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Indirect Costs for Subrecipients
Cost Allowability 101
Internet Research/IRB Strategies and Challenges
OMB Webcast/Guidance for Universities
Grants Training Workshop, Columbus, Ohio
NACUBO Intermediate Accounting and Reporting
NACUBO 2014 Tax Forum
SBIR/STTR Programs
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Women in Research Compliance
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WH Online Privacy Policy
Contractor/Employee Conflict of Interest
21st Century Government
Electronic Code of Federal Regulations
2014 Updates Conference on Export Controls and Policy

ORA NEWS:

ORA-02-02 BUDGET REVISION POLICY

ORA-02-02.01 Definition of Budget Revision
A Budget Revision is a request for changes in the approved project budget that may require prior approval from the sponsor. When sponsor approval is required, requests are generally made in writing, and must be submitted to the sponsor in sufficient time to allow the request to reach the sponsor 30 days prior to the expiration of the award. Some agencies require the request 45, 60, and even 90 days prior to the expiration of the award. Specific terms and conditions regarding budget allocations can be found in the sponsor award document.

ORA-02-02.02 Regulations Regarding Budget Revisions
OMB Circular No. A-110 states that, “A budget plan is the financial expression of the project or program as approved during the award process. It may include either the Federal and non-Federal share, or only the Federal share, depending upon Federal awarding agency requirements. It shall be related to performance for program evaluation purposes whenever appropriate... Recipients are required to report deviations from budget and program plans, and request prior approvals for budget revisions, in accordance with section C.25.”

In addition to A-110 regulations, sponsors also have varying requirements in regard to budget revisions and needed prior approvals. The budget revision involves the reallocation of budgeted funds, not a transfer of expenditures.

ORA-02-02.03 Reason for Policy
The Office of Research Administration (ORA) is responsible for ensuring that all budget revisions meet federal, state, university, and sponsor guidelines. The ORA is also responsible for recording the appropriate distribution of funds available under the award.

Continued on page 2
University of Akron’s policy requires that the allocation of budgeted funds be properly distributed. There are circumstances when the Principal Investigator/Project Director may determine that the approved, funded budget is not consistent with actual project needs. In these cases, the PI may request the formal reallocation of funds from one budget category to another budget category, as approved by the sponsor (if required), that better reflects the project requirements. This process is called budget revision or rebudgeting.

All budget revisions for sponsored programs require the approval of the Office of Research Administration (ORA).

**ORA 02-02.05 Budget Revisions that Impact F&A (Indirect Costs)**

Revisions to the project budget may have implications to the project’s F&A costs.

Certain budget categories do not generate F&A:

- Capital equipment equal to or greater than $5,000
- Tuition/Scholarships/Fellowships
- Subcontracts over the first $25,000
- NSF participant support
- Rental costs of an off-site facility
- Charges for Patient Care

Examples of budget revisions and impact on F&A:

- If the budget revision transfers funds from a non-F&A bearing budget item (such as equipment) to an F&A bearing item (such as supplies), the F&A dollar amount will increase in order to maintain the contracted F&A percentage. (See Example 1 below)

**Example 1:** A grant has an equipment budget of $10,000 and an F&A rate of 50%. The PI spent only $7,000 on equipment, leaving a $3,000 surplus. The supply budget can utilize the surplus dollars in support of the project. A rebudget of the $3,000 balance must be rebudgeted between the supply line and F&A, since the supply purchases will generate F&A. In this scenario, the $3,000 would be rebudgeted so that $2,000 would be added to supplies and $1,000 added to F&A ($3,000/1.5 = $2,000 for supplies and $1,000 F&A).

- If the budget revision transfers funds from an F&A bearing budget item (such as supplies) to a non-F&A bearing budget item (such as equipment), the F&A dollar amount will decrease in order to maintain the contracted F&A percentage. (See Example 2 below)

**Example 2:** A grant has an equipment budget of $10,000 and an F&A rate of 50%. If the cost of equipment is $12,000, a rebudget of $2,000 from another budget category would be required. In this case the PI could transfer budget from the supply line to the equipment line. This would reduce the F&A since the additional $2,000 spent on equipment does not generate F&A. In this scenario, the supply budget would be reduced by $1,333 ($2,000/1.50) and the F&A budget would be reduced by $667 ($1,333 * 50%). The $2,000 would be added to the equipment budget.

