Panelist

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Topics

• Draft Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide – Federal Register
• Public Access Plan
• Automated Compliance Checking
• What’s New in Research.gov
• Uniform Guidance FAQs
• Pilot Activities to Reduce Administrative Burden
• Opportunity in the Policy Office

PAPPG – Federal Register Notice

• Public comment period for proposed changes
  – 60 days

• Timeline for Issuance
  – May 19, 2015 – Federal Register
  – October 2015 – Published
  – January 2016 – Effective
Significant Changes Proposed

• Where possible, language has been streamlined by removing text from the PAPPG that is displayed on the FastLane or Research.gov screen
• AOR will now provide proposal certifications upon submission of the proposal
  – NSF is removing the ability for post-submission certifications by the AOR
• 5 p.m. submitter’s local time is time standard for all submissions; deviations in solicitations and Dear Colleague Letters will no longer be permitted

Significant Changes Proposed (Cont’d)

• Language has been removed permitting solicitations to specify different type size, margin and spacing requirements
• Collaborator and Other Affiliation Information has been removed from Biographical Sketch and will now be submitted as a single copy document
  – Page limitation on Biographical Sketch remains two pages
• Greater clarity has been inserted on providing the Project Summary as supplementary document
Significant Changes Proposed (Cont’d)

• Use of “must” and “may” has been reviewed throughout, and revised, where appropriate
• Results from Prior NSF Support has been clarified to:
  – identify when the start of the five year period begins
  – provide examples of the types of NSF awards included as prior support
• References Cited section has had footnote moved to full text to reiterate that submission of URLs is not required

Significant Changes Proposed (Cont’d)

• Biographical Sketches and Current and Pending Support information may no longer be submitted as a single PDF associated with the PI
• Internal institutional resources has been added as an example of Current and Pending Support
• Formatting instructions has been added for Letters of Collaboration
• Greater clarity has been provided regarding the type of information necessary for proposals that include use of vertebrate animals
Significant Changes Proposed (Cont’d)

• NSF implementation of Dual Use Research of Concern has been incorporated
• Proposal Preparation Checklist has been revised to identify items most frequently missed by proposers
• Language has been added regarding NSF’s implementation of the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System
• Post-award Notification and Request instructions have been revised to specify that such communications must be signed and submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative

Significant Changes Proposed (Cont’d)

• Public Access Implementation incorporated into the AAG, with a link to the proposed term and condition
NSF’s Public Access Plan: Highlights

- **Requires** deposit of journal articles and juried conference papers in the NSF Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR), hosted by DOE/OSTI, within 12 months following initial publication
  - Effective for journal articles and juried conference papers from proposals submitted or due on or after the PAPPG effective date in January 2016
- **Allows for a waiver** to the 12-month embargo for publications
- **Retains** current Data Management Plan requirements and calls for community engagement to create more consistent management of research data
- **Retains** current policies permitting costs of publication and the sharing of research results as a direct cost in the proposal budget
- Provides a **framework**, allowing NSF to:
  - Engage additional partners in a federated system
  - Evolve specific policies appropriate to NSF’s broad and highly heterogeneous research communities

NSF’s Public Access Plan: Next Steps

- NSF has published draft public access implementation language in the proposed revision of the *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG). Comments are due July 20, 2015.
- NSF will continue work on the repository system with DOE/OSTI with the goal of standing up a beta system by the end of December 2015
- NSF will continue to engage the research communities around data management in support of public access goals
- For more details, please attend the NSF IT Modernization/Research.gov breakout session
Automated Compliance Checking
Proposals submitted in response to GPG, Program Descriptions and Announcements

Auto-compliance checks for unsolicited proposals – January 26, 2015:

• Enforce page count rules for the following proposal sections:
  – Project Description
  – Budget Justification
  – Mentoring Plan
  – Data Management Plan

• Budget Checks: implement duration and requested amount compliance checks
  – Example: maximum requested amount cannot exceed $200,000 for a RAPID proposal

• Enforce proposal sections depending on the funding mechanism type
  – Example: do not enforce References Cited for a Conference proposal

Automated Compliance Checking
Proposals submitted in response to solicitations

Auto-compliance checks for required sections in solicited (e.g., proposal submitted in response to solicitations) effective April 24, 2015:

• Error message if the following sections are not included
  – Project Summary
  – Project Description
  – Budget
  – Data Management Plan
  – Mentoring Plan (if applicable)

• Warning message if any of the following sections are not included
  – References Cited
  – Biographical Sketch(es)
  – Budget Justification
  – Current and Pending Support
  – Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
Research.gov: Notifications & Requests

• Three new requests included in the Uniform Guidance must be submitted in Research.gov:
  – Salaries of Administrative or Clerical Staff
  – Travel Costs for Dependents
  – Additional categories of participant support costs other than those described in 2 CFR § 200.75 (such as incentives, gifts, souvenirs, t-shirts and/or memorabilia)

• Next round of requests moving to Research.gov will take place in July 2015

• Awardees can view the status of all N&Rs in both FastLane and Research.gov

Frequently Asked Questions
Uniform Guidance-related

Visit the Policy Office website for FAQs on NSF implementation of the Uniform Guidance

nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/
Frequently Asked Questions
Uniform Guidance-related

• Which awards incorporate the new Uniform Guidance requirements?

• How does an awardee know which terms and conditions apply to an award?

• If an existing award receives a non-funding amendment, is the amendment subject to the Grant General Conditions (GC-1) dated December 26, 2014?

• If an existing award receives an amendment and the new GC-1 is incorporated, is it necessary to request a retroactive approval for items that normally require prior approvals?

Frequently Asked Questions
Uniform Guidance-related

• The Grant Proposal Guide states: "No supporting documentation is required for proposed rates of 10% or less of modified total direct costs." Is it therefore acceptable to allow less than 10% of modified total direct costs? If so, is 0% acceptable?

• We’ve received budgets from subcontractors who elect not to charge F&A at all. Is a 0% F&A rate acceptable in these cases?

• All travel must now be justified in Line E of the budget. How detailed must this request be to meet this requirement? For instance, if the name of a conference is available but not the exact date or location, is this sufficient?

• When might temporary dependent care costs be allowable?
Administrative Burden
Update on NSF Response

• Reducing Investigators’ Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research (March 2014)

• Ongoing engagement with NSF Directorates for pilot activities

• Continued engagement with federal-wide initiatives to reduce administrative workload

Opportunity in NSF Policy Office

• Join the NSF team for a one- to two-year stint as a Policy Specialist working on proposal and award policies and procedures.

• Bring your institutional expertise to NSF and leave with an inside understanding of NSF policies.

• Applications accepted through June 26, 2015
For More Information

Ask Early, Ask Often!

nsf.gov/staff
nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp
nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/index.jsp