



# National Science Foundation Update

Federal Demonstration Partnership  
September 3, 2015



# Speaker

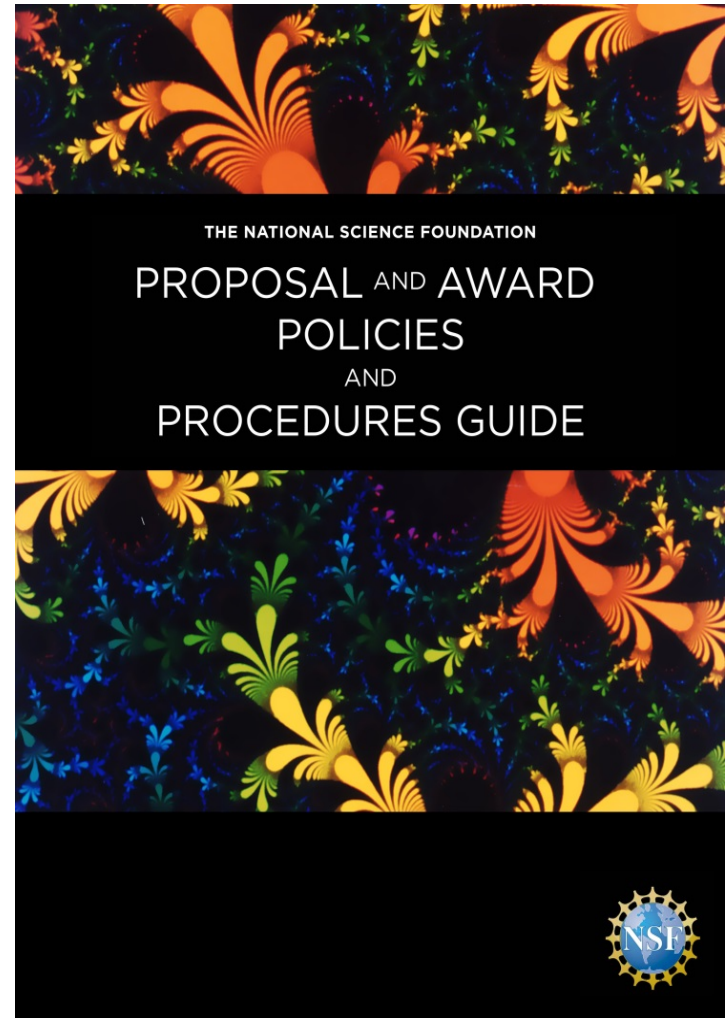
- **Jean Feldman**
  - Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support, Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management

# Topics

- Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) Revision: Implementation Schedule & Significant Changes
- Reducing Administrative Burden – Pilots
- Research.gov
  - Compliance checking
- Final Research Performance Progress Report Update
- Research Terms and Conditions Status Update

# PAPPG Implementation Schedule

- May 19, 2015 – Posted in Federal Register
- July 20, 2015 – Comments Due
  - 56 public comments received and resolved
- October 2015 – Publish
- January 25, 2016 – Effective Date





# PAPPG – Significant Changes

- AOR will now provide proposal certifications upon submission of the proposal, thus removing the ability for post-submission certification.
- 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.
  - NSF will begin auto-enforcing the 5 p.m. submitter's local time.

# PAPPG – Significant Changes (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.
- Use of “should” and “must” has been reviewed throughout, and revised, where appropriate.



# PAPPG – Significant Changes (Cont'd)

- Results from Prior NSF Support have been clarified:
  - Identify when the start of the five year period begins; and
  - Provide examples of the types of NSF awards included as prior support.
- Biographical Sketches and Current and Pending Support information may no longer be submitted as a single PDF (to permit automated compliance checking).
  - There is special treatment for biographical sketches of “Other Personnel” and “Equipment Users”





# PAPPG – Significant Changes (Cont'd)

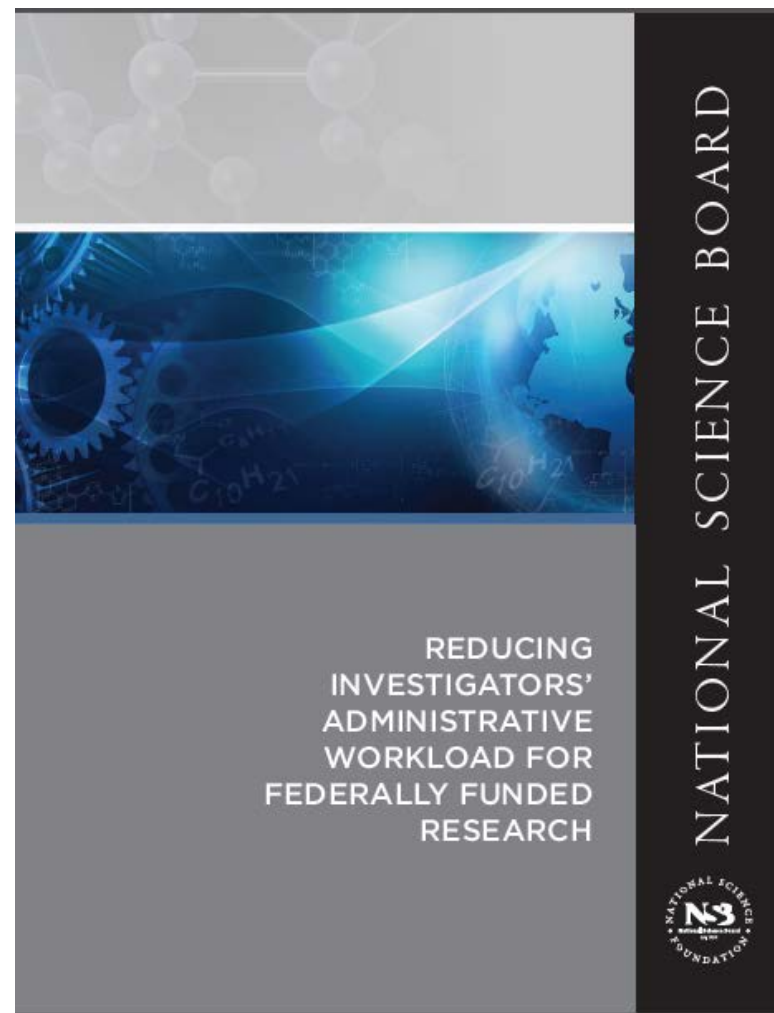
- Internal funds allocated toward specific projects has been added as an example of Current and Pending Support.
- Greater clarity has been provided regarding the type of information necessary for proposals that include use of vertebrate animals.
- NSF implementation of Dual Use Research of Concern has been incorporated.
- Language has been added regarding NSF's implementation of the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System.

