



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) UPDATE

American Association of State Colleges & Universities, Grants Resource Center
Annual External Funding Conference
August 22-25, 2010
Washington DC

Topics Covered



- Recent Personnel Announcements/Changes
- America COMPETES Act Update
 - NSF Implementation Activities
- Data Management Plans
- Upcoming Revision of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide

Recent Personnel Changes/Announcements

- Dr. Subra Suresh nominated as NSF Director
- Dr. Cora Marrett nominated as Deputy Director
- Dr. Edward Seidel named as Assistant Director (MPS)
- Dr. Jose Munoz named Chief Technology Officer
- Dr. Alan Blatecky named Acting Director of the Office of Cyberinfrastructure (OCI)

America COMPETES ACT
NSF Implementation Activities



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SEC 7009: Responsible Conduct of Research

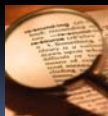
“The Director shall require that each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project.”

SEC 7009: Responsible Conduct of Research (Cont'd)

- Implementation:
 - Effective January 4, 2010, a proposing institution's AOR must certify that the institution has a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research.

NSF Resources

- Funded on-line resources
 - NSF Award 0936857, PI: Fountain, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
<http://www.umass.edu/sts/digitalibrary/>
 - NSF Award 0936865, PI: Hollander, National Academy of Sciences
<http://www.onlineethics.org/CMS/about/UserGuide/18848.aspx>
- RCR Page on the NSF Policy Website
 - <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rcr.jsp>
 - Federal Register Notices
 - FAQs
 - International Research Integrity



Ethics Resource

NSF 10-547: Ethics in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering
Online Resource Center (Ethics Resource)

- This competition proposes to fund one award to support a multidisciplinary team of researchers who will create an online ethics resource center.
- The research team's focus will be to gather existing information, generate new knowledge, and create interactive tools that will help scientists and engineers incorporate ethical issues and reasoning into their pedagogy and research. The online resource center should be creative, comprehensive, accessible, and constantly evolving. Thus, it should incorporate strategies and techniques to keep the Ethics in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering center relevant and up to date. Engineering, mathematics, and science refers to all of the fields that NSF supports; including the social sciences.
- Anticipated funding amount: \$5,000,000

SEC 7010: Reporting of Research Results

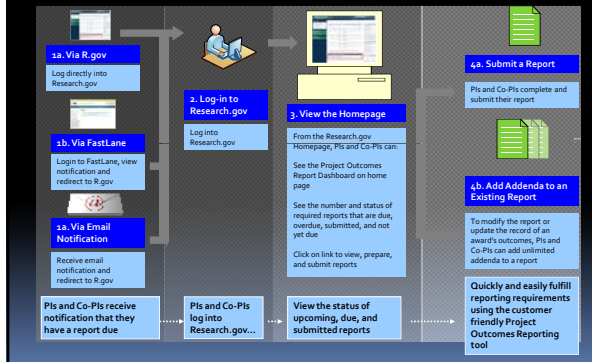
- Section 7010 requires that all final project reports and citations of published research documents resulting from research funded, in whole or in part, by the Foundation, are made available to the public in a timely manner and in electronic form through the Foundation's Website.



SEC 7010: Reporting of Research Results (Cont'd)

- Effective January 4, 2010, new awards and funding increments to existing awards include the new requirement.
- The new report requires PIs to prepare a short summary – specifically for the public – on the nature and outcomes of the award.
- New capability available in Research.gov on August 20!

How PIs will submit PORs



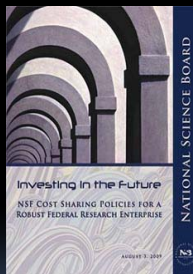
Report Preparation and Submission

- PIs will submit a brief (200 – 800 words of content) report and have the option to upload images via the new reporting tool in Research.gov
- Report is posted publically to Research.gov with a disclaimer:
"The Project Outcomes Report for the General Public is displayed verbatim as submitted by the Principle Investigator (PI) for this award. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this Report are those of the PI and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation; NSF has not approved or endorsed its content"
- Ability to modify a submitted report for up to 30 days after submission. After 30 days, modifications to reports can be made by adding an unlimited number of addenda to the original report

Section 7013: Cost Sharing

■ NSB Cost Sharing Report

- ACA directed NSB to evaluate decision to eliminate cost sharing
- This is a second comprehensive report and recommendations
- NSF has developed an appropriate implementation strategy which is currently at OMB/OIRA for clearance



Changes to Implementation of NSF's Data Sharing Policy



Data Management Plans

- NSF is planning a change in the implementation of its existing data sharing policy
 - Existing policy requires awardees to share their data within a reasonable length of time, so long as the cost is modest.
 - This is the first step in what will be a more comprehensive approach to data.
 - The changes are designed to address trends and needs in the modern era of data-driven science.
 - NSF wants to avoid a one size fits all approach to the issue of data sharing.

Data Management Plans (Cont'd)

- NSF will require all proposals include a data management plan in the form of a supplemental document (maximum of 2-pages)
 - This supplement should describe how the proposal will conform to NSF policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results
 - A valid Data Management Plan may include only the statement that no detailed plan is needed, as long as the statement is accompanied by a clear justification.
 - The Data Management Plan will be reviewed as an integral part of the proposal, coming under Intellectual Merit or Broader Impacts or both, as appropriate for the scientific community of relevance.

Data Management Plans (Cont'd)

- NSF plans to use an automated approach in FastLane to check compliance
 - Similar to that used for mentoring plans

Coming Soon!

- An updated version of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide
- Release, October 2010
 - Anticipated Major Changes Include:
 - Data Management Plans
 - Cost Sharing
 - Project/Performance Site Location
 - FFATA subaward data
 - Compliance with GPG requirements



Ask Early, Ask Often

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