

Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as those who meet **two or more** of the following criteria:

1. Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Definition: <https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento/>);
2. Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families (Definition: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/focus-areas/foster-care/>);
3. Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years (Definition: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines/>);
4. Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree (see <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018009.pdf>);
5. Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants (Definition: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/eligibility.html>);
6. Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child (Definition: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-eligibility-requirements>).
7. Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer (<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health>), or b) a [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas](#) (qualifying zipcodes are included in the file). Only one of the two possibilities in #7 can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged background definition.

For more information: [Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity](#)