**ORA-02-02.06 Principal Investigator’s Responsibility**

To ensure that the University is in compliance with this policy, the principal investigator/project director is responsible for ensuring that budget revisions are:

- Submitted in sufficient time to allow requests for prior approval to reach the sponsor within the required timeframe
- Supported by a sufficient written explanation on Budget Revision Form that describes in detail why the transfer is necessary
- Prepared and submitted using the UA Budget Revision Form.
NIH News:

NIH and AHRQ Announce Updated Policy for Application Submission

Notice Number: NOT-OD-14-074

Key Dates
Release Date: April 17, 2014

Related Announcements
NOT-OD-14-028
NOT-OD-12-128
NOT-OD-11-101
NOT-OD-11-057
NOT-OD-10-140
NOT-HS-10-002
NOT-OD-09-100
NOT-OD-09-003

Issued by-National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Purpose
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announce a change in policy on application submissions. Effective immediately, for application due dates after April 16, 2014, following an unsuccessful resubmission (A1) application, applicants may submit the same idea as a new (A0) application for the next appropriate due date.

The NIH and AHRQ will not assess the similarity of the science in the new (A0) application to any previously reviewed submission when accepting an application for review. Although a new (A0) application does not allow an introduction or responses to the previous reviews, the NIH and AHRQ encourage applicants to refine and strengthen all application submissions...
**NIH NEWS...continued**

**NIH Clinical Center Directors Annual Report**
Matthew Tanneron, April 10, 2014

Recently, the NIH Clinical Center Directors Annual Report was released by the National Institutes of Health. The NIH Clinical Center is the “world’s largest hospital completely dedicated to clinical research”. In addition to detailing this year’s achievements, this year marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Clinical Center, and a range of historical research and milestones are presented.

A more detailed description of past advances can be seen here. The Center is located in Bethesda, Maryland and overseen by its 8th Director, John I. Fallin, MD. Their operating budget was $397.6 million and employed almost 2,000 staff for fiscal 2013...

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**NIH eRA System Will Go Offline over Memorial Day Weekend**

NIH’s eRA system is taking a holiday over the Memorial Day weekend. All related production systems — eRA Commons, ASSIST, Internet Assisted Review and others — will be unavailable to users from Friday, May 23 at 9:00 p.m. EDT to Tuesday, May 27 at 7:00 a.m. EDT. The purpose of the shutdown is to welcome Unicode, “a computing standard that allows systems to handle virtually any type of text expressed in the world’s writing systems,” such as Greek characters, according to NIH.

However, it also warns grantees that applicants should use these characters in PDF attachments only, as “Grants.gov limits the characters allowed in grant application form fields.” As a result of the shutdown, many funding opportunity announcements with due dates in late May will be extended several days. For specifics, see NIH Guide notice NOT-OD-14-070, posted March 14.

NIH NEWS...continued

New Data on Peer Review Across NIH

April 11, 2014, Sally Rockey

RePORT is your go-to source for NIH data, and I’m excited to let you know about a new addition to the NIH Data Book on RePORT: data on peer review across NIH.

The new “NIH Peer Review” section provides information related to initial peer review across NIH. It includes data on peer review organized by the Center of Scientific Review as well as by NIH institutes and centers...

Application Submission News

Monday, March 17, 2014

Find the latest resources and news in the most recent NIH eSubmission Items of Interest. Project Title length, system support for Unicode, Fellowship application reference letters and Change of Institution requests are among the topics covered in this edition...
May Application Due Date Adjustments Make Way for System Updates

March 30, 2014 by NIH Staff

In May, we’ll be upgrading our electronic Research Administration (eRA) systems to support recognition of Unicode characters (many of you will be happy to know this includes support of Greek symbols). As described in NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-14-071, this upgrade requires us to take all eRA systems, including the eRA Commons and ASSIST, offline for the three day Memorial Day weekend.

