

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Significant Changes to NSF Guidelines

NSF will require proposals submitted to NSF with deadline or target dates on or after January 5, 2009, to follow major revisions to the "Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide," NSF's comprehensive guide for grant applicants and award recipients. Here we highlight four significant changes to the Grant Proposal Guide it is important to note. Please see www.nsf.gov for all the changes.

- NSF's salary reimbursement policy has been revised to limit salary compensation (from all NSF-funded grants) for senior project personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year.

NSF regards research as one of the normal functions of faculty members at institutions of higher education. Compensation for time normally spent on research within the term of appointment is deemed to be included within the faculty member's regular organizational salary.

As a general policy, NSF limits salary compensation for senior project personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year. This limit includes salary compensation received from all NSF-funded grants. This effort must be documented in accordance with the applicable cost principles. If anticipated, any compensation

for such personnel in excess of two months must be disclosed in the proposal budget, justified in the budget justification, and must be specifically approved by NSF in the award notice.

These same general principles apply to other types of non-academic organizations.

NSF award funds may not be used to augment the total salary or salary rate of faculty members during the period covered by the term of faculty appointment or to reimburse faculty members for consulting or other time in addition to a regular full-time organizational salary covering the same general period of employment. Exceptions may be considered under certain NSF programs, e.g., science and engineering education programs for weekend and evening classes, or work at remote locations. If anticipated, any intent to provide salary compensation above the base salary must be disclosed in the proposal budget, justified in the budget justification, and must be specifically approved by NSF in the award notice.

- To meet the mentoring requirement of the America COMPETES Act, all proposals that request funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include a separate

rate section (within the 15 page project description) describing mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals.

Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a separate section within the 15-page Project Description, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. Examples of mentoring activities include, but are not limited to: career counseling; training in preparation of grant proposals, publications and presentations; guidance on ways to improve teaching and mentoring skills; guidance on how to effectively collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplinary areas; and training in responsible professional practices. The proposed mentoring activities will be evaluated as part of the merit review process under the Foundation's broader impacts merit review criterion. Proposals that do not include a separate section on mentoring activities within the Project Description will be returned without review.

- The Human Subjects requirements now reflect that evidence of IRB approval is required on proposals for projects that will be performed outside the U.S.

Projects involving research with human subjects must ensure that subjects are protected from research risks in conformance with the relevant federal policy known as the Common Rule (Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, [45 CFR 690](#)).

NSF GPG Continued...

All projects involving human subjects must either (1) have approval from the organization's Institutional Review Board (IRB) before issuance of an NSF award or, (2) must affirm that the IRB or an appropriate knowledgeable authority previously designated by the organization (not the Principal Investigator) has declared the research exempt from IRB review, in accordance with the applicable subsection, as established in section 101(b) of the *C o m m o n R u l e*.

If the project involves human subjects and is to be performed outside of the U.S., evidence of IRB approval also is required.

If there is no IRB approval provided, and the foreign country is not included in the 2008 HHS OHRP International Compilation of Human Research Protections, nor is an Assurance on file with OHRP, NSF may decline to support the project.

- The 2009 GPG added a new section for Projects Requiring High-Performance Computing Resources, Large Amounts of Data Storage, or Advanced Visualization Resources.

Many research projects require access to computational, data storage or visualization resources in order to complete the work proposed. For those projects that require such resources at a scale that is beyond that typically available

locally. NSF provides the TeraGrid. The TeraGrid is a collection of very powerful supercomputers, a high-throughput computing environment, high-volume data storage facilities, and advanced visualization services, connected by a high-bandwidth private network. TeraGrid services available to researchers also include consulting support.

Allocations of TeraGrid resources are available to PI(s) of funded research projects at no additional cost. A simple on-line process may be used to request an allocation. The TeraGrid provides consulting and training services to help researchers to make effective use of the resources available. For more information on how to request an allocation, please see <http://portal.teragrid.org> or <http://www.teragrid.org>

Change in NIH Policy on Revised Resubmission Proposals

Effective 1/25/09

On January 25, 2009, applicants submitting new and competing renewal NIH proposals that are not funded will be permitted to submit only **one** revised proposal instead of the two revisions that is the current practice. Applicants who aren't funded after the original submission and one revised submission may only submit the same project proposal again if the application is "fundamentally revised to qualify as new. A new application is expected to be substantially different in content and scope with more significant differences than are normally encountered in an amended application." The applicant will be expected to substantially re-design the project rather than simply making changes in response to reviewer comments. NIH expects that this policy change will result in funding for more meritorious original proposals, with the resulting decrease in resubmissions reducing the burden on applicants and on reviewers, and reducing the delay in funding for meritorious science. There is no time limit for the submission of the one allowed revision following an unfunded original proposal.

NOTE: Original new and competing renewal proposals that were submitted prior to January 25, 2009 will be permitted two revised resubmissions until January 7, 2011. After that date, NIH will not accept second revised submissions.

Grant Opportunities

- ◆ January 15, 2009 -US Department of Energy: Opportunity No DE PS02-09ER09-05. : Fundamental Research in Superconducting RF Cavity Design
- ◆ February 3, 2009-National Institutes of Health: Opportunity No. RFA-MH-09-100 : Behavioral Research Awards for Innovative New Scientists (R01)
- ◆ January 28, 2009—National Endowment for the Humanities: Opportunity No. 20090128-TD, America's Media Makers: Development Grants
- ◆ January 12, 2009—National Science Foundation: Opportunity No. 08-546: Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement

Please see www.grants.gov for more information on these opportunities!

Find more information online—ORSP Website—<http://www.du.edu/orsp>