

# SuRE Resource Center

A pathway for under-resourced academic institutions to build research capacity and increase NIH funding success.

## Introducing the SuRE (Support for Research Excellence) Resource Center:

Reducing Barriers and Building Research Capacity at Under-Resourced Academic Institutions Competing for National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grants

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*Assistant Vice President for Research  
Director, Research Analytics  
University of Kentucky*

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*Senior Proposal Development Officer  
University of Kentucky*

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**



Providing activities that educate faculty and research administrative staff to increase the number of institutions engaged in NIH-funded research and foster a national SuRE community.

# NIH Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) R16 Program

A research capacity building program designed to develop and sustain research excellence in U.S. higher education institutions that receive limited NIH research support and serve students from groups underrepresented in biomedical research with an emphasis on providing students with research opportunities and enriching the research environment at the applicant institutions.

# SuRE R16 Program: Goals

## Support for Research Excellence



1. Provide research grant support for faculty investigators that allows for establishment and/or continuation of research programs at R16-eligible institutions.
2. Provide students, especially URM students, with opportunities to engage in research experiences that ideally encourages their matriculation into biomedical science careers.
3. Catalyze institutional research and enrich the research environment at R16-eligible institutions.
4. Increase both the number of institutions and geographical distribution of institutions participating in NIH-funded research.

# SuRE R16 Program: Overview

SuRE R16 Program is administered by NIGMS, with 18 additional ICs that fund extramural research also participating in the program

- Program accepts proposals of a wide variety of biomedical and behavioral sciences (open to all research areas that fall under the NIH umbrella)
- Applications assigned to NIAID will be reviewed by that institute; all other applications are reviewed by NIGMS special emphasis panels
- Applications proposing meritorious science will be considered for funding by NIGMS and other participating ICs

# SuRE R16 Program: R16 Mechanisms

## PAR-21-169 (standard SuRE R16)

Designed for full-time, tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty with a history of leading research projects, but who are not currently PD/PI on an active NIH Research Project Grant (RPG)

- \$100,000 direct costs/year
- Project periods up to 4 yrs
- Renewable
- Due May 26 (most applications); HIV/AIDS applications due Sept 7

## PAR-21-173 (SuRE-First R16)

Designed for full-time, tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty without a history of leading research projects as PD/PI.

- \$125,000 direct costs/year
- Project periods up to 4 yrs
- Non-renewable, but can be transitioned to standard SuRE R16s
- Mentored award
- Due Sept 28 (most applications); HIV/AIDS applications due Jan 7

# SuRE R16 Program: Institutional Eligibility



**Academic institution of higher education** that offers Bachelor and/or graduate degrees in the biomedical sciences

*and...*



**≥25% Pell grant aid** in either *All undergraduate students*, **OR** *Full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students*, **OR** if your institution does not serve undergraduates, but was founded to educate minority students

*and...*



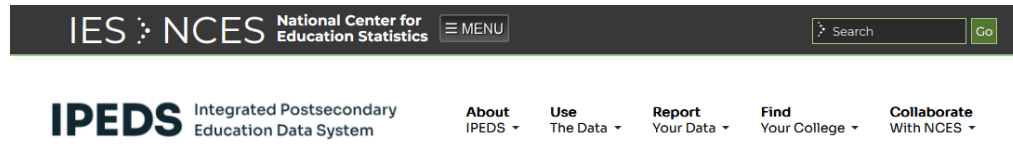
**Awarded <\$6 million** in NIH RPG funding in each of the last two fiscal years

*(Note: an institution can have no more than 20 SuRE, SC1, SC3 awards combined. No limit on number of SuRE-First awards)*

