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## **Federal Demonstration Partnership - Agency Update January 10, 2022**

# Updated Since September 2021: Primary Policy & Program Contacts for FDP

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# Grants Policy and Compliance Updates





# Equity Action Plan – (EO) 13985

- On November 30<sup>th</sup>, NASA submitted its draft equity action plan (EAP) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Plan outlines actions that NASA plans to take to address barriers to full and equal participation in its programs and the intended impacts of those actions. The focus areas identified in the EAP include:
  - OSTEM Internship Program
  - The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) Scientific Competition Process
  - Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Minority Serving Institutions
    - GPC will soon publish a proposed term and condition in the Federal Register Notice; which will require grant recipients to obtain a quote from a small/minority, women owned businesses, or labor surplus area firms when the acquisition of goods or services exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000)
  - Enterprise Strategies/Product Service Lines Set-Aside for Underserved Communities and Small Business Programs
- Final draft of the EAP is due to OMB on January 20, 2022 and will be made available to the public.

# Revision of Form NF-1206

- NF-1206, *Assurance of Compliance with NASA Regulations Pursuant to Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs*, was recently updated to include language emphasizing NASA's commitment to advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity through its programs and initiatives.
  - Prior to receiving a NASA grant or cooperative agreement award, grant recipients must sign form NF-1206 to assure compliance with all federal Civil Rights laws.
- OMB Number expires 12/2024.

# Update on NASA's Implementation of (EO)14042

- Executive Order (EO) 14042, [\*Ensuring Adequate COVID Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors\*](#), was signed by the President on September 9, 2021, and directs agencies to ensure that contracts and contract-like instruments covered by the order include a clause requiring the contractor and their subcontractors to comply with all guidance for contractor or subcontractor workplace locations published by the Task Force.
  - The EO impacted 13 “contract-like” cooperative agreements identified by the NASA Office of Inspector General.
- On December 7, a nationwide injunction was issued by a Federal Court blocking implementation of provisions of EO 14042; as such, NASA revised its implementation guidance of EO 14042 in accordance with direction from the OMB.
- Guidance was issued on December 14 and can be found on the GPC external [webpage](#).

# COVID -19 Safety Protocols for Grantees entering NASA Facilities

- On September 15, 2021, NASA issued a memo establishing safety protocols for grant and cooperative agreement (award) recipients working on site at a NASA facility.
  - Award recipients are required to complete a certification of vaccination status when entering a NASA Facility.
  - Award recipients are responsible for monitoring and ensuring their employees' compliance with this certification requirement.
  - Award recipients who are not vaccinated or who decline to disclose their vaccination status must provide a negative COVID test upon request.
- The memo as well as instructions to the COVID-19 Attestation Form is available on the GPC external [webpage](#).
- Questions regarding attestation requirements may be directed to Grant Officers assigned on the award.

# COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- On November 5, 2021 , GPC issued [FAQs](#) regarding the allowability of costs related to COVID-19 testing of NASA grant and cooperative agreement recipients who are required to be physically present in NASA facilities.
- In summary, award recipients whose personnel must report to a NASA facility to work on a NASA funded project may charge testing as an **indirect cost** to their award.
- The FAQs can be found on the GPC external [webpage](#).



# Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual (GCAM) Updates

- November 30, 2021, GPC released the 2021 edition of the *Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual* (GCAM) followed by a grant information circular ([GIC 22-02](#)), which outlines a description of major revisions made to the GCAM.
- High level updates include:
  - Inclusion of a Routine Monitoring Plan
    - The plan will help NASA ensure that recipient's use of award funds are for their intended purposes, verify that projects undertaken are consistent with approved plans, and ensure that recipients make adequate progress towards stated goals and objectives.
    - Transaction Testing Requirement – During the award's Period of performance, Recipients will be required to provide supporting documentation for expenditures upon request by the Grant Officer.
      - Grant Officers will conduct a transaction review to identify potential unallowable, unallocable, or unreasonable costs, and assess the likelihood that errors would result in material effect on federal awards.
      - Reviews will be completed in 90 days, and may take longer depending on the complexity of the review.
      - Upon completion of the review, a report will be issued to the recipient

# Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual (GCAM) Updates (Cont'd)

- Other updates include:
  - Restructuring of the GCAM to reflect the four phases of the award lifecycle (Pre-award, award, post award, closeout).
  - Language to note that Grant Officers prior approval does not obligate NASA to cover pre-award costs in the event a grant is not issued
  - Language to clarify which costs are excluded from Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC).
  - Requirement that all proposals, not just those for discretionary awards, be submitted electronically to NASA
- A copy of the GCAM along with GIC-22-02 will be accessible on the GPC external [webpage](#).



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# Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate



# Employment Opportunity - Exploration Medical Capability (ExMC), Human Research Program (HRP)

- ***NASA Human Health & Performance Directorate Space Medicine Operations Division*** – is seeking an Associate Element Scientist for the Exploration Medical Capability (ExMC) Element of the Human Research Program (HRP). This team helps to determine and develop the human health and performance capabilities needed for future human exploration missions.
- **Location:** NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX: Human Health & Performance Directorate Space Medicine Operations Division
- **Term:** Two years with potential for extension.
- **Application Period:** December 15, 2021 to January 31, 2022
- For additional information on required qualifications and where to submit resumes, click [HERE](#). Or email [jsc-sd-applications@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:jsc-sd-applications@mail.nasa.gov)





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# Science Mission Directorate





