration relevant indicators for success, such as scientific curiosity, resourcefulness, and persistence.
- Areas for development to improve the candidate’s prospects of transitioning into a productive career in the biomedical research workforce. Areas may include, but not limited to the following skills: technical (e.g., new techniques or technical methods, quantitative or

computational approaches), operational (e.g., practices that promote rigorous, reproducible, and responsible research) or professional (e.g., management, leadership, communication, teamwork). Indicate whether the proposed training plan will address these areas and contribute to the candidate's development and attainment of the stated career goals.

- An overall assessment of the candidate's preparedness and likelihood for success in the proposed research training plan. Provide examples, such as scientific or intellectual contributions, that highlight the likelihood of achieving the training goals and advancing to a career in the biomedical research workforce.

Clinical Trial Training (if proposed)

Note: If the candidate is proposing to gain experience in a clinical trial as part of the research training plan, then the sponsor or co-sponsor should include information in the statement to document leadership of the clinical trial. Include the following:

- A statement/attestation that the sponsor or co-sponsor will be responsible for the clinical trial
- Source of funding
- ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier (e.g., NCT87654321), if applicable
- A description of how the expertise available to guide the candidate in the proposed clinical trials research experience
- The sponsor(s) must have primary responsibility for leading and overseeing the trial and must describe the level of oversight
- Include details on the specific roles/responsibilities of the fellow and sponsor, keeping in mind that the terms of a fellowship award do not permit the fellow to lead a clinical trial.