# SuRE R16 Program: Institutional Eligibility

## Pell % - IPEDS Database (National Center for Education Statistics)

<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

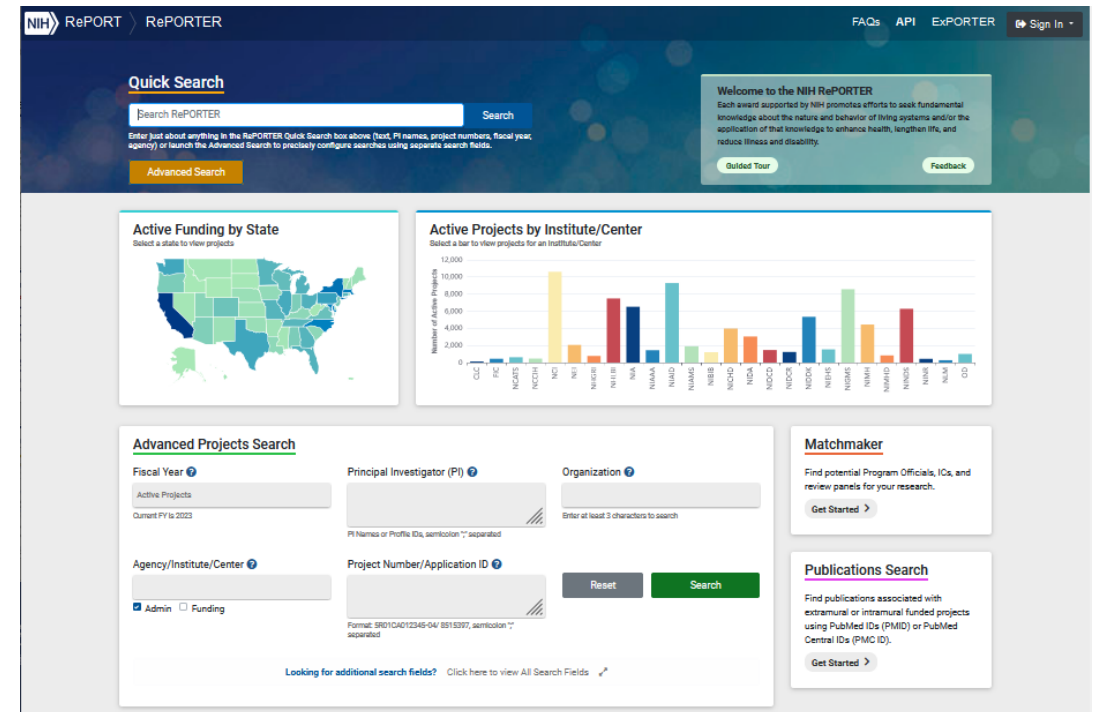


Your primary source for information on U.S. colleges, universities, and technical and vocational institutions.



## RPG \$ - RePORTER Database (National Institutes of Health)

<https://reporter.nih.gov/>



# SuRE R16 Program: Institutional Eligibility

## PAR-21-169 Standard SuRE Award

The SuRE mechanism is open to tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty applicants with prior research experience as PD/PI, but are not currently funded by NIH RPG grant(s).

- Exception - applicants with SCORE or SuRE awards in their final year
- Holding a *co-Investigator* role does not negate eligibility
- Effort commitment should match needs of the proposed project

*\*Also open to SuRE-First eligible faculty who cannot commit 6 person mo.*

## PAR-21-173 SuRE-First Award

The SuRE-First mechanism is open to tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty applicants with no prior independent external, peer-reviewed research grants as PD/PI.

- Holding a *co-Investigator* role does not negate eligibility
- Effort commitment  $\geq 6$  person months/project year *(required)*
- Identify a US-based scientist with relevant expertise & research funding to serve as a mentor *(required)*

# Standard SuRE R16 Award Requirements

- Research Strategy (6 pg) attachment must include a Student Involvement Plan.
- Letter from an Institutional Official (Provost, VPR, equivalent) describing institution's strategic plan for building research capacity and research excellence (i.e., research cores, equipment for multiple PI's, scientific workshops or symposia, seminar programs, career development workshops).
- Letter from the Chair or Dean confirming support for the PI's professional development. Additional institutional support for the PI, including mentoring, may also be described.
- PI's current and pending support is required.

# SuRE-First R16 Award Requirements

- Research Strategy (6 pg) attachment must include a Student Involvement Plan.
- Letter from an Institutional Official (Provost, VPR, equivalent), as described previously.
- Letter from the Chair or Dean confirming support for the PI's professional development. Letter must confirm that effort (a minimum of 6 person-months will be provided and that PI has not been the recipient of any peer-reviewed, externally-funded research grants from any federal or non-federal source.
- PI's prior, current and pending support is required.

