

## **FDP Federal Agency Updates, January 10, 2022**

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

Christiane Diallo with the Grants Policy and Compliance Branch, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, provided updates on implementation of executive orders, [E.O. 13985](#) and [E.O. 14042](#) and other grant's policy activities since the September 2021 FDP. Regarding 13985, NASA is developing an equity action plan to address barriers identified in NASA's policies and programs. Based on NASA's equity action plan, the agency plans to implement a new grant term and condition that would require recipients/proposers to obtain a quote from small/minority-owned businesses when the acquisition of goods/services exceeds the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (\$250,000). A [Federal Register Notice](#) outlining this new term and condition grant seeks comments (due no later than February 10, 2022). The *Assurance of Compliance with NASA Regulations Pursuant to Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs* (NF 1206) grant certification form has been revised to emphasize NASA's commitment to E.O.13985 requirements. NASA identified 13 cooperative agreements that are impacted by the COVID-19 Safety Protocols required by E.O.14042, outside of those 13 awards, this executive order does not apply, but other COVID-19 restrictions on grantees who visit or conduct research at NASA do apply. For more information, visit the section entitled "*Alerts to NASA Grant Community About COVID-19*" at <https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/gpc>. The NASA [Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual \(GCAM\)](#) was updated on November 30, 2021 and another update is forthcoming. NASA's FDP program representative, Mary Sladek, a member of the Senior Advisors for Research and Analysis ([SARA](#)) team, gave a) data policy, b) contract, and c) assistance, particularly for early career researchers, i.e., graduate, and postdoctoral opportunity, updates from the Science Mission Directorate (SMD). 1) The forthcoming (estimated mid-February release) of the "annual" Research Opportunities in Earth and Space Sciences [ROSES solicitation](#), the primary solicitation under the NASA's Science Assistance listing, may be tracked at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/roses-blogs>; 2) ROSES-21's flagship program for graduate students, i.e., Future Investigators for Earth and Space Sciences and Technology ([FINESST-21](#)), opened 30 November (later than usual) seeking proposals by 11 February 2022 and peer review volunteers in [Earth](#) and [Space Science](#). Replay for FINESST-21's optional pre-proposal telecon 1-203-369-3089 and Passcode:7416 ends on 22 January. 3) NASA's postdoctoral program's (NPP) support contract moves effective 1 February to <https://npp.orau.org/> and as a result the March NPP application period has not yet opened. 4) Two [Astrophysics](#) and [Heliophysics](#) Divisions released planning or community (special) notices for Announcements of Opportunity (AO), i.e., space-flight contracts. 5) SMD seeks to maximize openness and preservation of scientifically-useful information and issued a Request for Information (RFI) at <https://go.nasa.gov/RFISPD41>.

### **USDA/NIFA**

Tara Warner with NIFA provided an update on process improvements in FY21 by the Office of Grants and Financial Management (OGFM) in all grants management categories including award issuance, payment via Treasury's Secure Payment System, post award actions, compliance reviews, enterprise risk assessment, and closeout. Filled ~104 of ~139 open positions. Policy guidance updated for 2 CRF 200. Reengineering RFA's based on stakeholder recommendations. Schedule for Program Implementation from RFA to Award (SPIRA), a planning and implementation tool to support visibility and accountability, was piloted in FY21 with full implementation anticipated in FY24. FY21 RFA's published as well as those estimated for FY22 are available on NIFA website. NIFA grants online resources including contact information have been updated.

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

Avery Tucker presented the NIH update, beginning with a note about NIH's budgetary status while the agency is funded under a continuing resolution until February 2022. It was later confirmed that NIH will be issuing a salary cap update Guide Notice in the near future. The new [Grants Policy Statement](#) (GPS) was published in December 2021, along with a [Summary of Significant Changes](#) from the previous GPS. Notable changes include updates to the Biographical Sketch and Other Support documents, NRSA Childcare Costs, Single IRB, and Guidelines for Enhancing Diversity and Creating Safe Environments in Conferences Supported by NIH. The NRSA Childcare Costs, which began for individual fellows on F-series grants in April 2021, will become effective for trainees on institutional T-series grants beginning in early 2022. Fellows will continue to need to apply for childcare costs, while institutional training grants will automatically receive \$2,500 per trainee, per budget period, and unused funds should be reported as unobligated balances. As part of NIH's continued emphasis on commitment transparency, the revised Biographical Sketch and Other Support templates will be required beginning on January 25, 2022. [FORMS-G](#) application packages will also be required for applications due on or after January 25, 2022. Submission of Final Financial Reports (FFRs) in the Payment Management System (PMS) was covered next, including guidance on submitting FFRs on closed PMS subaccounts, and the presentation includes a slide with points of contact for FFR submission in PMS and PMS training opportunities. eRA Commons user IDs are now required for all senior/key personnel, and applicants will receive a warning for any missing or invalid Commons IDs. [Two-Factor Authentication](#) for scientific account holders is now required, while the requirement for administrative account holders will begin in mid-2022. NIH's transition from DUNS to UEI is still ongoing, and will be complete by April 2022. However, entities registering in SAM prior to April 2022 must still obtain a DUNS number prior to SAM registration. Applications submitted on or after January 25, 2022, must have a UEI at the time of submission.

