

information submitted or for use of that information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Specific questions regarding the NIDCD RFI should be directed to: Lana Shekim, Ph.D., Global Health Coordinator National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), Phone: 240-723-0306, [NIDCDGlobalHealthRFI@nidcd.nih.gov](mailto:NIDCDGlobalHealthRFI@nidcd.nih.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 285m, of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. The NIDCD's mission is to support research and training on the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language. Our vision is to advance the science of communication to improve lives. In pursuit of its mission and as outlined in the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/about/strategic-plans>, NIDCD supports basic, translational, and clinical research on hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech and language. One of the cross-cutting priorities listed in the strategic plan is to participate in international research to improve global health through reducing the burden of hearing loss and communication disorders in the US and around the globe. For more information about current international initiatives related to the NIDCD mission visit <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/research/global-health>.

International collaboration has a long history at NIDCD in both its intramural laboratories and its support of extramural research, with such research leading to discoveries and advances in knowledge, for example the identification of deafness and stuttering gene variations, and improvements in Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCI) for Communication. A notable example of successful translational research from the hearing program is the development of cochlear implant which resulted from collaboration among multiple scientific disciplines working in the US and collaborating across borders.

NIDCD, like other NIH Institutes, funds highly meritorious research throughout the world, both through direct awards to non-U.S. institutions and indirectly through awards to U.S. institutions. NIDCD is interested in advancing knowledge by strengthening our engagement across the globe in all settings, whether highly resourced or under resourced. By resources, we do not mean just financial resources and include availability of human capital and infrastructure. Reducing the burden of deafness and communication disorders requires a diverse work force

that includes physicians, namely otolaryngologists, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, nurses, neuroscientists, psychologists, epidemiologists and many other health and educational professionals. Clinical care may be medical, surgical, pharmacologic or behavioral.

Availability of professionals and especially research scientists is uneven within countries and across regions of the world. In the case of communication disorders, knowledge of the language in the area and the culture are essential for effective evaluation and treatment, especially for speech, language and hearing assessment and behavioral intervention.

Recognizing that health is a fundamental human right, so is the right to communicate. NIDCD seeks mutuality of purpose in establishing partnerships across the world to re-imagine a more equitable world.

#### Information Requested

NIDCD seeks input from a broad array of interested parties, including (but not limited to) people with lived experience or family members, research organizations, academic institutions, multilateral organizations, community organizations, professional societies, businesses, health services organizations, other government agencies and those receiving funding or employed by NIH. NIDCD welcomes thoughts about the appropriateness of the topics below, potential benefits or challenges, suggestions and examples of existing or potential partnerships and any other topic respondents believe is relevant for NIDCD to consider.

*Capacity Building:* Develop, maintain and renew scientific research capacity of individuals to build future leaders of research in under-resourced and underserved areas in the US and abroad. Addressing current challenges requires a critical mass of capable clinician-scientists and basic scientists that know the language in any given country and understand the cultural and social context.

*Strategic partnerships:* Build and strengthen strategic partnerships with other NIH Institutes and Centers, other US Government agencies, research funding agencies of other countries, foundations and industry. Doing so would increase strength and sustainability and create synergy for greater public good.

*Dissemination and Implementation Research (DIR):* Support research and research training in dissemination and implementation research and improve its impact on the health and health care of populations, by fostering rapid

integration of research, practice and policy.

*WHO Rehabilitation 2030:* Advance research on rehabilitation of disorders of voice, speech, language, hearing, balance, taste and smell by promoting transdisciplinary collaboration among researchers funded by NIH Institutes and other US federal agencies working to promote the World Health Organization (WHO) initiative “Rehabilitation 2030” <https://www.who.int/initiatives/rehabilitation-2030>.

*World Regions:* Select regions in the world, continents, or countries, based on opportunities they provide for largest impact, i.e., shared regional language, population size, unique health system, social practice that influences genetic X environmental interaction, availability of research infrastructure or existing partnerships to build on or link to others.

#### Solutions to Global Workforce

*Challenges:* Work to reduce the brain drain of researchers and health professionals from under resourced areas to highly resourced areas by creating innovative programs that harness the experience and skills of research clinicians across diasporas and engage them in their regions of origin.

We look forward to your input and hope that you will share this RFI opportunity with your colleagues.

Dated: May 3, 2024.

**Lisa J. Portnoy,**

*Acting Executive Officer, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health.*

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**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Request for Information on the Development of the Fiscal Years 2026–2030 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Sexual & Gender Minority Health Research

**AGENCY:** National Institutes of Health, HHS.

**ACTION:** Request for information.

**SUMMARY:** Through this Request for Information (RFI), the Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO) in the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI), Office of the Director (OD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), invites feedback from the scientific research community, clinical practice

communities, patient and family advocates, scientific or professional organizations, federal partners, internal NIH stakeholders, and other interested constituents on the development of the Fiscal Years 2026–2030 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Sexual and Gender Minority Health Research. This plan will describe future directions in sexual and gender minority (SGM) health and research to optimize NIH's research investments.

