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A convincing and well-conceived mentee recruitment, selection and retention process grounded in best practices must be included. Recruitment plans must demonstrate national-level efforts to attract diverse, eligible applicants but local recruitment is appropriate as well. Networks are expected to provide opportunities to post-baccalaureate participants with limited prior training and research experience, including individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in the biological sciences, first generation students, and college graduates of under-resourced institutions.

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**PROGRAM EVALUATION**

**34. How independent of the mentoring team should the evaluator be to be effective for the program?**

The external evaluator should be trained formally in assessment and be demonstrably independent of the Senior Personnel; the evaluator may be employed at the same institution as Senior Personnel but should not have a direct interest in the project's success in order to ensure objectivity.

**35. Is there a certain percent of the budget that should go to the external evaluator?**

No. PIs should include the budget allocation appropriate to accomplish program goals.

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**REVIEW PROCESS**

**36. How will the RaMP proposals be reviewed?**

Please see section VI.A of the RaMP solicitation. Each proposal will be reviewed in its entirety by multiple reviewers; a separate Panel Summary statement is produced after the panel meets and records the panel's collective opinion of the proposal and each section within it according to the "strengths" and "weaknesses" of each section (Intellectual Merit, Broader Impacts, and Solicitation Specific Review Criteria).

**37. How much weight is put on intellectual merit versus broader impacts?**

Please see section VI.A of the RaMP solicitation. A RaMP proposal will have multiple components that must be weighed by panel members in concert with one another, including elements relating to Solicitation Specific Review Criteria that may be unique to this program. Under-emphasizing solicitation criteria for any one section will make a proposal less competitive than it might otherwise be.