To minimize negative impact on those of you who may be preparing applications for due dates between May 25-28, we extended those application deadlines to May 29. See NOT-OD-14-070 for more details.

While it is good news that eRA systems will be able to support Unicode, for your incoming application you still need to avoid using this character set in the actual form fields, as Grants.gov does not yet support this character set. But know that as of the end of May, the characters you include in your research strategy will carry through into eRA systems...

Measuring Purchasing Power in Biomedical Research

March 28, 2014 - Sally Rockey

How can we at NIH compare a $1 million investment in research today with the same $1 million investment twenty years ago, ten years ago, or even five years into the future?

You might be familiar with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures inflation experienced by consumers in their day-to-day living expenses, or the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Price Index, which measures general inflation across the nation’s economy.

But as readers with an active interest in biomedical research, you might be interested in how these numbers ‘translate’ into the research world...
NSF NEWS:

NSF Reporting Requirements

NSF requires technical project reports for all assistance awards. Principal Investigators are required to submit the following reports:

**Annual Project Reports** are due at least 90 days prior to the end of the current budget period. For multi-year standard grants, reports must be submitted 90 days prior to the end of each 12 month period. These reports are not cumulative, but should reflect progress during the most recently completed budget period. Annual reports must be submitted electronically via Research.gov.

**Final Project Reports** are due within 90 days following expiration of the grant. The Final Project Report should address progress in all activities of the project, including any activities intended to address the Broader Impacts criterion that are not intrinsic to the research. This report is not cumulative; it is the last annual report of the project, and should be written specifically for the most recently completed budget period. It is also submitted via Research.gov.

**Project Outcomes Reports for the General Public** are also submitted via Research.gov and are due within 90 days following the expiration of the grant. This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the lay reader, of the nature and outcomes of the project. This report will be posted in the Research Spending and Results section of the Research.gov site exactly as it is submitted. Grantees are to ensure that the report does not contain any confidential, proprietary business information; unpublished conclusions or data that might compromise the ability to publish results in the research literature; or invention disclosures that might adversely affect the patent rights or those of the organization, in a subject invention under the award. Responses are not to contain any private personally identifiable information such as home contact information, individual demographic data or individually identifiable information collected from human research participants.

PIs must submit all required technical reports within the time period specified. Failure to submit timely reports will delay processing of additional funding and administrative actions, including, but not limited to, no cost extensions. In the case of continuing grants, failure to submit timely reports may delay processing of funding increments. **Failure to provide these reports on a timely basis will also delay NSF review and processing of other pending proposals for all identified PIs and co-PIs on a given award.**
NSF NEWS:

NSF & Congress

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES H.R. 4186

March 14, 2014

The House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology approved H.R. 4186, the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science, and Technology (FIRST) Act, on March 13, 2014.

Among other things, the legislation would set funding authorization levels for NSF for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

The full committee markup on this legislation has not yet been scheduled.

The text of the legislation as well as amendments considered yesterday are here: http://science.house.gov/markup/subcommittee-research-and-technology-markup-hr-4186.

Previous Congressional Highlights.

For tools and resources about the impact on NSF’s investments, please see the NSF Toolkit.

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House Subcommittee Votes to Reduce NSF Funding for Social and Climate Science Research

Roger Wood, March 14, 2014

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the US House of Representatives will soon vote on legislation dealing with NSF funding that was passed by one of its subcommittees earlier this week. Once again, Republican members of the Committee have focused their energies on efforts to micromanage NSF awards by proposing significant cuts to social science and climate science research programs while, in the end, supporting a 1.5% overall increase in the NSF budget authorization to $7.28 Billion...
Single Audit Readiness and Survival

Thursday, June 5, 2014 Webinar

Gain an understanding of the policy document that will replace OMB Circular A-133, so you can prepare for future single audits — and emerge from them unscathed.

This program is part of FFMA’s webinar series on implementing OMB’s federal grants reform.

Dealing with the Indirect Costs of Your Subrecipients, Examine Your Options

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 Webinar

In one of the most significant policy changes to come out of OMB’s federal grants reform effort, primary grantee and other pass-through entities are now required to accept indirect charges through one of three options.