# PAPPG – Significant Changes (Cont'd)

- Post-award Notification and Request instructions have been revised to specify that such communications must be signed and submitted by the AOR.
- Public Access Implementation incorporated into the AAG, with a link to the award term and condition.
- Additional information provided regarding the types of costs appropriate for conference proposals
- Due date for submission of the final project report has been changed from 90 days to 120 days for consistency with financial reporting information.

# Reducing Administrative Burden

- In January 2015, NSF provided an update to the NSB Report, Reducing Investigators' Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research.
- NSF is identifying pilot projects to reduce PI and NSF staff administrative burden.
- Considerations are related preliminary proposals, streamlined budgeting, just-in-time submissions, IRB and IACUC protocols, project reporting and proposal development.





# Reducing Administrative Burden Pilot Programs

- “Just-in-Time” budget process for selected core programs in MPS/DMS and MPS/PHY
  - Require only a textual description of the resources necessary to complete the project.
  - Require detailed budget only if the proposal is recommended for an award.
  - Allows reviewers and NSF staff to focus on the science.
- Improving the IACUC process – MOU with NIH/OLAW
  - Standardizes the assurance process across NIH and NSF.
  - Improves communication to make policy language regarding institutional compliance consistent between both agencies.
  - Allows for sharing of reporting information



# Research.gov

## Automated Compliance Checking

- Newest set of compliance checks surround proposals submitted in response to program solicitations (by funding mechanism). Warning messages are triggered if any of the following sections are not included:
  - References Cited
  - Biographical Sketch(es)
  - Budget Justification: Primary Organization
  - Budget Justification: Sub-recipient Organization
  - Current and Pending Support
  - Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
- Grants.gov does not perform these types of compliance checks and may allow a proposal to be submitted.



# Research.gov

## Automated Compliance Checking

AUTOMATED PROPOSAL COMPLIANCE CHECKS PERFORMED BY SYSTEM AS OF JULY 24TH, 2015.*											
COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	FUNDING MECHANISM TYPE								
			RESEARCH	RAPID	EAGER	IDEAS LAB	CONFERENCE	EQUIPMENT	INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	FACILITY/ CENTER	FELLOWSHIP
Proposal Section Exists Checks											
1. Project Summary is required.	GPG Program Description Program Announcement	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Program Solicitation	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Project Description is required.	GPG Program Description Program Announcement	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Program Solicitation	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. References Cited is required.	GPG Program Description Program Announcement	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A		
	Program Solicitation	WARNING	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓	✓
4. Biographical Sketch(es) is required.	GPG Program Description Program Announcement	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A		
	Program Solicitation	WARNING	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓	✓
5. Primary Budget is required.	GPG Program Description Program Announcement	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Program Solicitation	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Budget Justification for the Primary Organization is required.	GPG Program Description Program Announcement	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Program Solicitation	WARNING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Budget Justification for each Subrecipient Organization that exists is required.	GPG Program Description Program Announcement	ERROR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Program Solicitation	WARNING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

[http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/autocheck/compliancechecks\\_july15.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/autocheck/compliancechecks_july15.pdf)



# Final Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format

- Federal Register Notice posted by NSF on behalf of the Research Business Models Interagency Committee regarding an updated standardized format for use in submission of interim and final RPPRs.
  - Federal Register Notice: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-07-23/pdf/2015-18007.pdf>
- Comments must be received by September 21, 2015.
- For comment version of the draft format available at:
  - [nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rppr/index.jsp](http://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rppr/index.jsp)



# Research Terms and Conditions

## Participating Agencies:

- Department of Agriculture
  - NIFA
- Department of Commerce
  - NIST/NOAA
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Transportation
  - FAA
- Environmental Protection Agency
- NASA
- NIH – co-Chair
- NSF – co-Chair



# Current Status

- The RTC documents have made it through the RBM Interagency Working Group and the SBE Subcommittee
- The documents are now before the Committee on Science and are on the agenda for their meeting on September 21
  - This is the final step before publication in the Federal Register
- As soon as we receive approval, we will begin working with the FDP working group on Research Terms and Conditions!



# NSF Grants Conference

## November 2-3 in Arlington, VA

- Targeted for faculty and administrators. Topics include:
  - Proposal preparation
  - Merit review process
  - Award Management
  - Directorate breakout sessions
  - Award administration breakout sessions
- Hosted by Georgetown University
- Registration opens next week.
- Sign up to be notified once registration is available
  - <https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=NSFN10E>
- Next conference will be in Portland, OR, in early March, 2016



# **For More Information**

## **Ask Early, Ask Often!**

**[policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov)**

