NIH Agency Update

NIH OFFICE OF POLICY FOR EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

AVERY TUCKER – GRANTS POLICY OFFICER, DIVISION OF GRANTS POLICY

NIH National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

Budget News

- As of December 27, 2020, NIH is funded under the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* ([Public Law 116-260](#)).
- NIHs FY 2021 budget amount is $42.9 billion which represents a 3 percent increase over the FY 2020 final funding level
- The American Rescue Plan ([Public Law 117-2](#)) awarded additional monies to HHS in support the COVID-19 public health emergency response.
- Research Priority Highlights:
  - Cancer Research $195 million
  - BRAIN Initiative $100 million (NINDS & NIMH)
  - All of Us Prevision Medicine Initiative ($109 million)
  - Common Fund ($635.9 million)
  - Pediatric Research *Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act* ($12.6 million)
  - COVID-19 Emergency Appropriations ($1.25 billion, available until Sept. 2024)

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Fiscal Policy Updates

- NIH has issued several important fiscal policy Guide Notices:
  - NOT-OD-21-057, FY 2021 Salary Cap
    - Effective Jan 3, 2021: $199,300
  - NOT-OD-21-056, FY 2021 Legislative Mandates
  - NOT-OD-21-049, FY 2021 NRSA Stipend Levels
    - Effective for all FY21 NRSA awards
  - NOT-OD-21-058, Notice of Fiscal Policies in Effect for FY 2021
- Additional details on Fiscal Operations, including specific funding strategies for ICs, will be posted on the NIH Funding Strategies webpage.

NRSA Childcare Costs

- NIH has begun providing childcare support to recipients of NRSA fellowships as of April 8, 2021
- Applies to full-time NIH-NRSA-supported fellowship positions.
  - Each fellow is eligible to receive $2,500 per budget period
  - For households where both parents are NRSA fellows, each parent is eligible to receive $2,500.
- Costs are permitted for dependent children living in the eligible fellow's home from birth under the age of 13, or children who are disabled and under age 18.
  - Childcare costs do not apply to elder or non-child dependent care costs.

See details and application instructions: NOT-OD-21-069

Update – Implementation of Requirement to Submit SF-425/FFR via Payment Management System

- Recipients have reported a significant increase in errors in submitting reports via a single-entry point since January 1.

- Errors mainly caused because the system does not allow recipients to submit reports that do not reconcile expenditure versus quarterly cash transaction data.

- Given the significant impact, agencies will provide leniency, as appropriate, where these challenges prevent recipients from submitting timely FFRs.
  - Notify the Grants Management Official of any delays and retain all documentation related to this flexibility in the event of an audit finding..

- NIH and its partners are working closely with HHS PMS to address this matter as quickly as possible, and will continue to provide updates, as available.

Learn more: NOT-OD_21-060

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

- Direct all systems policy inquiries to:
  - NIH Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA)
    Systems Policy Branch
    Email: OPERAsystemspolicy@nih.gov

- Direct all eRA systems-related inquiries to:
  - eRA Service Desk
    Submit a web ticket: https://grants.nih.gov/support/index.html
    Toll-free: 1-866-504-9552
    Phone: 301-402-7469

- Direct all PMS systems-related inquiries to:
  - ONE-DHHS Help Desk
    Self-Help Web Portal: http://www.psc.gov/one-dhhs
    Email: PMSSupport@psc.hhs.gov
    Toll-free: 1-877-614-5533

- PMS Training opportunities will be posted at: https://pms.psc.gov/training/gr-ffr-training.html

Learn more: NOT-OD-20-127, NOT-OD-21-046, NOT-OD-21-060

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NIH Implementation of the Revised Federal-wide Research Terms and Conditions (RTCs)

- OMB mandated awarding agencies adopt recent revisions to 2 CFR part 200 effective November 12, 2020.

- Accordingly, the Federal-wide RTCs have been revised by the participating agencies, including NIH, for harmonization of regulatory practices across Federal research agencies with the revised 2 CFR §200.

