

FDP January 2023 Meeting - Federal Agency Updates

National Science Foundation

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)

Xanthia James, Director of Grants Policy in the Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA), presented the NIH update, beginning with policy updates. The [FY2023 Grants Policy Statement](#) (GPS) was published in December 2022 and is effective for all grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 2022; a summary of changes from the 2022 version can be found [here](#). Going forward, updates to the GPS will first be published in the federal register and then as guide notices. The NIH Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Policy became effective on January 25, 2023, which requires applicants to submit a DMS plan for review with their applications and to demonstrate compliance with their approved DMS plan. There are abundant resources for the new DMS requirements, including the [DMS website](#), [FAQs](#), and the sharing@nih.gov email for all DMS-related questions. Several guide notices were issued recently reminding, revising, and updating NIH's natural disaster policies; specifically [NOT-OD-22-221](#), [NOT-OD-23-022](#), and soon to be issued [NOT-OD-23-065](#). On December 23, 2022, NIH issued [NOT-OD-23-047](#) with updates to the non-discrimination legal requirements for NIH recipients, providing responsibilities for administering awards in compliance with federal civil rights laws. The recently enacted SBIR/STTR Extension Act reauthorized these two programs, and NIH will be issuing updated policy guidance later this year. The new form pages and requirements for [Biographical Sketches](#) and [Other Support](#) have been effective since January 25, 2022, and there are [FAQs](#) as well as a [central mailbox](#) available for guidance and questions. The FORMS-H application packages are required for all applications with due dates on or after January 25, 2023. Most changes relate to the addition of new "Other Plan" fields to allow for attachment of DMS plans. For more information see [NOT-OD-22-195](#) as well as this [high-level summary of significant changes](#) from FORMS-G. As a reminder, effective October 1, 2022, NIH Final FFRs will no longer be converted to Interim Annual FFRs in the Payment Management System. NIH is aware that recipients have reported a significant increase in errors in submitting reports via a single entry point since January 1, 2021, and agencies will provide leniency as appropriate where errors prevent timely FFR submission; awardees should retain all applicable documentation and notify their grants management official of any delays resulting from these errors. In accordance with [NOT-OD-23-011](#), the two-business day viewing window for administrative supplements may be waived by applicants by using a new "Verify" action in the eRA Commons; this may be done by users with the Signing Official role. Since this forfeits the applicant's ability to make any changes to their submitted applications, organizations should carefully review their submissions before exercising this option. The update concluded with a reminder that NIH has made an exception to its late application policy (see [NOT-OD-22-119](#) for full details); if an entity does not have a current SAM registration or renewal as of the application due date, NIH will accept late applications within the two-week late window as long as (1) the entity has submitted all SAM registration or renewal documentation at least two weeks prior to the application due date and (2) all other aspects of the application are compliant and consistent with the funding opportunity announcement requirements.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Christiane Diallo with the Grants Policy and Compliance team in the Office of Procurement Policy and Management Division announced that [FY23 Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual](#) (GCAM) is available, effective 10/31/22. Significant updates include clarifying language regarding China restrictions and the presence of a new term and condition related to the definition of infrastructure and including a preferred Buy America provision. NASA will be releasing a Federal Register notice on 01/30/2023 for its conflict of interest (COI) policy requiring grant recipients to maintain written and enforced policies that require covered individuals to disclose COI and conflicts of commitment (COC), both foreign and domestic, as well as to designate an official responsible for COI at the grantee institution. NASA's program representative, Mary F. Sladek, provided updates from the Science Mission Directorate (SMD), the largest funder of assistance awards at NASA and spoke about efforts that may reduce administrative

burden. Currently, SMD is not able to offer a true fixed amount award, but is experimenting with soliciting proposals 1) without a budget, 2) with a fixed budget, or 3) using budget caps. The 2023 “ROSES” (Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science) omnibus solicitation will be released in February. Significant changes include that the release of data, code and publications must be available at time of publication and other data made available by the end of the award. SMD has published an “IDEA” (inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility) activities page at <https://science.nasa.gov/about-us/idea>. SMD’s IDEA activities are both inward looking (workforce training) and outward looking (grant opportunities) and align to the both NASA’s strategic and [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility \(DEIA\) plans](#). Christiane Diallo provided a selection of funding announcement updates for Lunar Surface Technology Research as well as for Minority University Research & Education Program for Women’s Colleges and Universities. Open and upcoming funding opportunity links were provided. **Presenters** **Emails:** christiane.diallo@nasa.gov and mary.f.sladek@nasa.gov

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Jennifer Robbins, Extramural Management Specialist, Office of Research and Development, presented the EPA update. She highlighted upcoming notices of intent relating to coastal resilience, sustainable green chemistry, antimicrobial resistance in wastewater and sewage sludge treatment, air quality information, and cumulative impacts assessment. Grantees can visit the [EPA Research Funding Opportunities website](#) for more information. A class waiver for grant recipients impacted by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian as well as the Alaskan flood and landslide has been issued, allowing for no-cost extensions on projects that were active as of September 18, 2022 and scheduled to expire on or before December 31, 2022. The requirement to obtain a written request for an extension prior to amending the assistance agreement has also been waived. Past and upcoming installments from EPA’s Office of Grant and Debarment webinar series and available for public view on the [agency’s website](#). For ongoing guidance, training, and updates to EPA grants policies and requirements, grantees are encouraged to subscribe to the EPA Grants Listserv.

USDA/NIFA

Tara Warner with NIFA presented the USDA update, beginning with current NIFA priorities. Key priorities include addressing climate change via climate-smart agriculture and forestry, advancing racial justice, equity, and opportunity, creating more and better market opportunities, tackling food and nutrition insecurity and food safety, and making USDA a great place to work for everyone. The update concluded with information about NIFA’s support for responding to emergencies, including the Smith-Lever Special Needs Competitive Grants Program, the Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events, AFRI A1712, Foundational and Applied Science Program, and the Smith-Level 1890 Extension Capacity Funds.