**DATES:** The SGMRO's RFI is open for public comment for a period of 60 days. Comments must be received on or before 11:59:59 p.m. ET, June 26, 2024, to ensure consideration. After the public comment period has closed, comments received by SGMRO will be considered in a timely manner for the development of the Fiscal Years 2026–2030 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for SGM Health Research.

#### How To Submit a Response

All responses should be submitted electronically at the RFI submission website, <https://rfi.grants.nih.gov/?s=660c63fa171bc46e9c038e92>, by 11:59:59 p.m. (ET) on June 26, 2024. You will receive an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt of your response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Irene Avila, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO), [SGMRO@nih.gov](mailto:SGMRO@nih.gov), (301) 594–9701.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Background:** “Sexual and gender minority” is an umbrella term that includes, but is not limited to, individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, and/or intersex. Individuals with same-sex or -gender attractions or behaviors and those with variations in sex characteristics are also included. These populations also encompass those who do not self-identify with one of these terms but whose sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or reproductive development is characterized by non-binary constructs of sexual orientation, gender, and/or sex.

The Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO) at <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/sgmro> coordinates sexual and gender minority (SGM)-related research and activities by working directly with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutes, Centers, and Offices. The Office was officially established in September 2015 within the NIH Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the Director.

This **Federal Register** notice is in accordance with the 21st Century Cures Act, requiring NIH to regularly update their strategic plans. In 2020, NIH launched its Strategic Plan to Advance Research on the Health and Well-being of Sexual and Gender Minorities, Fiscal Years (FY) 2021–2025 at [https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/SGMStrategicPlan\\_2021\\_2025.pdf](https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/SGMStrategicPlan_2021_2025.pdf). The current strategic plan is NIH's second strategic plan focused on SGM health research and has provided the NIH with a framework to improve the health of SGM populations through increased research and support of scientists conducting SGM health-related research. In January 2023, SGMRO published a mid-course review at <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/SGMRO-StrategicPlan-MidCourseReview-Report-5-508.pdf> of the current NIH SGM strategic plan that provided recommendations to support further progress on the goals described therein. To establish NIH priorities in SGM health-related research for the next five years, SGMRO requests input from SGM health, research, and related communities in refining the goals of the FY26–FY30 strategic plan.

*Request for Comment on the NIH-Wide SGM Health Research Strategic Plan FY26–FY30:* NIH is developing a strategic plan to advance SGM research in FY26–FY30. This RFI invites input from interested parties throughout the scientific research, advocacy, and clinical practice communities, federal partners, those employed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and NIH or at institutions receiving NIH support as well as the general public, regarding the below topics for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for SGM Health Research. This input is a valuable component in developing the SGM health research strategic plan, and the community's time and consideration are appreciated. NIH seeks comments and/or suggestions from all interested parties on the following topics:

- The highest priority needs, and emerging areas of opportunity related to SGM health research at NIH.
  - Actions that NIH should prioritize to advance SGM health-related research.
  - Partnerships NIH should pursue, both inside and outside of government, to advance SGM health-related research.
  - Any other relevant topics that NIH should consider when developing the next NIH-Wide strategic plan for SGM health research.
- NIH encourages organizations (e.g., patient advocacy groups, professional organizations) to submit a single response reflective of the views of the

organization or membership as a whole. Responses to this RFI are voluntary. Do not include any proprietary, classified, confidential, trade secret, or sensitive information in your response. The responses will be reviewed by NIH staff, and individual feedback will not be provided to any responder. The Government will use the information submitted in response to this RFI at its discretion. The Government reserves the right to use any submitted information on public NIH websites; in reports; in summaries of the state of the science; in any possible resultant solicitation(s), grant(s), or cooperative agreement(s); or in the development of future funding opportunity announcements.

This RFI is for information and planning purposes only and should not be construed as a solicitation for applications or proposals, or as an obligation in any way on the part of the United States Federal Government, NIH, or individual NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices to provide support for any ideas identified in response to it. The Federal Government will not pay for the preparation of any information submitted or for the Government's use of such information.

No basis for claims against the U.S. Government shall arise as a result of a response to this RFI or from the Government's use of such information. Additionally, the Government cannot guarantee the confidentiality of the information provided.

Dated: May 2, 2024.

**Lawrence A. Tabak,**

*Principal Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[DOI–2024–0004; FF10T03000 190 FXGO16601025020]

### Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Rescindment of system of records notices.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior (DOI) is issuing a public notice of its intent to rescind six U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Privacy Act systems of records notices (SORNs), INTERIOR/FWS–5, National Wildlife Refuge Special Use Permits, INTERIOR/FWS–7, Water Development Project