



Current Issues at NIH

NIH OFFICE OF POLICY FOR EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION





COVID-19

Stay Up to Date

- This is a rapidly evolving situation
- Information provided in this presentation is current as of September 21, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Information for Applicants and Recipients



Visit our page and check back often for updates!

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm>

Where are we now?

- In March 2020 OMB authorized agencies to utilize administrative flexibilities to recipients conducting COVID-19 research and recipients affected by COVID-19
 - OMB Memo [M-20-17](#)
 - OMB Memo [M-20-20](#)
 - OMB Memo [M-20-11](#)
- Most of these flexibilities have now ended
- Any requests for flexibility going forward will be considered by the funding IC on a case by case basis

Learn more: [NIH Implementation of OMB Memo M-20-26](#)

FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

- NIH has received emergency funding through 3 supplemental appropriations:
 - Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (PL 116-123)
 - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (PL 116-136)
 - Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PL 116-139)
- Funding through competing supplements, administrative supplements, new awards
- Many opportunities listed on [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](#) website

Audits and Documentation

- **OIG/GAO Audits are anticipated**
 - Appropriate tracking & reporting of COVID-19 supplemental appropriations
 - Monitoring supplemental appropriations for potential waste, fraud and abuse
 - Proper documentation of COVID-19 administrative flexibilities
- **For recipients – documentation is key**
 - maintain appropriate records and cost documentation to substantiate the charging of costs related to the interruption of operations or services (e.g. salaries, travel costs, etc.)
 - costs are subject to 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart F – Audit Requirements.

FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm



POLICY UPDATES

New guidance regarding Change in Status: PD/PI and Recipient Institution

- NIH GPS [Section 4](#): NIH recipients are expected to provide safe and healthful working conditions for their employees and foster work environments conducive to high-quality research, regardless of the recipient institution.
- Change in PD/PI/key personnel requests and requests for change in recipient institution should include:
 - mention as to whether the change is related to concerns about safety and/or work environments (e.g. due to concerns about harassment, bullying, retaliation, or hostile working conditions).

Learn more: [NOT-OD-20-124](#)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/harassment.htm>

E-submission of Administrative Supplement Applications

- Effective July 25, 2020, NIH requires recipients to submit all administrative supplement applications electronically for both single and multi-project awards.
- Applies to all NIH administrative supplement funding opportunity announcements
- NIH has implemented changes to the eRA Commons submission method



COMMITMENT TRANSPARENCY



National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

Our Approach

- To support the need for full transparency, NIH is clarifying policies and updating forms and instructions
- Utilized JCORE guidance, and collaborated with other research agencies
- Outcomes:
 - Clarified existing policies on Other Support and biosketch to provide details on in-kind contributions, “gifts”, and the purpose of the biosketch
 - Updated application instructions and forms for Biosketch and Other Support to align with JCORE and fed-wide activities on research security and transparency
 - Updated data format and collections to align with NSF and reduce applicant and recipient burden

Looking Forward - Biosketch

- Updating to align with JCORE, minimize duplication of Other Support, and harmonize format with NSF
- Updating title of Section B to capture all scientific appointments
- Removing Section D: Research Support, which duplicates information provided in Other Support

Looking Forward – Other Support

- Current Other Support format page does not collect structured data or allow recipients to provide detail on in-kind contributions
- New format page and detailed instructions document have been developed
- Will capture data elements in a similar format to NSF Current and Pending Support



SYSTEMS PROCESS UPDATES



National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

NIH Summary Statement Available to the Signing Officials (SO) through the eRA Commons

- New system process
- Overall impact score and the NIH Summary Statement will be made available in the eRA Commons to the Authorized Organization Representatives (AORs) of the applicant organization with the Signing Official (SO) user role in the eRA Commons.
- Program Directors/Principal Investigators will continue to receive notification of the availability of the summary statement and continue to access it in the eRA Commons as they do currently.



HHS AND FED- WIDE SYSTEM UPDATES



National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

Mandatory Submission of SF-425/FFR via Payment Management System

- Beginning January 1, 2021, NIH grant recipients will be required to submit the SF-425 Federal Financial Report (FFR) in the Payment Management System (PMS) as opposed to the eRA Commons/FFR Module.
- This change does not impact the FFR due dates
- NIH is working closely with HHS to provide proper policy guidance and training to all recipients.
- Additional implementation details and PMS training information forthcoming

SF-425/FFR Phase 2

- Beginning in early FY21, recipients will no longer be required to submit the quarterly cash transaction report
- Recipients will instead certify at the time of drawdown that funds will be used timely and in accordance with the cost principles and terms and conditions
- Awaiting final policy updates and implementation guidance from HHS

Notice of Award Page One

- HHS Reinvent Grants Management initiative to standardize the format of the first page (referred to by HHS as Page One) of the Notice of Award (NOA)
- The new Page One is schedule for implementation for all NIH awards issued on or after October 1, 2020.
- Terms and conditions will continue to be outlined in Sections III and IV

Fall 2020 NIH *Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration*

Tuesday, October 27 - Friday, October 30

- No Registration Fees
- 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. EST
- Ideal for anyone new to working with NIH Grants
- 1:1 Meet the Expert 20-Minute Chats with NIH & HHS
- Sessions focused on the NIH Grants Process, Programs & Policies

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Watch for updates in the NIH Guide and on the
NIH Regional Seminar Home Page at
[https://grants.nih.gov/news/contact-in-
person/seminars.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/news/contact-in-person/seminars.htm).



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Questions? Email NIHRegionalSeminars@nih.gov