# SuRE-First R16 Award Requirements

- The SuRE-First is a mentored award. PI must have a mentor with expertise in the PI's area of research with robust track record of funding and publications, with a strong preference for experience with NIH (ideally, currently NIH-funded). Mentor is listed as key personnel (actual % effort not required) and must provide letter of support.
- More than one mentor is allowed, but no more than two mentors should be included (one can be at PI's institution; does not have to be expert in PI's research area, but could help with administrative support, career advice and career development.)
- PI must provide research enhancement plan that describes career objectives, how the SuRE-First award will help achieve objectives, and mentor-mentee relationship.

# R16 Funding

Current R16 success rates are relatively high

- Keep in mind, that as awareness of the program grows, there may be shifts in success rates.
- The [UK SuRE Resource Center](#) is available to assist those at R16-eligible institutions.



University of  
Kentucky SuRE  
Resource  
Center

## Support Available to R16-Eligible Institutions

# SuRE Resource Center: Overview

- **SuRE Resource Center (U24 GM146576 via PAR-21-227)**
  - Assist in building research infrastructure such as Offices of Sponsored Programs (OSP), or equivalent
  - Conduct outreach and training to OSP staff and faculty investigators
  - Consult with OSP staff and faculty investigators
  - Facilitate building a network of SuRE-funded scientists and their trainees
- R16-eligible institutions nationwide are encouraged to engage with the Center

# SuRE Resource Center: Services



**Outreach &  
Training**

**OSP Seed  
Grant Program**



**Consultation**

**SuRE Biennial  
Conferences**



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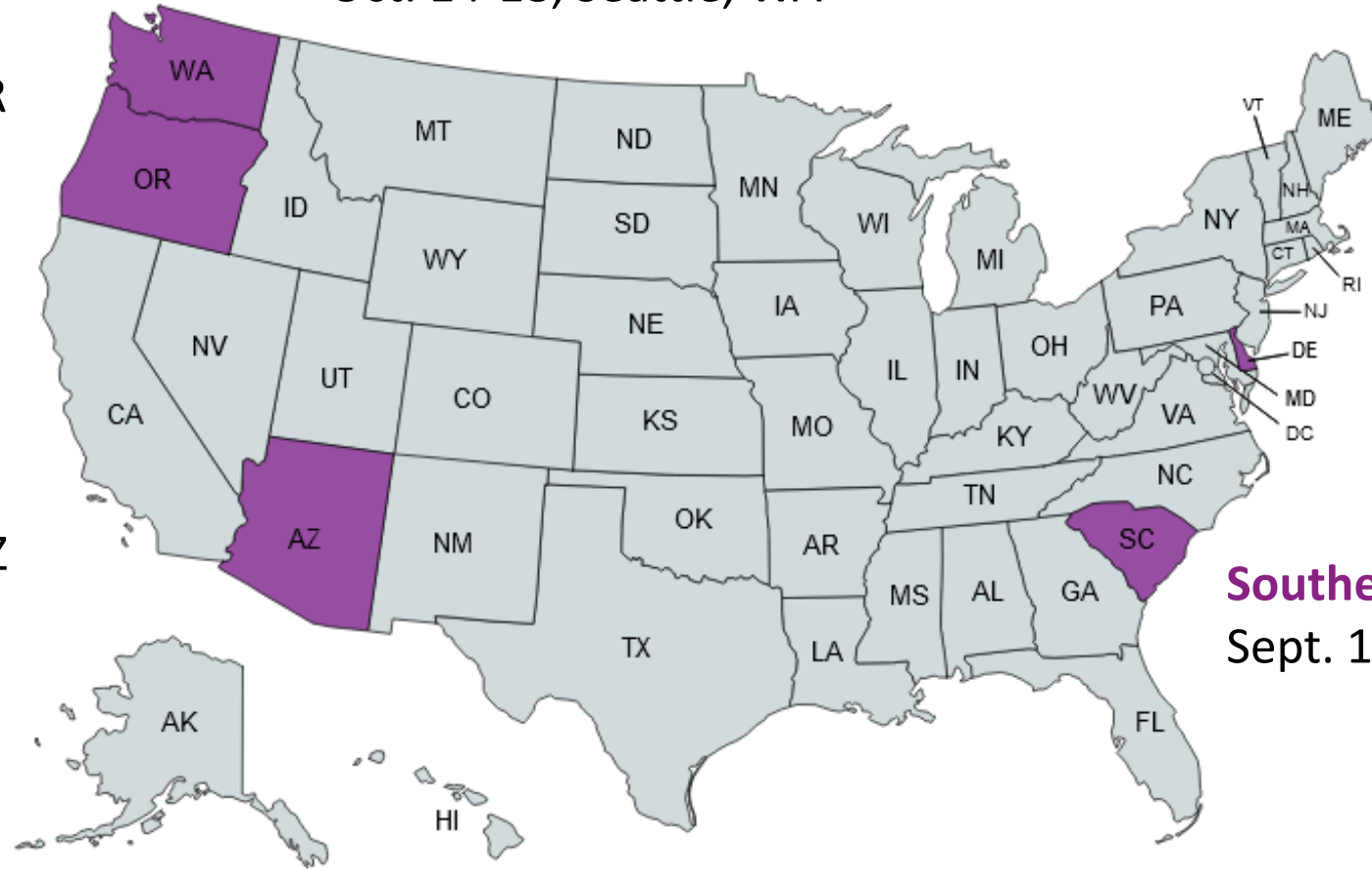


