**Scoring**

Applications are to be scored using the NIH scale (1-9):

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