



National Science Foundation Update

FDP Meeting, January 2010
Washington, DC



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Ask Early, Ask Often

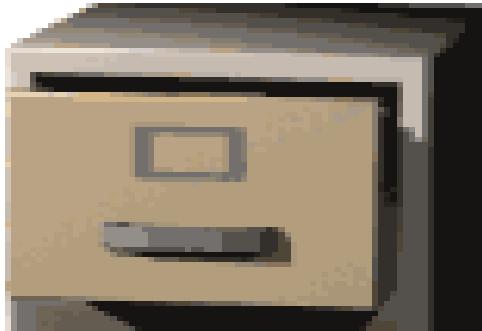
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Covered

- Recent Personnel Changes
- America COMPETES Act
 - NSF Implementation Activities
- Release of MRI Solicitation
- Issuance of the Research Performance Progress Report
- Research.gov



Recent **Personnel** Changes

- Ms. Marty Rubenstein named Acting Chief Financial Officer & Director, Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management
- Dr. Myron Gutmann named Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE)
- Dr. Edward Seidel named as Acting Assistant Director (MPS)
- Dr. Jose Munoz named Acting Director of the Office of Cyberinfrastructure (OCI)



The America COMPETES Act

NSF Implementation Activities

STATUS



SEC 7008: Postdoctoral Research Fellows Implemented in January 2009!!

- “Mentoring - The Director shall require that all grant applications that include funding to support postdoctoral researchers include a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals, and shall ensure that this part of the application is evaluated under the Foundation's broader impacts merit review criterion. Mentoring activities may include career counseling, training in preparing grant applications, guidance on ways to improve teaching skills, and training in research ethics.”
- Reports - The Director shall require that annual reports and the final report for research grants that include funding to support postdoctoral researchers include a description of the mentoring activities provided to such researchers.”



SEC 7008: Postdoctoral Research Fellows

NSF Implementation:

- Each proposal that contains postdoctoral researchers must include, as a supplementary document, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. The mentoring plan must not exceed one page.
- This one-page limitation also is applied to proposals with subawards, and, separately submitted collaborative proposals.



SEC 7008: Postdoctoral Research Fellows

- The Return without Review section and the Proposal Preparation Checklist emphasize that proposals that do not describe mentoring activities provided to postdoctoral researchers **will be** returned without review.



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

- Implementation Plan
 - 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.
- There will be a session on RCR Implementation today at 2:20 in Columbia B!



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.

REPORT



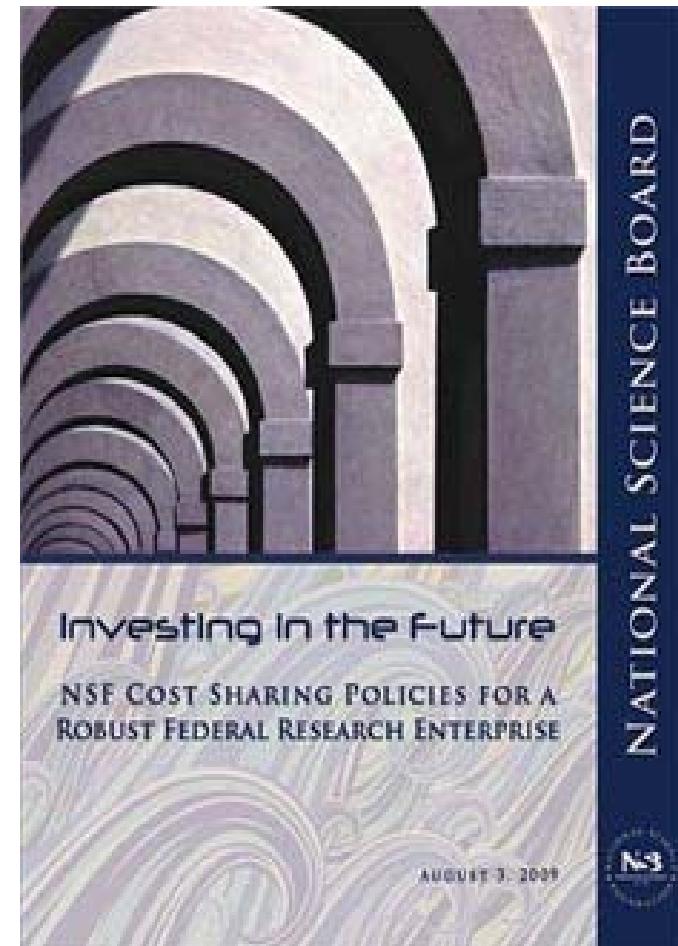
SEC 7010: Reporting of Research Results

- The new report will be prepared and submitted via Research.gov and requires PIs to prepare a summary – specifically for the public – on the nature and outcomes of the award.
- FastLane Project Reports system will be modified to incorporate this requirement.
- Will be implemented via revisions to the NSF Agency Specific Requirements to the Research Terms and Conditions and the Grant General Conditions
- Effective January 4, 2010, new awards and funding increments to existing awards incorporate the new requirement.



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 is reviewing the recommendations and developing an appropriate implementation strategy



Issuance of the MRI Solicitation

- New MRI Solicitation posted last week
 - NSF 10-529 (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2010/nsf10529/nsf10529.htm>)
- Significant Changes Include:
 - A requirement to address in separate paragraphs within the Project Summary the merit review criteria of Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts has been included.
 - The maximum budget request from NSF (\$4 million) is the same for either acquisition or development proposals.
 - Clarification regarding the definitions of organization type and eligibility criteria as used by the MRI program has been provided.
 - Clarification regarding potential effects of subawards on institutional submission limits and cost-sharing requirements has been provided.
 - Clarification regarding appropriate requests for more than one piece of equipment has been provided.
 - Clarification regarding cost-sharing requirements has been provided.
 - The option to use Grants.gov for proposal submission has been provided.



Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)

- Final Federal Register Notice on agency use of the RPPR was posted on January 13, 2010.
 - Still awaiting release of the OSTP/OMB Policy Letter
- Intended to replace other interim performance reporting formats currently in use by agencies that support research and research-related activities.
- Included Burden Estimates from the following agencies:
 - DHHS (including NIH), DHS, DOC/NIST, DOC/NOAA, DOD, DOE, DOED/IES, EPA, NASA, NEH, NSF, USDA/NIFA for a total of 116, 404 annual progress reports
- Agencies will direct recipients to report on the one mandatory component (Accomplishments), and also may direct them to report on optional components, as appropriate.
- The final format (as well as other RPPR documents) is posted on the NSF Web site at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rppr/index.jsp>



Research.gov

- Menu of streamlined research grants management and information services for multiple federal research agencies in one place
 - Services and information tailored to the research community
 - Modernization of FastLane
 - Initial services now available on Research.gov, new services coming soon!
- Learn about what Research.gov can do for you at the Research.gov Presentation (Tuesday, Jan. 26th, 10:25-11:05 am in Columbia A)
 - Background on Research.gov
 - Current Research.gov Service Offerings
 - New Services Coming Soon, including:
 - Science and Innovation
 - Project Outcomes Report
 - Research.gov Performance Progress Report