# SuRE Resource Center: Outreach & Training

**SACNAS National Diversity  
in STEM Conference,**  
Oct. 26-28, Portland, OR

**SRAI Annual Conference,**  
Oct. 14-18, Seattle, WA

**Annual Biomedical  
Research Conference  
for Minoritized  
Scientists,**  
Nov. 15-18, Phoenix, AZ



**Northeast IDeA  
Conference,** Aug. 16-  
18, Wilmington, DE

**Southeast IDeA Conference,**  
Sept. 15-17, Columbia, SC

# SuRE Resource Center: Outreach & Training

- Training modality is virtual (ZOOM webinars)
- Two types of training events offered
  - Multiday **grantsmanship bootcamps**, held ~8 weeks prior to each R16 deadline
    - Day 1 focuses on writing the scientific content of R16 applications
    - Day 2 focuses on preparation of some supporting narratives
  - **Stand-alone sessions**, covering a wide variety of topics
    - Offered bi-monthly, throughout the calendar year
      - One session is targeted to faculty investigators
      - The other session is targeted to OSP staff
- Training sessions are always recorded and posted for asynchronous viewing

# SuRE Resource Center: Outreach & Training

## Past training topics:

- *Overview of the NIH SuRE Program*
- *Finding & Evaluating Funding Opportunities*
- *NIH Pre-Award Process*
- *NIH Budget & Justification Development*
- *Subawards, Vendors, & Consultants*
- *NIH Structure & Grant Review Process*
- *Mutually Beneficial Mentor-Mentee Relationships*
- *Institutional Responsibilities for NIH Applications and Awards*
- *Institutional Letters of Support*
- *Organizing an Office of Sponsored Projects for Success*
- *Data-Informed Decision Making in Research Administration*
- *Writing a High-Impact NIH Specific Aims Page*
- *Addressing Significance & Innovation in NIH Applications*
- *Writing a Successful NIH Approach*
- *NIH Data Management & Sharing Policy*
- *Making the Most of Your NIH Biosketch*

# SuRE Resource Center: Services



**Outreach &  
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**OSP Seed  
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**SuRE Biennial  
Conferences**



# SuRE Resource Center: Consultation Services

SuRE Resource Center personnel are available for **one-on-one consultation**

- Application questions, review of draft application attachments, etc.
- >6 weeks in advance of the deadline is recommended for complex requests
- Requests can be made via email

