

Stay

In-The-Know

With the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs

April 2012

Source: Managing Federal Grants

Upcoming Events

Federal Demonstration Partnership

[General Meeting](#)

May 13-15, 2012

The Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

Research.gov Webinars

[Guide to Financial Services on Research.gov](#)

May 17, 2012

[ACM\\$ Preview: A New Approach to Award Payments](#)

September 24, 2012

National Institutes of Health

[Small Business Innovation Research & Small Business Technology Transfer Conference](#)

May 30—June 1, 2012, Louisville, KY

ORSP Announcements

How to Write a Winning CAREER Proposal

Faculty interested in applying to the NSF Faculty Early CAREER Development Program may access to this on-demand Webinar through May 17, 2012. Topics covered include what to do before you start writing and writing the proposal step-by-step. Contact ORSP for login details.

PDF Presentations Now Available Online:

- [2011 NSF Regional Grants Conference Highlights](#)
- [“Got Funding?: Successful Strategies for Locating the Right Opportunity”](#)
 - Slide show from ORSP 4/19 Workshop

ORSP User Satisfaction Survey Results

ORSP conducted its first-ever user satisfaction survey in the spring of 2011. The results from that survey are in and calculated. Please click on the link above to review the results. ORSP thanks everyone who participated in this very important survey!

NIH: Promoting Objectivity in Research

Following the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) final rule in 2011, Universities will be required to identify and manage financial conflicts of interest (FCOI) by establishing standards that provide reasonable expectation that the design, conduct, and reporting of research will be free from bias resulting from Investigator FCOIs. ***Institutions applying for or receiving NIH/NSF funding must be in compliance with updated financial conflicts of interest requirements by August 24, 2012.*** Details about MSU's plan to comply with this policy will be coming soon.

National Institutes of Health

Helpful Links

[eRA Commons : LikeThis \(A Thesaurus-Based Search Tool\)](#)

LikeThis is a new search tool designed to aid Principal Investigators in finding and learning about other research projects with similar goals and objectives to their own.

[Commons Training](#)

A Web tutorial for logging into eRA Commons and resetting/unlocking your Commons Account.

[eRA Commons - eSNAP User Guide](#)

eSNAP is a streamlined process for the submission of information necessary to receive a non-competing award under the SNAP authorities. The eSNAP module allows extramural grantee institutions to submit an electronic version of a SNAP PHS 2590 Progress Report, also known as a Type 5 (non-competing) progress report, to the NIH grants management officers.

[NIH and Research Misconduct](#)

A blog posting describing NIH's role when receiving an allegation of research misconduct.

[NSF-NIH Interagency Initiative: Core Techniques and Technologies for Advancing Big Data Science and Engineering \(BIGDATA\)](#)

BIGDATA seeks applications that develop and evaluate core technologies and tools that take advantage of available collections of large data sets to accelerate progress in science, biomedical research, and engineering. These applications must include a description of how the project will build capacity.

The Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have identified BIGDATA as a program focus. In particular, this initiative covers the needs for core techniques and technologies for advancing big data science and engineering. Full details on the programmatic goals and application process are described in the NSF Program Solicitation ([NSF-12-499](#)).

Each small project may receive NIH support up to \$150,000 in direct funds up to 3 years, while mid-scale projects may receive NIH support ranging from \$150,000 to \$650,000 in direct funds up to 5 years. In all, participating NIH Institutes have committed up to \$2.75M in FY 2012 and/or 2013. It is anticipated that NIH will pay 4 to 6 small projects and 1 to 2 mid-scale projects through the program in fiscal years 2012 and/or 2013, subject to availability of

[New and Updated FAQs for the 2011 Revised Regulation - Promoting Objectivity in Research - NIH-Supported Institutions](#)

To address the increasing complexities of the financial interests held by biomedical and behavioral researchers and the resulting interactions among Government, research Institutions, and the private sector, the Public Health Service (PHS) and the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published revised regulations on the *Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research for which PHS Funding is Sought* and *Responsible Prospective Contractors* (commonly known as the Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) regulations).

[New and Updated FAQs for the 2011 revised regulation - Promoting Objectivity in Research - NIH-Supported Institutions](#)

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The regulations establish new standards and clarify previously established standards to be followed by Institutions that apply for or receive research funding from PHS Awarding Components (including the NIH) for grants, cooperative agreements, and research contracts.