- The National Science Foundation hosts and maintains the RTC website on behalf of all the participating agencies.

- NIH implementation of these Federal-wide RTCs is also outlined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement, Section 3.1

- Please make note of the NIH Agency Specific Requirements.

Learn more: NOT-OD-21-029

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Grants Policy Statement

- GPS Publication Guide Notice
  - NOT-OD-21-107 announced that publication of the revised NIH GPS for FY2021, applicable to all grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 2020.
  - A significant changes document was published alongside the updates.
- Significant Changes
  - Implementation of the updated Research Terms and Conditions
  - Updated Biosketch and Other Support language throughout to align with the Joint Committee on the Research Environment (JCORE) report.
  - Updated elements of the Notice of Award (NoA) to adopt implementation of HHS's Notice of Award Page One.
  - Updated language to adopt NIH's new diversity statement, including specifying categories of underrepresented populations.
  - Updated SBIR/STTR language and program levels to adopt the latest Omnibus solicitation

Learn more: NOT-OD-21-107

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Expanding Requirement for eRA Commons IDs to All Senior/Key Personnel

- NIH, AHRQ, FDA, and ORD/VA will require all individuals listed on the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form to have an eRA Commons username (Commons ID) for due dates on or after **January 25, 2022**.
  - This will facilitate better data collection, assist in disambiguating data on applications, and facilitate the identification of conflicts of interest in peer review.

  - An eRA Commons ID will need to be entered for all Senior/Key Personnel (as defined in NIH GPS 1.2) listed on the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form.
    - For multi-project applications, this requirement also applies to the individual components of the application.

Learn more: NOT-OD-21-109

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Prohibition on Expending NIH Grant Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services

- Effective for all agencies on August 13, 2020. Recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from expending **grant** funds to:

    - Procure or obtain; extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

- Term of award outlined in NOT-OD-21-041 applies to all NIH grants.

- Recipients may rebudget funds originally allocated for covered telecommunications equipment or services, as appropriate.

- There are no waivers for grants for this statutory provision.

Learn more: NOT-OD-21-041 and FAQs

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COMMITMENT TRANSPARENCY

National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

What is commitment transparency?

Transparency and reporting of *all* research activities, domestic and foreign

- Openness and transparency enables productive collaboration and helps ensure appropriate disclosure of potential conflicts of interest and commitment

- Failure by some researchers at NIH-funded institutions to disclose substantial contributions of resources from other organizations, including foreign governments, threatens to distort decisions about the appropriate use of NIH funds

Our Approach

- What's NOT changing?
    - Foreign Component
    - Financial Conflicts of Interest
- To support the need for full transparency, NIH has updated the Biosketch and Other Support forms and instructions
- Utilized JCORE guidance, and collaborated with other research agencies

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COMMITMENT TRANSPARENCY – WHAT'S CHANGING?

National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

Biosketch Format Updates

- Biosketch Form & Instructions:

  - Updated title of Section B to capture all scientific appointments (**all** positions and scientific appointments, foreign and domestic)

  - Removed Section D: Research Support, which duplicates information provided in Other Support

    Note: Scholastic Performance will remain in Section D for fellowship Biosketch

- Page limit has not changed (5 pages)

- Updated SciENcv template is available!

Biosketch Mock-Up– Non-Fellowship Format Page

Old Format

OMB No. 0925-0001 and 0925-0002 (Rev. 03/2020 Approved Through 02/28/2023)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.

NAME:

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Personal Statement

B. Positions and Honors

C. Contributions to Science

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

Updated – March 2021

DRAFT JULY 2020

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C. Contributions to Science

Biosketch Mock-Up – Fellowship Format Page

Old Format

Updated – March 2021

DRAFT July 2020

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YEAR	COURSE TITLE	GRADE

DRAFT July 2020

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Other Support Updates – Highlights

- Updated form and instructions provide more structured format

- Supporting documentation: supporting documentation, which includes copies of contracts, grants or any other agreement specific to senior/key personnel foreign appointments and/or employment with a foreign institution for all foreign activities and resources that are reported in Other Support. If the contracts, grants or other agreements are not in English, recipients must provide translated copies.

