NIH Virtual Seminar 2020

**Due to the many changes in federal guidance, please contact our office as soon as you identify a funding opportunity to which you are interested in applying.**

NIH hosted a Virtual Seminar on October 27 – October 30. NIH covered many topics such as where to find research opportunities, who to contact, what new changes will be coming and other compliance and research related items. An important tool NIH uses to locate already funded opportunities and identify Institutes and Centers (ICs) which may provide funding is [NIH Reporter](https://report.nih.gov/). The NIH [Matchmaker](https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter_matchmaker.cfm) tool will allow faculty to provide information on their research and view similar funded research as well as information on which [NIH IC’s](https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/list-nih-institutes-centers-offices) will be a good match for their individual research. Researchers are encouraged to sign up for NIH’s [LISTSERV](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htmddff) to get updated weekly announcements from NIH. NIH encourages Researchers to contact Program Officers early to discuss ideas and potential funding opportunities. NIH funding opportunities are available on the NIH [website](https://grants.nih.gov/funding/searchguide/index.html#/). Please note that NIH has changed the [R15](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r15.htm) requirements. NIH also list the [standard due dates](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/due-dates.htm) for parent announcements. Please make sure to always check the [Funding Opportunity Announcements](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/prepare-to-apply-and-register/understand-funding-opportunities.htm).

The NIH seminar focused on changes that the federal government and NIH has instituted or will be instituted in November 2020 and effective January 2021. NIH will be making changes to the Biosketch and Other Support which will be available in November. Other key points NIH focused on are as follows:

* All grant activity must be transparent.  Documentation is required for all activity.
* Due to JCORE guidance, details such as gifts received, data format, data collections, in-kind contributions must all be [disclosed](https://www.acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/12132019ForeignInfluences.pdf) to NIH. [JCORE](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Update-from-the-NSTC-Joint-Committee-on-Research-Environments-July-2019.pdf) focuses on foreign influence in research based on the [JASON](https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/jasonsecurity/JSR-19-2IFundamentalResearchSecurity_12062019FINAL.pdf) Report which was issued by NSF.
* Biosketches and Other Support – this is being streamlined across all federal agencies.  NIH has worked with NSF and will be changing the guidelines and information which will be provided in the Biosketches and Other Support Pages.
* Biosketches: Required for senior key personnel; all scientific appointments must be listed regardless if there is compensation;  Section D will be removed – this information will now be required in Other Support.
* Other Support: will still be part of JIT; gifts and in-kind support such as space, equipment, supplies, resources, etc., must be included; start-up funds is not required if it is from QC but must be reported if the funds are external; foreign resources must be included; any and all foreign activities must be included.  In-kind support will not be viewed by NIH as cost. Disclosure of foreign activities is required for collaborations, co-authorship, facilities, and finances. Funds will need to be reported for each year on the form – total direct and indirect costs including budget year.
* New forms and instructions will be released in November for Other Support and Biosketch. New forms effective January 2021. New [NIH Changes](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/notices.htm) are in effect as of November 12, 2020. Two have been in effect since August 2020: Telecommunications is working abroad or being in a foreign nations; and Terminations is to strengthen the ability of federal agencies that no longer meets the program goals and objectives of the sponsor to be terminated.  The awards can be [terminated](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_8/8.5.2_remedies_for_noncompliance_or_enforcement_actions-_suspension__termination__and_withholding_of_support.htm) in whole or in part; is deemed no longer effective to NIH or other federal agency; and no longer meets agency goals.
* New NIH [Grant Policy Statement](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/nihgps/index.htm) (GPS) will be released in November 2020.
* [SciEncv](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/) is the preferred method to generate Biosketch – NSF is also using this.
* [Telecommunications](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2312b40f5181614169488e0699a25e61&mc=true&node=se2.1.200_1216&rgn=div8) from or in a foreign country must be disclosed as it could implicate the future of your grant. This originated from Uniform Guidance issued by [OMB Code CFR 200.216](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=60623b20e6213558b4aa6ab7eb76b619&node=2:1.1.2.2.1.3&rgn=div6). Applies to all federal agencies.
* Methods of Procurement: Procurement and Hiring should be “[Buy American and Hire American](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2017-04-21/pdf/2017-08311.pdf)”.  This will be in Notice of Awards and will flow down to Subawards.
* [NIH Closeouts](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/closeout/index.htm) must be timely.  NIH will have one year, changed from 270 days to closeout a grant.  Grantee Recipient of award has 120 days to closeout the grant.  This means NIH may come back a year later and request more information from grantee.
* New definitions will be in GPS and Uniform Guidance
* [RPPR](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/index.htm) will now become more performance based.  The report must focus on the program design with clear goals and objectives.  There will be a new section for Program Planning and Design.  This will track performance of the grant.
* [Cost Transfers](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/index.htm) – major audit flag and will be monitored and audited.
* Supplies and Entertainment and [allowable costs](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_7/7.9_allowability_of_costs_activities.htm) – general supplies are not allowable expenses; office supplies are not allowed; entertainment costs such as meals are not allowed.  These expenses are not allowed unless it is part of the programmatic purposes of the grant and must be preapproved by NIH prior to any expenses incurred.
* Any administrative or clerical costs should be part of [indirect costs](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part200-appIII.pdf).
* Debarment: PIs/Institutions must check with [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/searchRecords/search.jsf) that people participating in the project are not debarred from working on federal grants.
* Key Personnel will always be named on the Notice of Award.  Just because they were listed as key personnel in the proposal, if they are not in the NOA, NIH does not necessarily deem them as Key Personnel. Key Personnel must be named in the NOA. If there is a conflict of Key Personnel and [Multiple PIs](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/multi_pi/): there must be a clear and concise conflict resolution plan
* [Change of Recipient Organization](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_8/8.1.2_prior_approval_requirements.htm#Change3) – always requires [NIH prior approval](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_8/8.1.2_prior_approval_requirements.htm); may also require peer review.
* NIH will not fund an organization to be a conduit for another institution who is receiving the bulk of the funds; Grant award must be held by the institution conducting the substantive part of the work and directing the research.
* Any change in scope of the grant requires [NIH prior approval](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_8/8.1.2_prior_approval_requirements.htm).