

Development & Implementation of the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)



Federal Demonstration Partnership
Faculty Committee Meeting

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Ask Early, Ask Often



● Jean I. Feldman

- Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support &
- Chair, RBM/RPPR Working Group
- Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management
- 703.292.4573
- jfeldman@nsf.gov

● Erika Rissi

- Lead, Research.gov Business Office
- Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management
- 703.292.4816
- erissi@nsf.gov

Background

- The RPPR is an initiative of the Research Business Models (RBM) Subcommittee of the Committee on Science (CoS), a Committee of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)
 - The first meeting of the Working Group was held on May 13, 2004
- Objective of this initiative was to establish a uniform format for reporting performance on Federally-funded research projects
 - Format was developed as the “Research alternative” to the Performance Progress Report (PPR);
 - This proposed policy addresses interim progress reports only;
 - The working group used the NSF progress report format as the model; and
 - The Subcommittee will consider a format for final reports once the progress report format has been issued.

RPPR Components (as approved by OMB/OSTP)

- Cover Page Data Elements

- Mandatory Category

- Accomplishments: What was done? What was learned?

- Optional Categories

- Products: What has the project produced?
 - Participants & Other Collaborating Organizations: Who has been involved?
 - Impact: What is the impact of the project? How has it contributed?
 - Changes/Problems
 - Special Reporting Requirements
 - Budgetary Information
 - Appendix 1: Demographic Information for Significant Contributors

Parameters on Use of Format

- Each of the categories in the RPPR is a separate reporting component.
- Agencies will direct their grant recipients to report on the mandatory category, and *may direct* them to also report on the optional categories, as needed.
- Agencies should direct recipients to complete only those questions that are relevant to the award or agency.



Parameters on Use of Format (Cont'd)

- Agencies will utilize the standard instructions that have been developed, but may provide additional program-specific instructions necessary to clarify a requirement for a particular program.
- Agencies also may develop additional agency- or program-specific reporting categories and instructions; however, such use should be minimized, and OMB review and approval is required.
- Agencies may use other OMB-approved reporting formats, such as the PPR, for example, for research centers/institutes, clinical trials, or fellowship/training awards.

Agencies Submitting Burden Hour Estimates During FR Process

- DHHS (including NIH)
- DHS
- DoC/NIST
- DoC/NOAA
- DoD
- DoE
- DoEd
- EPA
- NASA
- NEH
- NSF
- USDA/NIFA

Total number of annual progress reports covered by these agencies: 116,404



RPPR Status

- The RPPR Policy Letter was signed by OMB/OSTP on April 21, 2010.
- Each agency is required to post an implementation plan on the NSF and RBM website within nine months after issuance of the OMB/OSTP Policy Letter.
 - The plan must address whether the agency plans to use the paper or electronic format & must have an anticipated implementation date.
- OMB/OIRA issued guidance to agencies on how the Paperwork Reduction Act process will work with the RPPR.
 - This is the first such guidance issued for use of an “interagency” format.

NSF Implementation

- NSF plans to:
 - Implement the RPPR as a new service in Research.gov
 - Utilize the following components as part of an NSF-wide standard format:
 - ◆ Mandatory Category:
 - Accomplishments: What was done? What was learned?
 - ◆ Optional Categories:
 - Products: What has the project produced?
 - Participants & Other Collaborating Organizations: Who has been involved?
 - Impact: What is the impact of the project? How has it contributed?
 - Changes/Problems
 - Special Reporting Requirements (where applicable)
 - Appendix 1: Demographic Information for Significant Contributors

NSF Implementation (Cont'd)

- Evaluate the feasibility of expanding sources of citations and other publicly available databases that can be used to populate other portions of the RPPR.
- Expand availability and access of information contained in reports to NSF program staff
- Engage our partners in the research community during the development process.
- **Anticipated Implementation Date:** January, 2013



RPPR Website

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

- OSTP/OMB Policy Letter
- Federal Register Notices
- RPPR Format
- Links to agency implementations
- Link to RBM page

