NIH Director's Early Independence Award (DP5)
FOA Number: RFA-RM-18-010

Letter of Support Template

Instructions: Please send, in PDF format, a statement of support from the Chair/Director of the Department or Division to which the DP5 candidate will be onboarded. A version of this letter will be submitted with the DP5 application as evidence of institutional support of the candidate, and at a minimum should contain the following information:

1) Chair name, title, department, email

2) DP5 candidate name, title, department, email

3) As evidence of the candidate’s potential for independence, a short (2-3) sentence description of the proposed research and how this will be distinct from the primary mentor’s research direction*

4) A description of the start-up package that will be offered to the DP5 candidate contingent upon receipt of the award. Elements should include:
   
   • An assurance that the awardee will be promoted to an independent tenure-track faculty position
   • An assurance that the awardee, within this position, will have protected time for independent research activities. At least 9.6 person-months (i.e. 80% of a 12-month appointment) are required for all years of the DP5 project period.
   • Commitment of laboratory space (location, area in square feet, if known)
   • Start-up funds (amount, if known)
   • A description of any other relevant resources that will contribute to the research success of the candidate (administrative and technical support, research resources, etc.)

5) The signature of the Department or Division Chair

*Please note, the candidate will need to provide a compelling plan for establishing and maintaining scientific independence from his/her mentor at the time of DP5 submission, particularly if the Early Independence investigator is staying at the same institution at which he or she trained.