NIH Update

Michelle G. Bulls, Director
Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration, OER, NIH

FDP
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1

NIH FY 2016 Budget News

NIH is currently funded under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113) signed by President Obama on December 18, 2015.

NIHs FY 2016 budget amount is $32.3 billion which represents a $2 billion increase over FY 2015.

NIH awarding ICs are in the process of finalizing their fiscal policies to be posted on their respective websites. These policies will be consistent with NIHs overall spending goals for FY2016.

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FY 2016 Fiscal Policy – Salaries and New Investigators

Salary Cap -

- Limited to Executive Level II – was set at $183,300, effective January 10, 2016, increased to $185,100.
  - See NOT-OD-16-045

New Investigators -

- Support on R01 equivalent awards will continue at rates comparable to established investigators.

- Additional information can be found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/index.htm

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FY 2016 Fiscal Policy - Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA)

- Stipends increased for undergraduate, graduate students and post-doctoral recipients at a rate of approximately 2 percent.

- Training related expenses (TRE) increased for post-doctoral recipients by $1,000.

- No changes in tuition, fees, and TRE for undergraduate and graduate students.

- Stay tuned for additional information detailing specific stipend and TRE amounts for NRSA recipients.

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NIH Grants Policy Statement

FY2016 NIH Grants Policy Statement was issued on November 25, 2015 and is effective for all grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after 10/1/2015.

NIH continues to include a Significant Changes summary to highlight the notable grants policy changes and clarifications that were included in the FY 2016 version of the NIHGPS.

The FY2016 NIHGPS supersedes, in its entirety, the 3/31/2015 version as a standard term and condition of award.

See NOT-OD-16-030 for details.

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Research Terms and Conditions

The RTC document was published in the Federal Register on October 2015. The public had a 60-day comment period, which ended December 14, 2015.

- Feedback received from our the RTC/FDP subcommittee in December 2015.

Next Steps:

- NIH/NSF will review all comments with participating agencies and submit recommendations to RBM for consideration.
- RBM will consider all public comments and the document will be finalized and cleared
- Implementation targeted for mid FY16 (fingers crossed)

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OMB Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) Requirement

- **FAPIIS is a database to track performance data for grantees and contractors**

- **Applicants and recipients must disclose poor performance information**

- **Federal awarding agencies must report performance information and must review FAPIIS before making an award**

- **HHS guidance to NIH is forthcoming**

- **NIH hopes to target February 1, 2016 to implement FAPIIS requirements internally**

- **Stay tuned for additional guidance**

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Other Transaction Authority (OTA)

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2016 (P.L.114-113) permits the NIH Director to enter into transactions other than contracts, grants or cooperative agreements to carry out Common Fund research

- NIH uses OTA when it needs greater flexibility to identify and engage nontraditional research partners, or to engage traditional partners in new ways, and negotiate terms and conditions that will concentrate their efforts, spur innovation, and facilitate collaborative problem solving.

  - NIH's unique activity code (OT1, OT2, OT3) to track funding linked to OTAs.
  - Other Transaction Authority was recently used for the following programs;
    - Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Relieve Conditions (SPARC)
    - Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI)

      See RFA-RM-15-003 and NOT-PM-16-001 for details.

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Simplifying NIH's Grant Application Instructions

- **NIH gathered input from grantee community on restructuring of NIH grant application instructions that closed on September 25, 2015.**

- **NIH requested comments on streamlined ways for communicating NIH grant application instructions to applicants in a more concise, helpful way.**

- **The goal is to reduce administrative burden.**

- **Stay tuned for updates to the instructions derived from RFI.**

See NOT-OD-15-134 for details.

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Application Submission System & Interface for Submission Tracking (ASSIST)

ASSIST (optional) is now available for:

- **all single and multi-project, competing grant applications;**

- **single-project administrative supplements;**

- **single-project, post-award successor-in-interest (type 6) requests; and**

- **single-project, post-award change of institution (type 7) requests.**

Funding opportunity announcements posted in the NIH Guide for Grants & Contracts that allow ASSIST as an option contain an "Apply Online Using ASSIST" button in addition to the "Apply Using Downloadable Forms" button.