## Leadership



Brett Spear, PhD  
Co-Director



Paul Murphy, PhD  
Co-Director



Melissa Nickell, MS  
Center Administrator



Kim McBride, BFA  
Marketing



Kris Monahan, PhD  
Providence College



Tyler Justice, CRA  
SixZeroSix, LLC

## Administration

## Consultants

## UK Faculty and Research Support Specialists



Erik Davidshofer, MA



Barb Duncan, PhD



Sarah D'Orazio, PhD



David Fardo, PhD



Kathy Grzech, MA



Louetta Hurst, MA



Helene Lake-Bullock, PhD



Analia Loria, PhD



Danelle Stevens-  
Watkins, PhD



Terry Stratton, PhD



Veronica Taylor, CRA



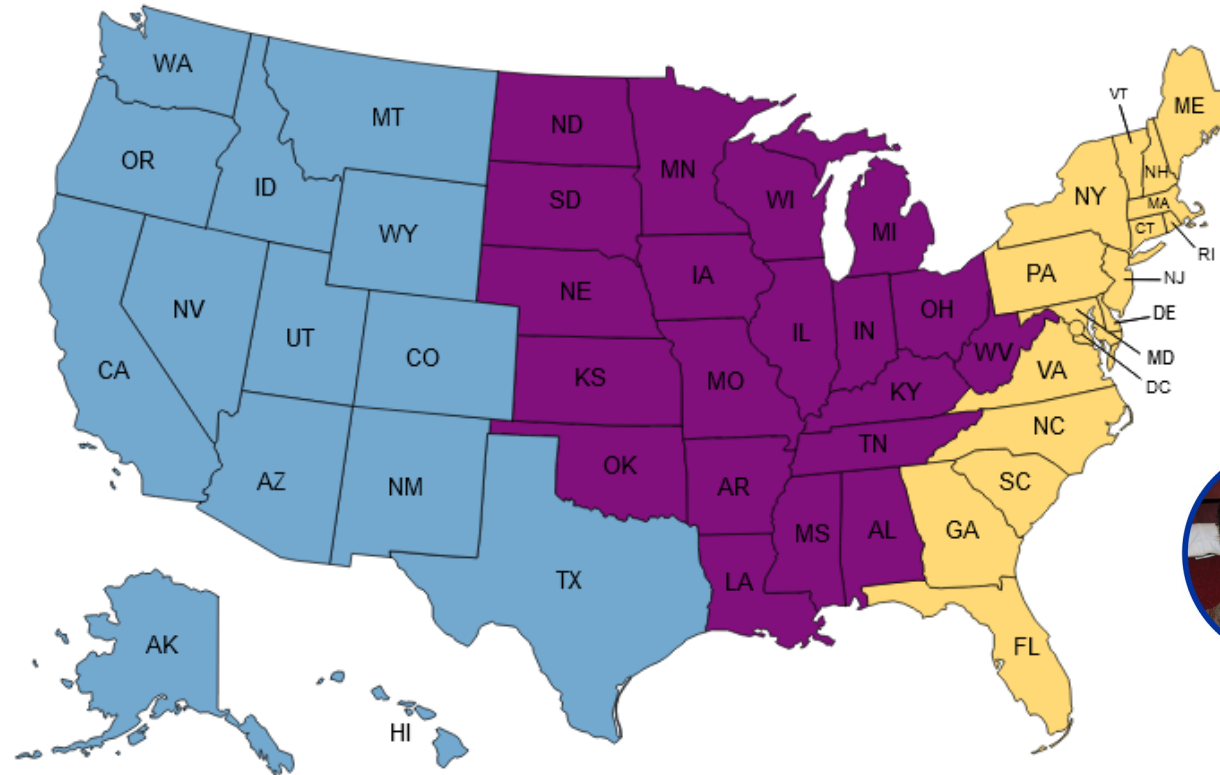
Baron Wolf, PhD

# SuRE Resource Center: Service Regions



## *West*

**Arica Lubin, PhD**  
Associate Director,  
Center for Science &  
Engineering  
Partnerships  
UC Santa Barbara



## *East/North*

**Brittany Smalls, PhD**  
Co-Director, DREAM  
Scholars Program & Assoc.  
Professor, Internal Medicine  
University of Kentucky



## *Midwest/South*

**Ruby Broadway, PhD**  
Professor of Biology  
Dillard University

## *Welcome!*

**Esther Dupont-Versteegden, PhD**  
Professor, Rehabilitation Sciences &  
Director, Center for Muscle Biology  
University of Kentucky