The primary goal is to promote objectivity by establishing standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct, and reporting of research funded under PHS grants, cooperative agreements and

[NIH Launches e-Source: An Online Resource for on Behavioral & Social Science Research Methods](#)

e-Source is a Web-based interactive anthology providing psychologists, economists, anthropologists, sociologists and other scientists with the latest research methods and tools to address emerging challenges in public health.

The goal of the program is to demonstrate the potential of behavioral and social science research, focusing on applying research findings to public health activities and the potential to enhance biomedical research. It is also a useful training resource for biological scientists, providing them with a basic foundation for collaborations with behavioral and social scientists.

e-Source includes chapters under five categories relevant to behavioral and social science:

1. Setting the Scene
2. Describing How
3. Explaining Why
4. What Works
5. Emerging Issues

Several features engage the user and promote sharing, including a discussion board, a notes feature to save content and share it with others, and a function which allows the user to print a page or a chapter as a PDF. Unlike a printed textbook, the site has been developed with the expectation that it will provide a foundation of methods, but also evolve as new issues emerge.

[Forward Focus Workshops: Strategic Planning for the NIH Common Fund](#)

The NIH is hosting public meetings in Chicago, IL, and San Francisco, CA, to gather input from the broad community to help inform potential new program ideas for the NIH Common Fund. Ideas on the most significant research opportunities or most pressing challenges for the health research community are being sought.

The Common Fund supports goal-driven, research networks in which investigators work in a coordinated and synergistic way to generate data, solve technological problems, and/or otherwise create resources and tools that will be stimulatory to the broader research community. These programs typically involve a series of integrated funding initiatives that address scientific areas that are broadly relevant to human health and disease. Funding for each program is limited to 5-10 years, so goals for each program must be achievable within that time frame. More information on the Common Fund can be found at <http://commonfund.nih.gov/>.

Meeting participants will discuss potential new Common Fund ideas that fall within one or more of the following broad themes:

- Fundamental Biological Principles
- Computational and Informatics Challenges
- Opportunities for Human Subjects Research

National Science Foundation

NSF April Current

Implementation of Revised National Science Board-approved Merit Review Criteria

Based on the NSB Task Force's analyses and recognizing the provision in ACRA mandating the retention of the Broader Impacts criterion, the NSB determined that the two current Merit Review Criteria remain appropriate for evaluation of NSF proposals and should be retained. The Task Force did, however, seek to clarify and enhance the function of the criteria. Therefore, the NSB's report contains the following three principles that govern NSF's approach to utilizing these criteria and provides guidance addressing several issues associated with their implementation:

- All NSF projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.
- NSF projects, in the aggregate, should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals. These "Broader Impacts" may be accomplished through the research itself, through activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that

are supported by, but are complementary to the projects.

- Meaningful assessment and evaluation of NSF-funded projects should be based on appropriate met-

rics, keeping in mind the likely correlation between the effect of broader impacts and the resources provided to implement projects. If the size of the activity is limited, evaluation of that activity in isolation is not likely to be meaningful. Thus, assessing the effectiveness of these activities may best be done at a higher, more aggregated level than the individual project.

In response to the report, the NSF established a Merit Review Criteria Working Group comprised of representatives from Directorates/ Offices. The Working Group has been meeting on a weekly basis to develop plans for consideration by senior management regarding implementation of the Board's recommendations.

Misc. Agency Updates

[Obama Administration Announces \\$14.2 Million in New Funding to Develop Lightweight Materials for Advanced Vehicles](#)

[New Executive Director Begins at President's Bioethics Commission](#)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

[NIFA Update - March 2012](#)

[NIFA Update - April 2012](#)

[President Obama's Intent to Appoint Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy as Director of USDA's NIFA](#)

NSF-Dear Colleagues

[Unsolicited Proposals at the Interface of the Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Engineering](#)

[Prepare, Engage, and Motivate a Diverse STEM Workforce - Design Proposals to Develop a Broadening Participation in STEM Resource Network](#)

[Data-Intensive Education-Related Research Funding Opportunities](#)