This webinar will help you decide how to best employ all of the options available to be both fair to your subrecipients and cost conscious, too...

Cost Allowability 101: The Revised Course for Governments, Universities and Nonprofits

Thursday, May 29, 2014 Webinar

This session will provide a clear and timely review of the new consolidated federal cost principles that will take effect later this year.

This program is part of FFMA’s webinar series on implementing OMB’s federal grants reform.
WEBCAST: The OMB Uniform Guidance: Key Issues for Universities

May 14, 2014, 1:00 - 3:30 pm EDT

REGISTER HERE

Each registration includes up to 5 logins for your institution

Registration Fee $250.00

After two years of discussion and debate, the new OMB uniform guidance was released on December 26, 2013. The Uniform Guidance, or Omni-Circular, consolidates eight OMB circulars into a single document and changes some fundamental concepts underlying the management of sponsored programs.

Research administrators across the country have been reading, highlighting, flagging and tagging the regulations, while also trying to determine how the new material applies to our institutions...
Grants Training in Columbus, OH
May 28-29, 2014

Otterbein University, Office of Sponsored Programs and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Columbus, May 28-29, 2014. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you’ll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals.

Click here for full event details.

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Educators can earn one semester unit of post-baccalaureate-level professional development credit from FPU for participation in a Grant Writing USA Workshop.

Tuition is $425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary.

More information including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration is available here. If you prefer friendly, personal service, please call or write:

The Client Services Team
at Grant Writing USA
800.814.8191
cs@grantwritingusa.com
OVERVIEW:
This program is a fantastic introduction for new professionals moving into higher education accounting as well as those individuals seeking to learn more about other areas of accounting.

This accounting and financial reporting workshop covers net asset classes, restrictions, endowments, investment pool utilization, split interest agreements, capital assets, debt, and operating activities...

OVERVIEW:
This event for intermediate to advanced-level campus tax professionals offers the latest information on issues and best practices in higher education tax compliance and administration.

The program features plenary speakers as well as smaller sessions to address special topics. Networking opportunities are woven throughout the program to bring together participants from comparable institutions to share ideas...
SBIR/STTR PROGRAMS

Department of Defense (DoD) and National Science Foundation (NSF) Proposals for the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) programs

As SBIR is one of the next potential avenues for funding after I-Corps Sites, this is a great opportunity. If you have funding leftover in your I-Corps Sites Budget, this could be a good use of some of that funding. Please let us know if you plan to register.

On May 1 from 8:30am to 3pm, the Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI) will be conducting a training seminar focused on Department of Defense (DoD) and National Science Foundation (NSF) proposals for the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) programs. This seminar is intended for those contemplating an SBIR/STTR proposal submission. It presents essential “how-to” instruction on writing a competitive SBIR/STTR proposal that meets the unique requirements of the DoD and NSF, and the expectations of its reviewers. Training will include:

- SBIR/STTR program basics including the latest policy changes
- Details of unique DOD and NSF requirements and how to address them
- How to find the right solicitation to align with long-term objectives
- Preparing the components of your proposal for maximum impact
- How to approach commercialization planning and connect with commercial partners
- BBC Entrepreneurial Training & Consulting will be conducting the seminar. OAI staff will also be on hand to answer questions about their small business services and to assist you with network connections.

The cost is $20 per participant, which includes lunch.

OAI would like to thank the University of Akron Research Foundation for hosting this event, which is made possible by funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration and JumpStart.
Webinar

Meet the Experts in NIH Peer Review

Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review

May 2 - 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Eastern Time)

The University of Akron Student Union Room 316

The Review of Your NIH Grant Application Begins Here
  Dr. Richard Nakamura, Director, NIH Center for Scientific Review

What You Need to Know about Application Receipt and Referral
  Dr. Cathie Cooper, Director, CSR Division of Receipt and Referral

How Your Application Is Reviewed
  Dr. Lisa Steele, CSR Scientific Review Officer

Jumpstart Your Career with CSR’s Early Career Reviewer Program
  Dr. Monica Basco, Coordinator, Early Career Reviewer Program

If you have questions about the Webinar series, please send an email to AskExperts@csr.nih.gov.