# SuRE Resource Center: Services



**Outreach &  
Training**

**OSP Seed  
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**Consultation**

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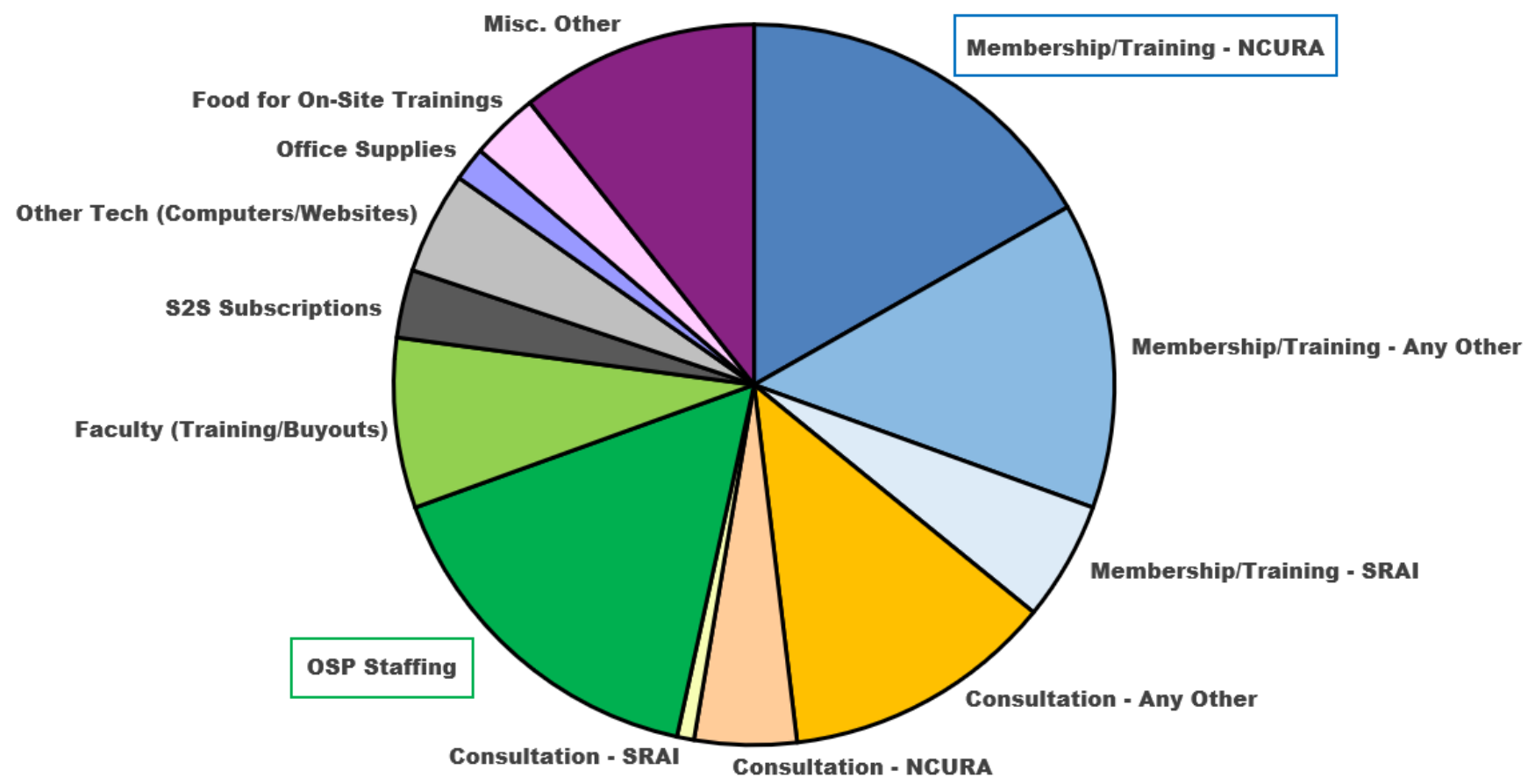


# SuRE Resource Center: OSP Seed Grant Program

- NIGMS is eager to support R16-eligible institutions beyond offering access to competitive research funding
- SuRE Resource Center allocates **~\$250,000 annually** to support R16-eligible institutions as they seek to build research capacity
  - Funds are distributed via a competitive, application-based process
  - Applicants can request funds to establish or to enhance an existing OSP
    - The application is short and offers applying institutions significant flexibility to request funds for identified needs
  - Funds are not for direct support of faculty investigators (e.g., not funding for scientific pilot projects)

