

## **Federal Agency Updates Plenary Session – Monday, January 11, 2021, 1:00pm**

### **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

Katina Hanson, Director of the Policy and Oversight Division of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), began with updates on its two locations: Kansas City, MO and Washington, DC, and then provided an overview of their organization chart, with details on each division. A recap of 2020 followed, including the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the (now expired) COVID-related flexibilities. The latest NIFA Coronavirus Resources are available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/coronavirus>. USDA has updated its Terms and Conditions to align with 2 CFR 200, and additional policy updates are expected later this year. **Post-award:** ASAP access for drawdowns will be suspended the last four working days of each month. Those interested are encouraged to subscribe to the weekly NIFA update newsletter [here](#).

### **National Science Foundation (NSF)**

Jeremy Leffler, Outreach Specialist in the Policy Office in the Division of Institution and Award Support (DIAS) provided updates about the new implementation schedule for the *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG). NSF has published a notice in the [Federal Register](#) announcing the availability of a [“For comment” draft of the PAPPG](#). The Foundation is accepting comments from the external community until COB February 12, 2021. Jeremy also highlighted recent changes to Research.gov as NSF is transitioning the preparation and submission of all proposals incrementally from FastLane to Research.gov in 2022. Finally, Jeremy provided links to a number of resources including all of the recorded presentations from the November-December NSF Grants Conference which are available for on-demand viewing on the Policy Office [outreach website](#).

### **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Adam Graham, Policy Analyst in NIH’s Office of Extramural Research, provided several policy and systems updates. NIH’s Fiscal Policy, legislative mandates and stipend information for awards in FY2021 are forthcoming. NRSA stipend levels and the NIH salary cap have both increased for FY21, and guide notices are expected to be issued in the coming weeks. The Federal-wide Research Terms and Conditions (RTCs) have been revised by the participating agencies, including NIH, to align with the recent changes to 2 CFR 200. [FAQs](#) have been created to address the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and covered telecommunications, to accompany [NOT-OD-21-041](#). NIH-funded recipients were required to submit their Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) policies to NIH via eRA Commons by December 1, 2020. Recipients that are non-compliant may be at risk for delayed awards. There was also discussion of the allowability of charging Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on clinical trials and clinical research awards. For PPE needs over \$500,000 in a budget period, applicants must apply for an S10 award to provide funds solely to support the PPE costs. Learn more at [NOT-OD-20-164](#). Updates to policies and forms for Other Support and Biographical Sketches, in alignment with NSF and as part of NIH’s commitment to transparency, are expected to be rolled out in the spring. Systems updates included the new automatically generated Trainee Diversity Report in RPPRs for most T, K and Research Education awards as of October 30, 2020, and to submit Final Financial Reports (FFR) in the Payment Management System, instead of the Commons FFR Module, as of January 1, 2021. Please see the link to the presentation and direct questions to the Grants Policy Office at [GrantsPolicy@OD.NIH.GOV](mailto:GrantsPolicy@OD.NIH.GOV).

### **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

Kanitra Cobbs began NASA’s agency update with grants policy and compliance updates. The [NASA Grants and Cooperative Agreements Manual \(GCAM\)](#) has been revised to reflect the changes to 2 CFR 200. Notable updates include a new section on post-award monitoring, and a change to final report

deadlines. All financial, performance, and other reports are now due 120 days after the period of performance end date for prime recipients. Note that several prior approval requirements that were previously waived are now required (see details in slides). A new NASA Proposer's Guidebook will be issued in January 2021, with notable changes to restrictions on non-U.S. organizations and the 1-Step and 2-Step proposal options. An updated 2021 Unsolicited Proposer's Guidebook is expected in January as well. Other policy changes include the removal of duplicative regulations on cooperative agreements with commercial firms, a new pre-award risk assessment for all award recipients, and updated policies on appealing declined proposals, suspended/terminated awards, and misconduct findings. An updated policy on conflicts of interest is anticipated later this year. Mary Sladek then provided an overview of several new funding opportunities and an upcoming virtual town hall (January 21, 2021 at 1:00pm EST) hosted by the Planetary Science Division to discuss eliminating proposal deadlines for seven of the funding opportunities within that division. Volunteers were solicited to serve as reviewers for the Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology (FINESST) program.

### **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

#### **Division of Financial Assistance Policy & Oversight (FAPO)**

Heidi Custer, Senior Policy Analyst, provided a brief update from DHS. She provided a summary of FAPO's mission, goals, branches, and current initiatives. She highlighted that OMB created a crosswalk spreadsheet to assist Federal awarding agencies and recipients in their implementation of the revisions to 2 CFR 200, located [here](#). The update focused on FY2020 DHS financial assistance funding levels and an overview of the various component offices that comprise DHS.

### **Air Force Office of Scientific Research**

Calvin Scott, Senior Procurement Analyst, provided AFOSR's update, which began with overviews of AFOSR's directorates and locations, as well as the grant and funding process from proposal submission to award closeout. It was then confirmed that a 2021 version of AFOSR's basic research Broad Agency Announcement will be issued later this year. The presentation closed with a list of resources to help investigators develop competitive proposals, and a review of current AFOSR funding opportunities.

### **Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) – National Academies**

Susan Sloan, Director, GUIRR, began the update with a review of GUIRR's mission statement, leadership, and membership partners. A brief summary of 2020's three GUIRR meetings was followed by descriptions of upcoming events, including the February 2021 meeting (Strengthening U.S. Science and Technology through Global Cooperation and Partnership) and a January 27 webinar on the Artificial Intelligence Institute for Next Generation Food Systems. GUIRR webinars are free and available to all.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Office of Naval Research (ONR)**

EPA and ONR were unable to present their updates due to time constraints. Please see the slides from both agencies on the FDP website.