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See **NOT-OD-16-042** for details.

10

NIH Announces Upcoming Changes to Policies, Instructions and Forms for 2016 Grant Applications

Some new NIH policies require additional data collection and updates to our application forms. We have received approval from the Office of Management and Budget to make the needed form updates and we expect to have system support and guidance for these updates in place by March 25, 2016.

The planned changes focus on the following areas:

- Rigor and transparency in research
- Vertebrate animals
- Inclusion reporting
- Data safety monitoring
- Research training and training tables
- Assignment request form
- Font requirements
- Biosketch clarifications

See NOT-OD-16-004 for details.

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Updates to NIH Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR) to Address Rigor and Transparency

NIH has plans to change the PHS RPPR instructions for all annual non-competing (Type 5) awards that support research activities.

These RPPR updates for rigor and transparency:

- clarify long-standing expectations to ensure that NIH is funding the best and most rigorous science,

- highlight the need for awardees to describe details that may have been previously overlooked,

- prepare non-competing renewals for the next competitive renewal, and

- will help NIH implement and evaluate the policy for both current and new awards.

By January 25, 2016, the RPPR instructions will be updated to include the necessary changes within Section B – Accomplishments (i.e., post-award RPPR instructions are updated separately from NIH pre-award application instructions).

See **NOT-OD-16-031** for details.

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Final Research Performance Progress Reports (FRPPR)

- **The format will be the same as the current interim/annual RPPR**

- **Will replace the final progress report requirement for closeout**

- **New requirement – Outcomes section will be publicly available, allowing recipients the opportunity to provide the general public with a concise summary of the cumulative outcome or findings of the project (analogous to the Project Summary/Abstract section of the competing application).**

- **Target date for NIHs implementation is October 2016**

- **Stay tuned for additional details**

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REMINDER
Grant Closeout (Unilateral Closeout)

Unilateral Closeout is the closeout of an award without the receipt of acceptable reports from the recipient.

- **HHS policy requires NIH to unilaterally close awards if the following reports are not submitted and accepted by the NIH.**

  - Final Progress Report (FPR)
  - Final Invention Statement and Certification (FIS)
  - Final Federal Financial Report (FFR) – must ensure that there are no discrepancies between the final FFR expenditure data (in eRA Commons) and the FCTR in the PMS.

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REMINDER
Timely Progress Reports

Annual progress reports submitted in any format other than the RPPR will not be processed by the NIH and will require resubmission through the RPPR

- Non-SNAP annual progress reports are due the 1st of the month preceding the month in which the budget period ends

- SNAP progress reports are due the 15th of the month preceding the month in which the budget ends

- Multi-year funded progress reports due on the anniversary of the budget/project period start date of the award (electronic submission RPPR only)

Searchable list to determine which progress reports are due:
https://public.era.nih.gov/chl/public/search/progressReportByIpf.era

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REMINDER
Timely Financial Reporting

Federal Financial Report (FFR)(SF-425) Expenditure Data

- **Annual (Non-SNAP Awards)**

  - FFR submitted for each budget period no later than 90 days after the end of the calendar quarter (CQ) in which the budget period ended.

  - Budget period ends 1/31/2016 – FFR due 6/30/16

    (90 days after the end of the CQ of 3/31/16)

- **Final – (SNAP and Non-SNAP Awards)**

  - FFR submitted within 120 days following the end of the **project** period

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Check the Guide

- **NOT-OD-16-026 Save the Date for the 2016 NIH Regional Seminar in Baltimore, Maryland – May 11-13.**

- **NOT-OD-16-044 Notice of Legislative Mandates in Effect for FY 2016**

- **And many others!**

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