



# Development & Implementation of the Final Research Performance Progress Report

A Project of the Research Business Models (RBM)  
Subcommittee of the Committee on Science (CoS)

A briefing to the Federal Demonstration Partnership  
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# Ask Early, Ask Often

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# Today's Agenda

- Research Performance Progress Report Background
- Final Research Performance Progress Report  
Working Group Composition
- Accomplishments to Date
- Next Steps

# Background

- The Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) is the result of a government-wide effort to create greater consistency in the administration of federal research awards by streamlining and standardizing reporting formats.
- The RPPR is the product of Research Business Models (RBM) Subcommittee of the Committee on Science (CoS), a committee of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

# Background (Cont'd)

- NSF has led research agencies in the development of the RPPR.
- Project was initiated out of need to develop a “research-specific” reporting format.
- RPPR Working Group started with the NSF Project Report Format to begin deliberations.
- Format developed is for use with interim (i.e., less than final) progress reports.
- Report format is accompanied by a data dictionary that guides development of agency systems in implementing the RPPR.
- The RPPR will be used by federal agencies that support research and research-related activities.

# OMB/OSTP Policy Letter

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Peter R. Orszag *PR* 4/21/10  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
  
John P. Holdren *JPH*  
Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy

SUBJECT: Policy on Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)

**Background:** The National Science and Technology Council, through the Committee on Science (CoS), Research Business Models (RBM) Subcommittee, asked for public comments on federal policies and procedures related to business practices that could be changed to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the nation's research enterprise. One issue raised was inconsistency in interim research progress reporting among Federal agencies. Given the increasing complexity of interdisciplinary and interagency research, it is important for Federal agencies to manage awards in a consistent fashion. Unnecessary variations contribute to administrative burdens, take research time from investigators, and increase associated costs involved in the management of research programs.

The RBM Subcommittee, with the approval of the CoS, developed a uniform reporting format. This format, the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) is intended for annual or other interim research progress reporting. The subcommittee proposed the draft RPPR format for comment in the *Federal Register* [Volume 72, pages 63629-63631, November 9, 2007] and considered all comments in developing the final RPPR format. It is intended to replace other interim performance reporting formats currently in use by agencies. The RPPR does not change the performance reporting requirements specified in 2 CFR Part 215 (OMB Circular A-110) and the Grants Management Common Rule implementing OMB Circular A-102.

1. **Purpose:** This policy establishes a uniform Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format for use by agencies and awarding offices that support research and research-related activities. While the format has been specifically developed for use in grant and cooperative agreement awards, agencies and awarding offices may use this format with relevant contract awards, if appropriate.

# RPPR Website

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

suited to the agency's reporting requirements, for example, for research centers/institutes, clinical trials, or fellowship/training awards or in connection to reporting on program performance.

## Agency RPPR Implementation Plans

- [DHHS/NIH \(and Other PHS Agencies\)](#)
  - [January 2012 update](#)
- [DHS](#)
- [DOC](#)
- [DOD](#)
- [DOE](#)
- [DoEd/Institute of Education Sciences](#)
- [DOJ](#)
  - [Office of Justice Programs](#)
  - [National Institute of Justice/Office of Justice Programs](#)
- [EPA](#)
- [NASA](#)
- [NEH](#)
- [NSF](#)
- [USDA](#)
  - [Forest Services](#)
  - [NIFA](#)

## [OSTP/OMB Policy Letter](#)

### RPPR Format

- [RPPR Format as approved by OMB/OSTP](#)
- [RPPR Format associated with the second Federal Register Notice](#)
- [RPPR Draft Format](#)

### RPPR Data Dictionary

- [RPPR Data Dictionary](#)
- [RPPR Data Dictionary Guide](#)

### Federal Register Notices on Research Performance Progress Reporting

- [Final Notice of a Uniform RPPR Format](#)

# Final Research Performance Progress Report Working Group

- FRPPR co-Chairs
  - Michelle Bulls, NIH
  - Jean Feldman, NSF
- Department/Agency Participation
  - DHS
  - DoC
  - DoD
  - DoED
  - DoE
  - DOJ
  - EPA
  - NASA
  - NEH
  - NIH
  - NSF
  - USDA
  - DoT



# Accomplishments to Date

- Kickoff meeting: March 4, 2013
- Shared information on current status of each agency/department's implementation of the RPPR
- Detailed presentations, including lessons learned, for three agencies that have developed electronic implementations of the RPPR:
  - NSF (Research.gov)
  - NIH (eRA Commons)
  - USDA/NIFS (REEport)

# Accomplishments to Date (Con't)

- Preliminary discussions on:
  - Advantages or challenges of using OSTP/OMB interim format as final report format
  - Current system designs and need for resources that may delay agencies' abilities to implement formats aside from interim format
  - Changes that would be necessary from the interim format for use in final format

# Next Steps

- Re-examination of OMB/OSTP approved format and RPPR data dictionary
- Assess what changes are necessary to use the interim format for reporting of both interim and final project performance

# Questions

