

UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting statements of interest (SOIs) for the **NIH Director's Early Independence Program (RFA-RM-27-004)** limited competition. This funding opportunity helps talented new researchers begin their own independent research program soon after finishing their doctoral degree or clinical training, without first doing postdoctoral training.

Applicants must have a guaranteed, pending independent research position and be able to begin independent research by the project start date. Prospective hires at another institution (other than UNM) should consult their prospective institution regarding its limited competition process.

The science areas for this opportunity include:

- 1 CB---- Chemical Biology
- 2 CTR-- Clinical & Translational Research
- 3 IDI---- Infectious Diseases & Immunology
- 4 IE----- Instrumentation & Engineering
- 5 MCB- Molecular & Cellular Biology
- 6 NS---- Neuroscience
- 7 HIB-- High-Throughput & Integrative Biology
- 8BCB-- Bioinformatics & Computational Biology

Sponsor: NIH

Opportunity Title: Director's Early Independence Award (DP5 Clinical Trial Optional)

Opportunity Number: RFA-RM-27-004

Sponsor Due Date(s): 9/10/2026

Award Range: \$350,000 per year plus allowed indirect costs (F&A) for up to 5 years

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: Two (2) per institution

Solicitation: <https://files.simpler.grants.gov/opportunities/8518b002-2452-44e3-8b00-78fcaa5c7edb/attachments/7ad160c4-0399-4f47-adff-189bd6b25542/RFA-RM-27-004-Full-Announcement.html>

Limited Comp. SOI Due Date: **NOON on August 10, 2026**

Limited Comp. Instructions: Submit your ~100-word SOI in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). No late submissions will be considered. Based on the number of SOIs received, the Limited Competitions Management Team may announce a call for pre-proposals.

Applicant selections will be published on the [UNM Limited Competitions website](#). Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.