# SuRE Resource Center: Seed Grant Y1 Applicants

Requested Funds

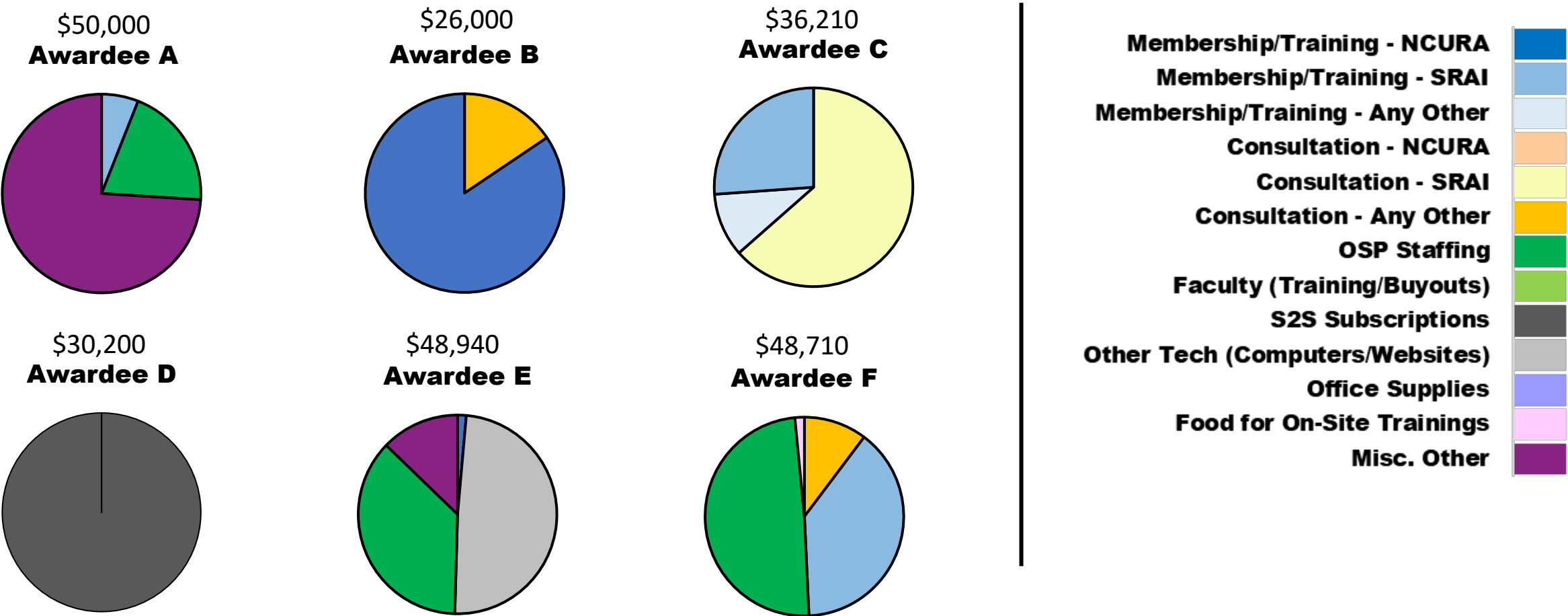


# SuRE Resource Center: OSP Seed Grant Program

## Application review & funding decisions:

- Applicants were randomly assigned reviewers and scored on four criteria
- Top third of applicants were discussed by all reviewers
  - Additional consideration for factors such as geographic location, institution type, current NIH RPG funding, etc. also made
  - Six institutions were identified to receive awards for year 1 (Y1) and approved by the Center's steering committee

# SuRE Resource Center: Y1 Seed Grant Awardees



# **SuRE Resource Center: OSP Seed Grant Program**

## **Awardee responsibilities:**

- Quarterly meetings with SuRE Resource Center leadership
- Participation in the SuRE Biennial Conference, including as a speaker for a Research Administration breakout session
- Report sponsored project activity over the next 5 years

# SuRE Resource Center: Services



**Outreach &  
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# SuRE Resource Center: OSP Seed Grant Program



**SuRE Biennial Conferences** represent an opportunity for R16-awardees to share their science, network with other scientists and NIH staff, and to learn

- Final dates and venue are still TBD
  - Summer 2024 location likely to be the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD
- Estimated at ~2 days in length
  - Plenary lectures each day
  - Breakout sessions on scientific disciplines and research administrative topics
  - Poster sessions by scientific discipline



# SuRE Resource Center: Upcoming Events

## Train

- **September 19, 1-2pm**,  
*Addressing Tenure & Promotion Areas of Faculty Development*  
*\*All times Eastern*

