

## **NIH Extension Policy for Eligibility Window for Pathway to Independence Awards (K99/R00)**

NIH provides an extension of the K99 eligibility window for childbirth (see [NOT OD-20-011](#)). This is not an extension for the general disruption that accompanies parenting an infant. Those who give birth to a child during the normal K99 eligibility window will be given a one-year extension of eligibility. This 12-month extension for childbirth is in total, not for each child. In addition, the maximum possible extension of K99 eligibility is 12 months – extensions for different justifications are not additive. This one-year extension will automatically apply to individuals giving birth who request an extension and provide the date of childbirth to the [Director, NINDS Office of Training and Workforce Development](#).

While not automatic, individuals can request an extension for other situations (examples below). These requests will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

- Partners of individuals giving birth and individuals adopting children can apply for an extension by justifying the absence from work due to this critical life event.
- Those who have other critical life circumstances (e.g. serious illness [self or close family member], military service, etc.) that result in a prolonged absence from work, can also apply for an extension.

Requests should be submitted via email to the [Director, NINDS Office of Training and Workforce Development](#). Each request is reviewed on a case by case basis.

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