Please RSVP to Kelly Ruszkiewicz: RschSrsvsGA8@uakron.edu
GUIDE TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:

The United States Department of Justice Guide to the Freedom of Information Act is a comprehensive legal treatise on the FOIA. The Guide includes detailed discussions of the FOIA’s procedural requirements, nine exemptions, and litigation considerations. Each section contains a detailed analysis of the key judicial opinions issued on the FOIA.

Each chapter of the Guide will be updated by OIP on a rolling basis as significant new developments in FOIA occur. OIP’s Court Decisions page also provides a regularly updated review of significant FOIA decisions with detailed summaries searchable by key ...

GENERAL INTEREST:

End of ARRA Led to $3.9B Drop in Federal Support for University S&E

March 27, 2014

After the last American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) obligations ran out in FY10, federal obligations for science and engineering at U.S. universities and colleges fell by 11 percent, according to the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Between FY2010-11, federal agency obligations fell by $31.4 billion in current dollars, though excluding ARRA funds, obligations actually rose by $1.2 billion.

R&D obligations fell 10.6 percent, a decline that had its largest impact on funding for R&D-related equipment, facilities and land. Read the report…
STAR METRICS Comes of Age
Roger Woodon, April 10, 2014

The STAR METRICS (Science and Technology for America’s Reinvestment: Measuring the Effect of Research on Innovation, Competitiveness and Science) project grew out of a collaboration between federal agencies and academic institutions – members of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) – in response to a mandate associated with the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or ‘the stimulus’)...
Eighty percent of the grant applications that cross Debbie Rey's desk are immediately rejected.

Ms. Rey supervises the central proposals-processing office at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, in Battle Creek, Mich., where the bulk of the proposals to the foundation are first vetted...
Federal Acquisition Regulation; Extension of Limitations on Contractor Employee Personal Conflicts of Interest

A Proposed Rule by the Defense Department, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on 04/02/2014

Publication Date: Wednesday, April 02, 2014

Action

Proposed Rule.

Summary

DoD, GSA, and NASA are proposing to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement a section of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 to extend the limitations on contractor employee personal conflicts of interest to apply to the performance of all functions that are closely associated with inherently governmental functions and contracts for personal services...
Creating a 21st Century Government: Enhancing Productivity and Achieving Cost Savings by Reducing Fragmentation, Duplication, and Overlap

Beth Cobert  April 08, 2014 at 01:02 PM EDT

Today, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released its fourth annual report identifying opportunities for Congress and the Executive Branch to reduce fragmentation, duplication, and overlap, and achieve cost savings across the Federal government. In addition, GAO provided a progress report on its previous recommendations...

ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

e-CFR Data is current as of April 9, 2014

Title 2: Grants and Agreements

PART 200—UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS...
The Bureau of Industry and Security
Presents
Update 2014 Conference on Export Controls and Policy
July 29-31, 2014

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is preparing for the 27th annual Update Conference on Export Controls and Policy in Washington, D.C. This major outreach activity draws business and government representatives from around the world to learn and exchange ideas about export control issues. It is one of the Department’s most notable international trade events.

Update 2014 will be held July 29-31, 2014, at the Washington Hilton Hotel. A conference room rate will be available to registered attendees when registration opens. Detailed registration and program information will be available in the coming days.

For additional information on Update 2014, you may contact the Outreach and Educational Services Division at: UpdateConference@bis.doc.gov

The Office of Research Administration is Now on Twitter!
Find out about research grant opportunities by following: (http://www.uakron.edu/research/ora)

The ORA (Office of Research Administration) is currently planning its 2014-15 education schedule. If there is a particular topic that you would like to see presented in the next academic year, we want to hear from you!

Contact Kelly Ruszkiewicz: 330-972-7774 e mail: RschSrsvsGA8@uakron.edu

Do you have an idea or know someone who would like to receive GRANT?

Contact me: Mary Samartgedes 330-972-7666