- Immediate notification of undisclosed Other Support: When a recipient organization discovers that a PI or other Senior/Key personnel on an active NIH grant failed to disclose Other Support information outside of Just-in-Time or the RPPR, as applicable, the recipient must submit updated Other Support to the Grants Management Specialist named in the Notice of Award as soon as it becomes known.

- PI or other senior/key personnel will electronically sign submissions to certify accuracy of the information provided

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Other Support Updates – Format Page

Updated Form – March 2021

For New and Renewal Applications – **DO NOT SUBMIT UNLESS REQUESTED**

PHS 398 OTHER SUPPORT

Other Support – Projects/Proposals

NAME OF INIVIDUAL:

Commons ID:

1. Title:

Project Number: Name of PD/PI:

Major Goals:

Status of Support: ○ Active   ○ Pending   ○ Completed

Source:

Primary Place of Performance

Approved/Proposed Project Start Date (MM/YYYY):

Approved/Proposed Project End Date (MM/YYYY):

Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs):

Person-Month(s) (Calendar/Academic/Summer) Per Calendar Year Committed to the Project

Calendar Year (YYYY)	Person Months (##.##)	Calendar Year (YYYY)	Person Months (##.##)
1.		4.	
2.		5.	
3.			

Other Support – In-Kind

\#.   Summary of In-Kind Contributions:

Status of Support: ○ Active   ○ Pending

Source:

Primary Place of Performance

Approved/Proposed Project Start Date (MM/YYYY):

Approved/Proposed Project End Date (MM/YYYY):

Person-Month(s) (Calendar/Academic/Summer) Per Calendar Year Committed to the Project

Calendar Year (YYYY)	Person Months (##.##)	Calendar Year (YYYY)	Person Months (##.##)
1.		4.	
2.		5.	
3.			

Estimated Dollar Value of In-Kind Contribution: $

OVERLAP *(summarized for each individual)*:

Implementation of Changes to the Biographical Sketch and Other Support Format Page

- NIH expects applicants and recipients to use the updated Biosketch and Other Support format for applications, Just-in-Time (JIT) Reports, and Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs) as of **May 25, 2021**

- NIH will require the use of the updated format pages on and after **January 25, 2022**

  - Electronic signatures and supporting documentation will be required beginning **January 25, 2022**

  - Failure to follow the appropriate formats on or after January 25, 2022, may cause NIH to withdraw applications from or delay consideration of funding.

- Applicants and recipients remain responsible for disclosing all research endeavors regardless of the version of the forms used

Learn more: NOT-OD-21-110

Additional Resources

- [Other Support Page](#)
  - Forms, Instructions, FAQs and samples

- [Biosketch Page](#)
  - Forms, Instructions, FAQs and samples

- More detailed training video coming in May

Learn more: [NOT-OD-21-073](#) and [FAQs](#)

Other Support and Bisketch Questions?

- Send inquiries related to changes to the biographical sketch and other support templates to **nihosbiosketch@nih.gov**.

- NIH is diligently working to ensure complete and timely responses to inquiries received to date via existing email inboxes. The research community may elect to forward inquiries that are pending a response to the new central email inbox, as needed.

Learn more: NOT-OD-21-122 and FAQs

eRA Information: Use of Internet Explorer for eRA Modules to be Phased Out by July 19, 2021

- As originally [announced by Microsoft](#), support of Internet Explorer 11 (IE) will be discontinued for Microsoft 365 applications and services by August 17, 2021.

- Due to security and interoperability concerns, **eRA will phase out the use of IE for eRA all modules by July 19, 2021**. As of that date, eRA systems will no longer be available when using the IE browser.

- eRA will provide additional reminders and information as the phaseout date approaches.

Learn more: [eRA Announcement](#)