

Federal Agency Updates Plenary Session – Monday, May 24, 2021, 1:00pm

National Science Foundation (NSF)

For the purposes of NSF, please see the link to the presentation and direct questions to the NSF Policy Office at policy@nsf.gov.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Avery Tucker presented the funded FY2021 NIH budget, a three percent increase over 2020, and includes six research priority highlights. The NIH has issued FY2021 fiscal updates covering the salary cap (\$199,300), legislative mandates, NRSA stipend levels, and new fiscal policies. Updates were provided, including the availability of childcare costs for full time NRSA fellows, up to \$2,500 per budget period until age 13. Required submission of the SF425/FFR via the Payment Management System is now in Phase I. Leniency for those encountering errors with reconciliation is being granted; points of contact for support with the different systems were provided. Revised Terms and Conditions (RTCs) incorporating 2 CFR 200 are in the new Grants Policy Statement (GPS), effective October 2021. Recent policy updates include: requirements for all senior/key personnel to have a Commons ID by 1/25/2022; prohibition on expending NIH funds for covered [telecommunications equipment and services](#); and the updated Biosketch and Other Support documents to enable transparency for all research activities. For more information, participants can refer to the [summary of significant changes table](#) for the GPS. Section B of the Biosketch must include *all* active appointments; additional guidance is expected to be published soon. Any agreements for foreign activities in Other Support must be provided, and institutions are responsible for maintain proof of PI signature. Questions should be sent to nihosbiosketch@nih.gov. NIH eRA Commons support for Internet Explorer will end 8/17/2021.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Alexandra Raver presented on open [funding opportunity](#) (closes June 2, 2021), and provided several upcoming Notices of Intent.. Transition to the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from DUNS is underway; grants.gov has deployed forms compatible with the UEI. In April 2022, DUNS numbers will no longer be used, the UEI is required. Until further notice, all EPA opportunities will use DUNS-compatible application packages. For guidance, training and changes to requirements please join the EPA Grants Listserv: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/forms/subscribe-epa-grants-update-listserv>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Kanitra Cobbs, a Senior Policy Analyst, began NASA's agency update with the Grants Policy and Compliance (GPC) Branch updates. The 2021 editions of the NASA Proposer's Guidebook and Unsolicited Guidebook were re-released in May 2021 as updated versions to account for NASA Research Announcements that may result in contracts. Other highlights to the 2021 editions of the guides include a new section on Special Restrictions for Non-US Organizations and a new section on Facilities and Equipment. An overview of recent policy revisions and upcoming policy changes followed, most notably, NASA's Conflict of Interest and Current and Pending Support Disclosure policies. New NASA resources were also announced, including a new GPC external website, which is live, and a new portal for grantee accepted manuscripts, expected to launch in summer 2021; the new portal will replace National Institutes of Health Manuscripts System (NIHMS). Kanitra also discussed NASA funding opportunities for the Space Technology Mission Directorate, the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, and the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate. Mary Sladek, Research Program Manager in the Science Mission Directorate, then provided an overview of new SMD-related NASA funding opportunities, virtual workshops, training opportunities, and updates of interest to the NASA research community. Members are encouraged to review the slides for full details and links.

Office of Naval Research (ONR)

Debbie Rafi discussed the new pay office for ONR awards, DoDAAC N34291, for awards beginning 2/15/21. Grant vouchers should still be submitted through Wide Area Work Flow (WAWF), but institutions must input the new pay office code. DFAS phone support cannot answer questions related to the new pay office, email onr.ncr.bd024.list.hq@navy.mil. Refunds for the new pay office will use ETF/ACH, not pay.gov. New grant terms & conditions were released in January 2021. Awards will be closed out not later than one year after the grant ends. Final IDC rates from lower-tier contractors can be based on best available information. Grant officers may initiate close-out based on the latest interim report if there are Untimely Final Financial Reports. Failure to submit timely & accurate reports may require reporting to FAPIIS. Finally, Eric Garfield is the new Director in the Boston Regional Office.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Heidi Custer, Senior Policy Analyst in the Division of Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight (FAPO), opened the DHS update with an overview FAPO's mission, goals, and branches. Updates on Unique Entity Identifiers (UEIs) followed, with information on recently released and upcoming DUNS-UEI crosswalks from the General Services Administration. After announcing the newly created Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, an inter-agency group established to ensure transparency and oversight of the government's recently passed pandemic response legislation, the update concluded with a summary of DHS's FY2020 funding levels, including increased funding for FEMA under the American Rescue Plan.

Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR)

Susan Sloan gave an overview of the GUIRR leadership and structure. Two new institutional member pairs were introduced: The Ohio State University joined in partnership with Riverside Research, and the University of Texas at San Antonio joined with Dell Technologies. GUIRR hosts three member meetings per year. The winter 2021 meeting was virtual and included six sessions on strengthening science and technology leadership through global collaboration; a written summary will be available in June. Upcoming is the summer 2021 meeting focused on collaboration to support climate science and policy, which will be five, 90-minute virtual sessions from June 15-July 22. GUIRR also hosts monthly webinars, free and open to the public; sessions are listed on the [GUIRR website](#). For more information, please subscribe to the GUIRR mailing list.

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. He also shared guidance and resources for improving competitiveness in AFOSR proposals, including engagement with AFOSR Program Officers researchers, attending grant writing courses, and some general proposal best practices. The presentation closed with review of AFOSR's traditional funding opportunities, current BAAs, and closing dates for all current opportunities.