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

Heidi Custer began the DHS update with an overview of the Division of Financial Assistance and Oversight (FAPO) mission, goals, and branches, as well as updates on current FAPO initiatives. NSPM-33 (National Security Presidential Memorandum-33) on the national security strategy for U.S. Government-supported research and development was discussed next. The goals of NSPM-33 include providing clear guidance on what the government needs to know, making the disclosure process as easy as possible by enabling researchers to report the same information in the same way to the greatest extent possible, and making clear the consequences for failing to disclose the requested information. The update concluded with a summary of points of contact within DHS.

### **Office of Naval Research**

Debbie Rafi presented ONR's updates, which began with a description of the new Naval X Tech Bridges, a connected network intended to enhance collaboration between naval labs, academia, industry, state and local governments, and other military branches by offering a collaboration space in a commercial business space, rather than on base. Members are encouraged to explore the [Naval X website](#) to learn more. Two personnel updates were announced, the retirement of Abe Sabbag from the ONR Engineering and Systems Review Branch and Beth Swing from the ONR San Diego Regional Office, and updated points of contact were provided in the slides. The update closed with some highlighted ONR funding opportunities, including a link to all current opportunities on the ONR website.

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

Jeremy Leffler began NSF's presentation with an update on the status of the 2023 NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), which is expected to be available for public comment in early spring 2022, issued in October 2022, and effective in January 2023. The [Pre- and Post-Award Disclosures Table](#) continues to be updated, most recently with rows for organizational start-up packages

at home and outside organizations. The table has the date of the most recent update at the top of the document, and members should be sure to bookmark and link to the main table website, rather than to a specific dated version, to ensure that they are referring to the current version. The transition from Fastlane to Research.gov for proposal submission is expected to be complete by December 31, 2022. Currently, 70% of all NSF funding opportunities are eligible for submission in Research.gov, and NSF is continuing to develop new resources and training materials to aid in the transition. A walkthrough of Research.gov's proposal functions was presented. Upcoming NSF training opportunities include a webinar on Current and Pending Support on January 31, 2022, and a Virtual Grants Conference June 6-10, 2022, and NSF maintains an [on demand resource library](#) of previous conference sessions and webinars.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Alexandra Raver presented the EPA update, beginning with a description of three current funding opportunities, the [Research to Reduce Consumer Food Waste in the United States Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) (due February 9), [Water Quality Benefits Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) (due January 26), and [Life-Cycle Analysis to Support Cost-Effective Enhanced Aquifer Recharge Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) (due January 13). As stated in the September meeting, until further notice all EPA opportunities will continue to use DUNS-compatible application packages; the Recipient/Applicant Information Notice (RAIN) on this topic was revised in November to include Sam.gov entity registration resources from the Federal Service Desk, fsd.gov. Upcoming [webinars](#) on the grant application and funding processes will be posted; stay tuned! For ongoing guidance, training, and updates to EPA grants policies and requirements, applicants and grantees can self subscribe to the [EPA Grants Listserv](#).

### **Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR)**

Susan Sloan announced new roundtable members including IQVIA, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the University of the District of Columbia which brings the university and industry partner membership total to 55. GUIRR typically hosts three topical meetings per year. The most recent meeting held virtually in fall 2021 focused on supply chain and manufacturing challenges and opportunities. The next GUIRR meeting, slated for February 2022, will focus on food security and sustainability; meeting scheduled to be in person if conditions allow with a virtual attendance option. GUIRR's leadership council meeting precedes each meeting. One-hour webinars, free and open to the public, were hosted in July, August and December of 2021 and recordings can be accessed on the website at [www.nas.edu/guiirr](http://www.nas.edu/guiirr). We welcome Sara Pietrzak to the National Academies as our new full-time senior program assistant focused solely on supporting the work of the FDP.