

NSF Update

Federal Demonstration Partnership

September 11, 2014



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Speaker

✓ Jean Feldman

- Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support
- Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management
- jfeldman@nsf.gov
- 703.292.4573

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

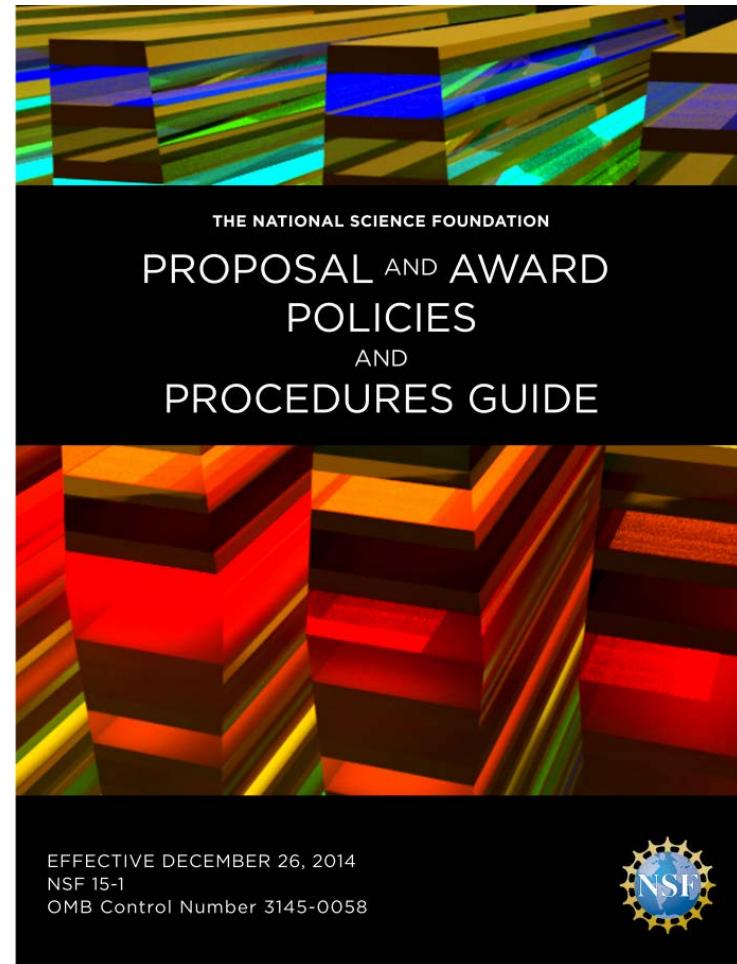
- ✓ Since the first issuance of OMB Circular A-110, NSF has always implemented the Circular requirements via policy rather than a regulation.
- ✓ 2 CFR § 200.106, *Agency Implementation* specifically permits OMB to approve use of alternative implementation strategies
- ✓ NSF requested, and, OMB approved 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



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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

✓ **NSF Budget Requests and Appropriations**

nsf.gov/about/budget/

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

nsf.gov/about/performance/strategic_plan.jsp

✓ **NSB Report on Merit Review**

nsf.gov/nsb/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsb1333



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For More Information.....

Ask Early, Ask Often!

policy@nsf.gov

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nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp