

## Additional Scoring Guidance for Research Applications

The [NIH scoring system](#) was designed to encourage reliable scoring of applications. Reviewers or study sections who assign high ratings to all applications diminish their ability to communicate the scientific impact of an individual application. Therefore, reviewers who carefully consider the rating guidance below can improve the reliability of their scores as well as their ability to communicate the scientific impact of the applications reviewed.

The chart below was developed to encourage reviewers to consider strengths as well as weaknesses when evaluating applications for research grants and cooperative agreements.

