

How to read an NIH award number

The Components of an NIH Grant Number

The identification number is commonly referred to as the application number or grant number, depending upon its processing status. This identification code is typically found in Award Notices. To illustrate, the identification number 3R01CA129210-04S1A consists of several parts, each having a distinct meaning:

Application Type	Activity Code	Administering Organization	Serial Number	Suffixes	
3	R01	CA	129210	-04	S1A1

This example shows the parts of an ID number assigned to an Amendment (A1) to a Supplemental (Type 3) application for a Traditional Research Project (R01) referred to the National Cancer Institute (CA). The number further identifies the application serially as the 129210th new proposal submitted to the National Cancer Institute, and indicates that this is the first supplemental application (S1) to the fourth year (-04) of support to this project.

The components of an NIH Grant Number are divided as follows:

Application Type

This is a single-digit code identifying the type of application received and processed. Some of the more common codes are:

Type 1	New
Type 2	Renewal
Type 3	Revision (for supplemental funding)
Type 4	Extension for an R37 award MERIT Awards
Type 5	Continuation
Type 7	Change of grantee institution
Type 8	Change of NIH Institute (non-competing)
Type 9	Change of NIH Institute or Division (competing continuation)

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Activity Code

This is a three-digit code (also referred to as an Instrument Code) identifying a specific category of extramural activity:

R01	Research Project
R03	Small Research Grant
R15	Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA)
R21	Exploratory/Developmental Grants
R24	Resource-Related Research Projects
R37	MERIT Award
R41	Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) phase I
R42	Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) phase II
R43	Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) phase I
R44	Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) phase II
R55	James A. Shannon Director's Award
P01	Research Program Project
P30	Center Core Grants
P50	Specialized Center Grants
F-series	Individual Fellowship
T-series	Research Training
T32	Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) Training
K-series	Career Development Awards
K08	Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award
U –series	Cooperative Agreements
U01	Cooperative Agreements – Research Project

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Administering Organization

This is also referred to as an I/C Code or an Admin PHS Org Code, a two letter code identifying the first major-level subdivision of an Institute or Center:

- AA National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
- AG National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- AI National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- AR National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease (NIAMS)
- AT National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)
- CA National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- DA National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- DC National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)
- DE National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
- DK National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- EB National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
- ES National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- EY National Eye Institute (NEI)
- GM National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
- HD National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- HG National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) - formerly NCHGR
- HL National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
- HS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) - not a part of NIH
- LM National Library of Medicine (NLM)
- MD National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
- MH National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- NR National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
- NS National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
- RR National Center for Research Resources

Serial Number

This is a six-digit number generally assigned sequentially to a series within an Institute, Center, or Division.

Grant Year

A two-digit number indicates the actual segment or budget period of a project. The grant year number (01, 02, etc.) is preceded by a dash to separate it from the serial number; e.g., AI 123450-02 or CA 009000-04. The grant year number is increased by one for each succeeding renewal year. Thus, the -02 and -04 year suffixes above identify grants in their second and fourth years.

Other

The letter "S", for Revision (for Supplemental funding) and related number identify a particular supplemental record. For example; S1, S2. Supplement designations follow the grant year or the amendment designation.

The letter "A", for Resubmission, (commonly referred to as an Amendment) and the related number identify a particular amendment record. This follows the grant year or supplement suffix to identify resubmitted applications.