# Changes in Early Career Opportunities & Operations

## SMD's Graduate Student Research Grant

- Solicitation: NNH21ZDA001N-FINESST: F.5 *Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology* released 30 November 2021 , Astro-and Helio- Physics, Biological & Physical, Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Science Engagement.
- Total maximum budget request, including any allowable overhead, \$50,000 annually and up to \$150,000 (up from \$135,000) for 3-years. Meant to function like a fixed amount award for limited participant support costs.
- **Proposals due 11 February 2022.** Note: Replay for the optional pre-proposal telecon 1-203-369-3089 (Toll) and Passcode:7416 ends on 22 Jan.
- Solicitation & telecon charts at: <https://go.nasa.gov/FINESST21>. Policy questions? Email: [HQ-FINESST@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:HQ-FINESST@mail.nasa.gov)

## NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP)

- Science Mission Directorate (SMD) at NASA Headquarters collaborates with 1) other Mission Directorates (Aeronautics, Technology, etc.); 2) Headquarters' Offices; 3) NASA Centers; 4) the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL); and 5) beyond-NASA, non-federal organizations, to monitor contractors, i.e., Universities Space Research Association (USRA) or Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), who support the NPP's day-to-day operations.
- NASA selected ORAU as the new NPP support contractor: <https://science.nasa.gov/NASA-Postdoc-Program>
- Estimated opening for NPP 2022 applications: February with the first due date in March (estimated) via <https://npp.orau.org/>

**Annual Notice: ROSES--Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences**, an *omnibus* NASA Research Announcement (NRA), i.e., a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), that primarily awards grants and cooperative agreements under **Science Assistance Listing 43.001**

- Each “annual” ROSES NRA contains i) a Summary of Solicitation (SOS) and ii) 125+ separate funding opportunities managed by SMD’s science research (or disciplinary) divisions plus cross-divisional opportunities
- Current ROSES URL <https://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2021> through about 13 May 2022
- Throughout any given “year”, SMD amends ROSES to add or update funding opportunities, e.g., F.5 FINESST
- Keep track of the release of new or recurring program elements (and all types of amendments) by:
  - (1) Subscribing to a SMD mailing list(s) at <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/> (create &/or log into an account at and check the appropriate boxes under "Account Management" and "Email Subscriptions")
  - (2) Using the ROSES-2021 due date Google calendar. "How to Subscribe to the ROSES-2021 Due Date Calendars" at: <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/library-and-useful-links>. You will need to create a separate or new subscription for subsequent ROSES years, i.e., 2022 and beyond
  - (3) Monitoring the ROSES Blog at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/rozes-blogs>
- NEW---ROSES-22 may be found at <https://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2022> by mid-February 2022
- Send policy questions to Dr. Max Bernstein, Senior Lead for Research, [sara@nasa.gov](mailto:sara@nasa.gov)
- To learn more about SARA=Senior Advisors for Research and Analysis, etc., visit: <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers>

# Request for Information (RFI) & Community Announcement (CA)

- 1. Implementation and Changes to Science Policy Document (SPD)-41: Science Information Policy:** Per [NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research](#) and the [Strategy for Data and Computing for Groundbreaking Science 2019-2024](#), SMD seeks to maximize the openness and preservation of scientifically-useful information that is produced as part of our research. This RFI seeks information on i) the impact of the [proposed changes to SPD-41](#); ii) what support, services, training, funding, or further guidance is needed to implement the existing or proposed policy, and iii) other aspects. URL for full RFI (NNH22ZDA006L) <https://go.nasa.gov/RFISPD41>. Submit responses via NSPIRES (NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System) by 11 Feb 2022. Email questions to [HQ-SMD-SPD41@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:HQ-SMD-SPD41@mail.nasa.gov)
- 2. 2022 Heliophysics Small Explorer (SMEX) and Heliophysics Explorers Program (HEP) Mission of Opportunity (MO) Announcements of Opportunity (AO): Planning Information Community Announcement** [NNH22ZDA007L](#). Email questions to: [dan.moses@nasa.gov](mailto:dan.moses@nasa.gov), HEP Lead Scientist.
- 3.** Current planning calls for an Astrophysics Probe AO in Jan 2023 (a year from now) to solicit proposals. A draft Astrophysics Probe AO may be released for comment in June 2022 via NSPIRES. The policies in the Jan 2022 Community Announcement (NNH22ZDA008L) may have the significant impact on proposers. Email feedback by 15 Mar 2022 to be part of the ongoing AO preparation process to revise these and other policies. The CA's text will be on SAM.gov (not Grants.gov/AOs award contracts) and the Astrophysics Probe Acquisition website at <https://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/2023APPROBE/>. POC: Dr. Patricia Knezek, Astrophysics Probe Program Lead Scientist, [patricia.m.knezek@nasa.gov](mailto:patricia.m.knezek@nasa.gov).

# Invitation to Review for SMD via Science.nasa.gov

- SMD continuously seeks subject matter experts (SMEs) to engage in discussions at a virtual panel meetings or/and to provide independently written external reviews.
- While a significant time commitment, serving as a reviewer allows one to learn what's new in the field, get first-hand experience with the NASA review process, and network with colleagues.
- Due to COVID-19 travel impacts, etc., SMD continues to rely on on-line reviewers and virtual panelists. As more people become vaccinated and infection rates decrease, then in-person panel reviews may again be possible.
- For the full list of current opportunities to review by ROSES program element, please visit <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/volunteer-review-panels>. Important Notes:
  1. SMD periodically updates this page to remove or add opportunities.
  2. If your expertise matches our program needs NASA will contact you to discuss potential review assignments.
  3. Qualified SMEs may, and are encouraged, to volunteer to one or more program reviewer call.
  4. If you volunteered in a prior year(s) and served, were not invited, or were invited but not available, then please volunteer again in 2022!
- [Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology \(FINESST\)—Earth Science](#)
- [Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology \(FINESST\)—Space Science](#)