National Science Foundation Update
EPSCoR Conference
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Topics

- PAPPG Update
- Policy FAQs
- Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)
- Award Cash Management Service (ACM$)
- NSB Task Force on Administrative Burdens Update
- OMB’s Uniform Guidance Implementation
- Research.gov Modernization Effort
- Q&A
Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)

- New PAPPG effective for proposals submitted or due on or after February 24, 2014
PAPPG Changes

• Format of the Proposal
• Project Summary
• Participant Support
• International Implications -- now International Activities
  – Types Include: International Activities, International Conferences, and Work in foreign countries
• Cost sharing clarification
• Project Reporting – Not Cumulative
Automated Compliance Checking: What the Future Holds

• Currently evaluating existing GPG policies and procedures to identify where automated compliance checking can occur.
• Extensive outreach and communication will precede any further compliance checking changes.
• Spring 2014 solicitation-specific pilots
If the Principal Investigator(s) has received NSF funding in the past five years, information on the prior award is required:

1. The NSF award number, amount, and period of support;
2. The title of the project;
3. A summary of the results of the completed work, including, for a research project, its contribution to the development of human resources in science and engineering;
4. List of publications resulting from the NSF award;
5. Brief description of available data, samples, physical collections, and other related research products not described elsewhere; and
6. If the proposal is for a renewal of a grant, a description of the relation of the completed work to the proposed work.
Results from Prior NSF Support

• Confusion over what should be included in this section. GPG states:

  In cases where the PI or co-PI has received more than one award (excluding amendments), they need only report on the one award most closely related to the proposal.

• If PI or co-PI has more than one in past five years, they can choose the one that is most relevant.

• If PI or co-PI only has one NSF award in past five years they must report this award regardless of whether it’s relevant or not.

• See GPG Chapter II.C.2d(iii)
New Guidance regarding inclusion of visa costs is as follows:

*Short-term, travel visa costs (as opposed to longer-term, immigration visas) are generally allowable expenses that may be proposed as a direct cost on an NSF proposal.*

To be included on an NSF budget, they must:

- Be critical and necessary for the conduct of the project;
- Be allowable under the applicable cost principles;
- Be consistent with the organization’s cost accounting practices and organizational policy; and
- Meet the definition of “direct cost” as described in the applicable cost principles.
Budget Justification

• Policy requires a budget justification of up to three pages per NSF proposal;

• If subrecipient is identified at the time of proposal submission, subrecipient budget justification must be submitted as part of the primary budget justification, i.e., you get three-pages for the entire proposal, including subs;

• System has been allowing multiple budget justifications to be submitted in excess of the maximum three-page limit;

• FastLane is working to resolve this issue.
Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) – Recent Enhancements

• 68,000+ project reports submitted via Research.gov

• Continuous enhancements to improve user experience
  – Pre-population
  – BibTeX Upload
  – Copy/paste Functionality
  – Demo Site
  – Video Tutorial
RPPR – Key Points to Remember

- The reports are not intended to be cumulative with the final report being the last annual report;
- For separately submitted collaborative proposals, each separate component must report;
- Project Outcome Reports for the General Public are still required;
- Annual and final reports can not be recalled once an NSF PO has approved it;
- At this time, only PIs and co-PIs have the ability to work on and submit project reports in Research.gov.
Award Cash Management Service (ACM$)

• New awardee payment service in Research.gov
• Fully implemented for NSF Awardee institutions as of June 30, 2013
  – Requires submission of award level payment amounts each time funds are requested
  – Eliminates quarterly Federal Financial Reports (FFR)
  – Implements monthly award financial closeout 90 days after the award expiration date (effective July 2013)
  – ACM$ Info Page: Go to Research.gov, under “Our Services” and click on the link for “Award Cash Management Service”
ACM$: Program Income

• Number of awardees reporting program income has risen dramatically.
• Awardees must report the amount earned and expended at the award level.
• Awardee organizations must submit a Program Income Reporting Worksheet to:
  – Report program income earned/expended
  – Validate that they did not earn/expend program income
• Effective March 2014
• For more info, see AAG, Chapter III.4b
Important ACM$ Update

• ACM$ goes off line for payments from September 18 through October 14
• Grantees will be allowed to draw sufficient funds to cover transition period (through 10/13/14)
• Beginning October 1, NSF will begin making all payments using System for Award Management (SAM) banking information
NSB Task Force on Administrative Burdens

• Reducing Investigators’ Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research

• Recommendations
  – Focus on the Science
  – Eliminate or Modify Ineffective Regulations
  – Harmonize and Streamline Requirements
  – Increase University Efficiency and Effectiveness
Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards “Uniform Guidance” Implementation: Key Dates

- OMB published Uniform Guidance on **December 26, 2013**
- Agencies are required to submit implementation plans, policies and procedures on **June 26, 2014**
- Guidance will apply to awards and funding increments on existing award made on or after **December 26, 2014**
Uniform Guidance Implementation: NSF Implementation

- NSF submitted request to use policy document in lieu of regulation to implement the Uniform Guidance
- This request was approved by OMB on April 23, 2014
- NSF posted notice of intent to revise the PAPPG in the Federal Register on May 8, 2014
- Comments from the external community accepted until cob July 8, 2014
  - Uniform Guidance related changes highlighted in yellow
  - Policy Changes highlighted in blue
- Deviations from the Uniform Guidance requested in only two areas:
  - Limitation to two months salary compensation for faculty; and
Proposed Policy-Related Changes in PAPPG

• NSF’s electronic capabilities modernization status
• NSF closure in the event of inclement weather
• Ideas Labs
• Dual Use Research of Concern
• NSF’s Risk Management Framework and the Decision to Award or Decline Proposals
• Process to Appeal NSF’s Decision to Decline a Proposal for Financial or Administrative Reasons
Uniform Guidance Implementation: NSF Implementation

- Draft PAPPG

- Federal Register Notice:

- Direct Questions to: [policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov)
Single Sign-on Capabilities

- Researchers and SPOs can use their university-issued user ID and password to login to Research.gov via InCommon
  - 57 institutions are connected with Research.gov (30 more in the pipeline)

- Single Sign-on between Research.gov and FastLane
Institution Profile Management

• New project to minimize effort of registering a new institution and maintaining institution profiles
  – Minimizes data entry
  – SAM as authoritative data source
  – Cleans up data
  – Updates registration process
Post-award Notifications & Requests

• Plan to migrate to Research.gov
  – Planning and development activities will begin in FY 2014
  – Improved navigation and workflow
  – Implement OMB’s Uniform Guidance
Proposal Submission

- Planning activities began in FY 2014
- Evaluating proposal preparation and submission capabilities in FastLane
- Identifying process, data, and technology enhancements and phased approach to migrating functionality to Research.gov
Additional Research.gov Resources

- New Research.gov Listserv - System Updates
  subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov
- Project Reporting Demo Site
- Online Help
- Research.gov Services Fact Sheets
- Project Reporting Video Tutorial
- Research.gov BibTeX Video Tutorial – Coming Soon
Ask Early, Ask Often!

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