FDP May 2023 Meeting - Federal Agency Updates

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Christiane Diallo with the Grants Policy and Compliance team in the Office of Procurement Policy and Management Division began with an update on the Federal Register notice for its conflict of interest (COI) policy requiring grant recipients to maintain written and enforced policies that require covered individuals to disclose COI and conflicts of commitment (COC), both foreign and domestic, as well as to designate an official responsible for COI at the grantee institution; the public notice period closed on 03/31/2023. Due to concerns about combining COC and COI into a single policy, NASA plans to modify the policy to align with NIH and NSF policies. The NASA Proposer's Guide was updated effective 02/28/2023; unsolicited proposals are now addressed in Appendix K of the Proposer's Guide rather than in a separate document. NASA has made its Equity Action Plan available for a second [Request for Information](#) and will be open for public comment until 06/10/2023, seeking to determine if improvements have been made since the first RFI in 2021, to ensure that new recipients have the opportunity to comment, and to solicit specific suggestions on barriers and challenges that deter underserved communities from participating in NASA competitions. Other outreach efforts include a recent "Ask NASA" session entitled "What to Know before Applying to NASA Grants and Cooperative Agreements" hosted on 03/29/2023; a recording of the event is accessible here: https://youtu.be/pdbJx7T0AdQ and will soon be available on the [Grants Policy and Compliance website](#). A follow-on meeting is planned for fall 2023, and will focus on what to do once an organization receives a NASA grant or cooperative agreement. The NASA Office of Procurement/GPC will soon be integrating grants and cooperative agreements into the Acquisition forecast tool to allow for more proactive planning of proposal submissions. Additionally, to ensure compliance with the Plain Language Act, NASA will be revising the Proposer's Guide to make it easier to understand, as well as to incorporate all elements of the grant lifecycle into one document for ease of reference. The final grants policy update addressed the notice issued on 05/11/2023 which rescinded all flexibilities related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. NASA's program representative, Mary F. Sladek, then provided updates from the Science Mission Directorate (SMD), beginning with information on the "ROSES" (Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science) omnibus solicitation, including both a brief history of ROSES going back to 1998 and information on the 2023 ROSES solicitation. ROSES 2023 has been updated in two ways, with the inclusion of a link to the [SMD Open-Source Science Guidance document](#) to help applicants write their Open Science and Data Management Plans, and a clarification regarding software archiving. All new text in ROSES 2023 is in bold. There is also a forthcoming ROSES Request for Information to enhance usability and reduce sections that are confusing or unclear. The NASA update concluded with an overview of open and upcoming funding opportunities.
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National Science Foundation
Beth Strausser, Senior Policy Specialist in the NSF Policy Office, presented the NSF update, starting with updates on the NSF *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG). The 2023 PAPPG (NSF 23-1), had an overall effective date of 01/30/2023, with additional upcoming effective dates for the Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research training requirement on 07/31/2023, and mandatory use of SciENcv for preparation of Biographical Sketches and Current and Pending (Other) Support information on 10/23/2023.

One of the biggest changes in the 2023 PAPPG is the requirement for Safe and Inclusive Working Environment plans for projects conducted off-campus or off-site. Proposals involving off-campus or off-site activities must include a certification from the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) that a plan is in place for that proposal, but the plan does not need to be submitted to NSF. The BIO and GEO Directorates are piloting a requirement to submit the plan as a supplementary document. The 2023 PAPPG includes detailed information on this new requirement, including a definition of "off-campus or off-site research, and what issues the plans must address.

The National Science and Technology Council disclosure policies working group have developed harmonized versions of the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support. The documents are going through the OMB approval process, with implementation planned for 2024. An overview of the disclosure timeline detailed the disclosures required at the initial proposal stage, at the

pre-award stage when a proposal is being considered for award, at the post-award stage when AORs discover that a disclosure should have been included in the initial proposal submission, and in project reports; there were also several FAQs on Current and Pending (Other) Support disclosures.