## Seed Grants

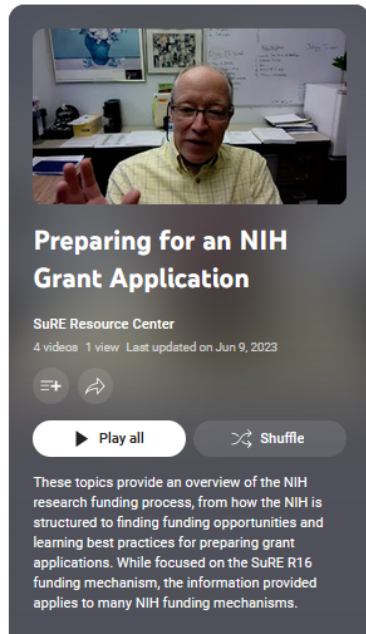
- Second round of applications will be accepted **late Fall 2023**
- All R16-eligible institutions are also eligible to apply for the OSP Seed Grant Program
- Announcements for the application window via multiple mechanisms (e.g., website, mailing list...)

## Network

- First SuRE conference will be scheduled for **summer 2024**
- Tentative location is the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD
- R16-awardees, trainees, and R16-eligible research administrative staff are welcome

# SuRE Resource Center: Open-Access Resources

Center **webinars are recorded** and posted to our YouTube channel (**@SuRE\_RC**) for asynchronous viewing



- 1 **NIH Structure & Grant Review Process**  
SuRE Resource Center • 32 views • 4 months ago
- 2 **Finding & Evaluating Funding Opportunities (FOAs)**  
SuRE Resource Center • 28 views • 4 months ago
- 3 **NIH Budget & Justification Development**  
SuRE Resource Center • 85 views • 3 months ago
- 4 **NIH Pre-Award Process**  
SuRE Resource Center • 39 views • 2 months ago

*\*Also accessible on our Center website*

Center website includes **PDF downloads** about our services and the SuRE R16 Program



# SuRE Resource Center: Connect

## SuRE Resource Center

A pathway for under-resourced academic institutions to build research capacity and increase NIH funding success.

1.

### OUR REGIONAL COORDINATORS

We encourage faculty, research administrative staff, and leadership to reach out to our Regional Coordinators with questions about the NIH SuRE grant program and your institution's eligibility. Submit your request below, and your coordinator will be in touch.



#### Midwest

**Ruby Broadway, PhD**  
Dillard University

Associate Professor who during her twenty-eight-year tenure at Dillard, has served as a dedicated mentor and chair of the biology department.



#### East

**Brittany Smalls, PhD, MHSA**  
University of Kentucky

Associate Professor in Family and Community Medicine, whose research interests include rural health, health disparities, aging, and complex chronic disease management.



#### West

**Arica Lubin, PhD**  
University of California, Santa Barbara

Associate Director, overseeing scholarly and career preparation for undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars in science and engineering.

[Connect with a Coordinator](#)

### WHO WE SUPPORT

Institutions dedicated to teaching students from backgrounds underrepresented in science often need more resources to build a research environment on their campuses. Without these resources, the ability to support faculty research and provide racially diverse and low-income students access to biomedical careers becomes challenging.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) designed the SuRE R06 program to help qualifying institutions on their path toward building and sustaining a research infrastructure. In partnership, the SuRE Resource Center provides free training, guidance, and expertise to help bridge the gap in taking those initial steps.



#### Faculty

##### Reduce the Learning Curve in Funding Your Research

A starting point with a team of experts to assist and train you in grant writing and advocate as you pursue scientific research funding.



#### Research Admin

##### Build an Environment That Supports Faculty Research

Access expertise and seed grant funding to advance an institutional culture around research development and administration.



#### Leadership

##### Obtain NIH Grants, Recruit Promising Students

Grow department resources with research grants that enrich the academic experience for students wanting to be competitive in the scientific workforce.

2.



### Fridays @ 3:00 PM Eastern Weekly Q&A

Center Administrator, Melissa Nickell, will be available via Zoom each Friday, 3:00 - 4:00 PM Eastern, to chat and answer your questions. Click the link below to add to your calendar.

[Add to Calendar](#)

3.

### Stay Informed

Be the first to receive SuRE Resource Center updates, news, and notifications.

[Join Our List](#)

THANK YOU!



<https://www.research.uky.edu/sure-resource-center>



SuRE.RC@uky.edu



SuRE Resource Center



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