

disadvantage. AAI hopes that the proposed revisions will lead to more diversity and equity in the pool of NRSA fellowship awardees.

Please provide your comments on the proposed changes to the NRSA application instructions and materials.

AAI appreciates that the proposed changes to the NRSA application instructions would better align the application with the review criteria, would shorten the application by 2.5 pages thereby reducing administrative burden, and particularly emphasize statements that pertain to the individual trainee. These changes may streamline the application and review processes and help maintain focus on the quality and potential of applicants.

AAI agrees with dropping the requirement for submission of grades, as they do not necessarily reflect the scientific potential of an applicant and may inappropriately disqualify promising young scientists. AAI is also pleased to see that the proposed changes allow for an optional statement of special circumstance.

success; in fact, the ability to overcome obstacles demonstrates resilience which is critical in science. At the very least, applicant's