The 2024 PAPPG is [available for public comment](#) (by June 12, 2023) in the Federal Register, with revised content highlighted with explanatory comments. Finally, there was an overview of NSF [outreach opportunities](#), including the Spring 2023 Virtual Grants Conference on June 5-8, 2023, the NSF Policy Office Webinar Series, and the On-Demand Resource Center searchable by topic and year.
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Office of Naval Research

Wade Wargo, head of Post Award Division, presented ONR's update, beginning with an overview of a new submission and communications portal, being developed within the DoD PIEE Suite, which would provide capability for a one-stop shop for reports and communications. The PIEE suite currently includes various modules, including the Wide Area WorkFlow (WAWF) payment system. Initially, the portal will handle only certain types of reports and will facilitate the process of getting the appropriate government official to accept final reports, streamlining the process so documents are tracked and delivered to the right people, replacing the current process of emailing close out documents. Essentially a file transfer and communication system, the new portal in PIEE will improve the overall efficiency of the award process. ONR is requesting system testers to provide feedback for the launch; please email [Joshua.m.kabisch.civ@us.navy.mil](#) to volunteer. There were several personnel updates, including a new Chief of Naval Research (CNR), Rear Admiral Kurt Rothenhaus ([bio posted here](#)), who will be coming on board in June 2023, as well as a new ONR Director of Contracts, Grants, and Acquisition, Mr. Jamie Thompson, who replaced the retired Debbi Raffi in January 2023; and the Military Deputy for ONR Contracts, Grants, and Acquisition will be CDR Joseph Spede in June 2023, replacing Captain Michelle Williams, SC, USN. He also presented several funding opportunities with deadlines coming up, highlighting the [FY2024 Young Investigator Program (YIP)](#) with a submission deadline of July 7. He discussed the backlog of Single Audit resolutions, which has been significantly reduced, and the enhanced oversight of audit resolutions supported by a new internal tracking system which provides greater efficiency as well as metrics on completion rates and other data points. Finally he addressed no funds extension requests, reminding the audience to submit timely requests (at least 10 calendar days prior to the end date for ONR awards) and to follow up with the ONR point of contact prior to the end date often. For issues getting responses from a specific person, he encourages recipients to send subsequent requests to the respective ONR Regional Office group email, which can be found [here](#).
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National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Kasima Garst, Deputy Director, Division of Grant Systems Integration in the NIH Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA) presented the NIH update, beginning with policy updates. NIH is aligning with 2 CFR 200.204 and will refer to funding opportunities as "notices of funding opportunity" (NOFO); [NOT-OD-23-109: Updates to Funding Opportunity Terminology](#) was published on April 21, 2023. The [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency expired on May 11, 2023](#). No additional emergency NOFO's relating to COVID-19 will be issued; existing emergency flexibilities remain in effective for ongoing awards; and [single IRB (sIRB) exceptions](#) available during the COVID public health emergency cannot be granted to additional studies but those already authorized remain in effect, per determination letters. The revised [Post-Submission Material Policy](#) clarifies that NIH will accept a one-page update with preliminary data as post-submission material for applications submitted after May 25, 2023, if allowed by the NOFO. [Public Law No: 117-183](#), the SBIR and STTR Extension Act of 2022, reauthorized the SBIR/STTR Program and Pilot Program under the Small Business Act. NIH will be issuing further guidance in coming months. On May 19, 2023, NIH issued [NOT-OD-23-133, NIH Updated Policy Guidance for Subaward/Consortium Written Agreements](#). The notice, which goes into effect October 1, 2023, includes updated requirements for a formal written consortium agreement signed by both parties and for foreign subrecipients to provide copies of all lab notebooks, all data, and all documentation that supports the research outcomes as described in the progress report to the prime recipient no less than once every three months, in line with the timelines outlined in the agreement. The

Data Management and Sharing (DMS)-FDP pilot is underway. The pilot's goals are to generate greater consistence in DMS plan requirements across NIH IC's and programs and mitigate administrative burden. Phase 1 of the pilot implemented on March 1, 2023 and involves the testing of tow DMS plan templates and tools; Phase 2 of the pilot will focus on costing and is anticipated to begin in December 2023. [NOT-OD-23-080: Clinical Trials: Good Cause Extension Request Process and Criteria](), provides for a good cause extension request process and criteria in connection with reporting clinical trial results. Updated guidance for returning funds in the Payment Management System (PMS) has been issued via [NOT-OD-23-102, Guidance for the Repayment of Grant Funds](). One systems process update was announced, namely that a redesigned xTrain module was released in eRA Commons on March 30, 2023 via [NOT-OD-23-094](). Policy reminders included [NOT-OD-23-111, NIH Policies for NRSA Stipends, Compensation and Other Income](), noting that stipend considered subsistence allowance and not a disincentive to employment.
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