

NSF Update

Federal Demonstration Partnership
September 11, 2014



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Speaker

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Topics

- ✓ Implementation of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
- ✓ Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) Update
 - Uniform Guidance Implementation
 - Other Significant Policy Changes
- ✓ Automated Compliance Checking for Proposals
- ✓ Financial Considerations
 - Early Fiscal Year Closeout and Late Startup
 - System for Award Management (SAM)

NSF Implementation Strategy

- ✓ Since the first issuance of OMB Circular A-110, NSF has always implemented the Circular requirements via policy rather than a regulation.
- ✓ 2 CFR § 200.106, *Agency Implementation* specifically permits OMB to approve use of alternative implementation strategies
- ✓ NSF requested, and, OMB approved NSF's use of a policy document to implement the Uniform Guidance
- ✓ NSF is the only agency which has been granted such authority.

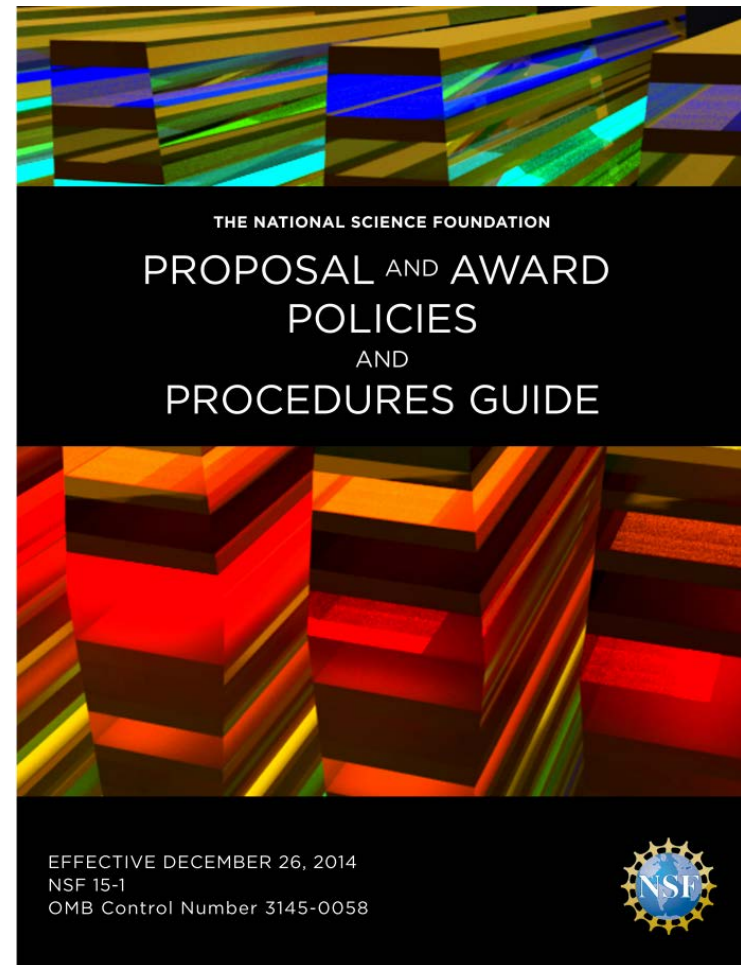
PAPPG – Uniform Guidance

- ✓ Draft PAPPG released for public comment through *Federal Register*, May 9 - July 8, 2014
- ✓ 54 responses from 18 different institutions/individuals
- ✓ Revised PAPPG published in the Federal Register on August 28
- ✓ Final version submitted to OMB for final review and clearance
- ✓ Will be effective on December 26, 2014

PAPPG – Upcoming Policy Changes

✓ NSF Implementation of OMB's Uniform Guidance

✓ Other Significant Policy Changes



Automated Compliance Checking

✓ **March 2013, NSF enforced the following GPG required proposal sections during proposal intake:** (**already being auto-compliance checked*)

- *Project Summary**
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources
- Supplementary Documentation
- *Data Management Plan **
- *Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan (where applicable) **

✓ **Non-Compliance Findings:**

- Triggered when the PI checks the proposal, forwards it to the SPO, and when the SPO submits to NSF
- Error (hard stop) or Warning Message

PAPPG – Other Significant Changes

Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)

- ✓ **Special Exceptions to Deadline Date Policy**
 - **Inclement Weather/Natural and Anthropogenic Events**
- ✓ **Format of the Proposal – Automated Compliance Checking**
- ✓ **Project Description – Broader Impacts**
- ✓ **Results from Prior NSF Support**
- ✓ **Budget Justification**
- ✓ **Ideas Lab**

PAPPG – Other Significant Changes

Award Administration Guide (AAG)

- ✓ **Supplemental Support**
- ✓ **Prior Written Approvals**
- ✓ **Research Terms and Conditions**

Automated Compliance Checking

✓ **GPG-specific auto-compliance checks, anticipated September 15, 2014:**

- Enforce page count rules for the following proposal sections:
 - Project Description
 - Budget Justification
 - Mentoring Plan
 - Data Management Plan
- Budget Checks: implement duration and requested amount compliance checks
 - Example: maximum requested amount cannot exceed \$200,000 for a RAPID proposal

✓ **Funding Mechanism/Proposal Section auto-compliance checks, anticipated January 26, 2015:**

- Enforce proposal sections depending on the funding mechanism type
- Example: enforce a project description for a research grant

Financial Considerations

- ✓ **Preparing for NSF's new financial and accounting system**
 - ACM\$ unavailable from **September 19 – October 13**
 - Last day to submit drawdowns for awards is **September 18**

- ✓ **Beginning October 1, NSF will begin making all payments using the System for Award Management (SAM) banking information**
 - Failure to maintain current and complete information within SAM could prevent awardee from receiving funds.

Key Documents

- ✓ **Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide**

[nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=papp](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=papp)

- ✓ **NSF Budget Requests and Appropriations**

[nsf.gov/about/budget/](https://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/)

- ✓ **NSF Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-2018**

[nsf.gov/about/performance/strategic_plan.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/about/performance/strategic_plan.jsp)

- ✓ **NSB Report on Merit Review**

[nsf.gov/nsb/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsb1333](https://www.nsf.gov/nsb/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsb1333)

For More Information.....

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