

## The NIH Grant Application Scoring System

The NIH scoring system uses a 9-point rating scale from 1 = Exceptional to 9 = Poor for the overall impact/priority score as well as the individual review criteria. Ratings are provided only in whole numbers, not decimals.

Impact	Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Medium	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
<b>Non-numeric score options:</b> NR = Not Recommended for Further Consideration, DF = Deferred, AB = Abstention, CF = Conflict, NP = Not Present, ND = Not Discussed			
<b>Minor Weakness:</b> An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact <b>Moderate Weakness:</b> A weakness that lessens impact <b>Major Weakness:</b> A weakness that severely limits impact			