



Worker Training Program Meeting

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Agenda

- COVID-19 Administrative Flexibilities
- Closeout
- Other Support
- Grants Management Specialist Assignments



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COVID-19 Administrative Flexibilities

[COVID-19 Administrative] flexibilities are applicable to **NIH applicants and recipients where the entity is conducting research activities related to or affected by COVID-19.** Affected entities are those that have been closed, or business activities have been hindered due to COVID-19 precautionary measures and/or illnesses. Entities that are affected will be asked to provide documentation to NIH describing the effects, and how long their facility and NIH related research, clinical practices, or instruction was and/or will be affected.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-086.html>

COVID-19 Administrative Flexibilities

- **Pre-Award Costs**
- **Extension of Post-Award Financial and Other Reporting**
 - notify the assigned grants management specialist and program official
 - NIH will accept these late reports but will delay issuing grant awards until the reports are received and accepted.
- **Prior Approval Requirement Waivers**
 - recipients have rebudgeting authority available under NIH Grants Policy Statement Sec. 8.1.1.2
 - recipients that are not under Streamlined Non-competing Application Process (SNAP) have the discretion to carry forward unobligated balances on their active grants for immediate efforts to support activities related to or affected by COVID-19 as long as the charges are allowable costs and are within the scope of the original award.
 - affected recipients that have active non-SNAP grant projects may extend the final budget period of the approved project period on active grants one time for a period of up to 12 months without requesting prior approval, by notifying the assigned grants management specialist.

COVID-19 Administrative Flexibilities

- **Cost Related Flexibilities/Expenditure of Award Funds**
 - Salaries
 - Stipends
 - Travel
 - Conference Registration Fees
 - NIH-Supported Meetings and Conferences
- **Extension of Closeout**
 - NIH will allow recipients that are affected by COVID-19 to delay submission of any final financial, performance, and other reports required by the terms and conditions of award for the closeout of expired projects, provided that proper notice about the reporting delay is given by the recipient to the agency. This delay may not exceed one year.
- **Extension of Single Audit Submission**
 - Per 45 CFR 75.501, institutions expending \$750,000 or more in Federal funding in a Fiscal Year (FY) are required to submit an annual Single Audit report.
 - NIH will allow recipients directly affected by COVID-19 to delay the completion and submission of the Single Audit report for up to 12 months beyond the normal due date.
 - The delayed completion and submission would still qualify the recipient as a “low-risk auditee” under the criteria of 45 CFR 75.520.

COVID-19 Updates

- Most up to date information:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural_disasters/coronavirus.htm
- Frequently Asked Questions:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-083.html>
- Administrative Flexibilities Guide Notice:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-086.html>



Closeout

Closeout Requirements

- Final Federal Financial Report (FFR)
- Final or Interim* Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)
- Final Invention Statement (FIS) (not required for U45s or UH4s)

Closeout documents are due 120 calendar days after the end of the project period

*Interim RPPR is required instead of the Final RPPR if a renewal (Type 2) application has been submitted

Final Federal Financial Report

- Similar to the Annual FFR, but cannot include unliquidated obligations
- Expenditures reported on the Final FFR must be consistent with the last quarterly Cash Transaction Report in the Payment Management System. A mismatch may result in a federal debt collection notice!
- A final FFR cannot be revised without prior approval if there was an offset on the award – contact your grants management specialist first

Final or Interim Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)

- Similar to the Annual RPPR, but includes “Section I. Outcomes”
- Whatever you put in the Outcomes Section will go on the NIH public website, so please review for accuracy/ completeness.
- Final RPPR vs. Interim RPPR
 - If you’ve submitted a Type 2 renewal application, the report will be called an Interim RPPR.
 - The Final and Interim RPPRs are the same form.
 - If your Type 2 does not get funded, your Interim RPPR becomes a Final RPPR in our system automatically.

What if you're not ready to closeout?

- You may extend the final budget period up to 12 months without prior approval if:
 - no term of award specifically prohibits the extension
 - no additional funds are required to be obligated by the NIH awarding IC
 - the project's originally approved scope will not change
- A link for this extension is available in the eRA Commons 90 days prior to the end of the current project period.
- You must certify:
 - There is additional work to be done on the existing project scope.
 - There are funds remaining in the grant to do the additional work.
- If you miss the eRA Commons link, you can submit a prior approval request for a No-Cost Extension through the Commons.

NOTE: The fact that funds remain at the completion date of the grant is not, in itself, sufficient justification for an extension

For More Information on Closeout:

- See Section III of your Notice of Award
- NIH Resource Page:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/closeout/index.htm>
- NIH Forms and Instructions Library:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/all-forms-and-formats.htm>





Other Support

NIH POLICY ON OTHER SUPPORT

- Other Support has long been defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement ([1.2 Definitions](#) and [2.5.1 Just-in-Time](#))
 - “All financial resources, whether Federal, non-Federal, commercial or organizational, available in direct support of an individual's research endeavors, including, but not limited to, research grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, or organizational awards.”
- NIH issued [NOT-OD-19-114](#) to clarify the existing Other Support requirements
- Our Goal: Facilitate the transparency of all research activities, both domestic and foreign not merely financial.

Other Support Documentation

NIH applicants must:

- List all positions, scientific appointments, and affiliations - both domestic and foreign held by senior/key personnel. This includes all titled academic, professional, or institutional appointments whether or not remuneration is received (including adjunct, visiting, or honorary).
- Report all resources and other support for all individuals designated in an application as senior/key personnel including individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of a project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not they request salaries or compensation.
- Report all current projects and activities that involve senior/key personnel, even if the support received is only in-kind, including foreign financial support, research or laboratory personnel, lab space, scientific materials, selection to a foreign “talents” or similar-type program, or other foreign or domestic support.
- Provide the total award amount for the entire award period covered (including facilities and administrative costs), as well as the number of person-months (or partial person-months) per year to be devoted to the project by the senior/key personnel involved.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-114.html>



GM Specialist Assignments

New Assignments

- Why
 - More responsive and timely
 - Support greater consistency
- Who
 - Senior Grants Management Specialists
- How
 - The Commons shows the current assignments
 - Introductory emails



Summary of Helpful NIH Web Pages

Office of Extramural Research (OER) Web Page:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

NIH Grants Policy Statement:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/>

NIH Extramural Nexus – newsletter for the extramural community:

<http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/nexus-by-date/>

Grant Application Basics:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_basics.htm

eRA Training: Video Tutorials

http://era.nih.gov/era_training/era_videos.cfm

Summary of Helpful NIH Web Pages

eRA Commons Web pages:

<http://era.nih.gov/>

eRA Commons User Guides:

http://era.nih.gov/commons/user_guide.cfm

Intellectual Property Policy:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/intell-property.htm>

Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT):

<http://report.nih.gov>

RePORT Expenditures & Results (RePORTER):

<http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>



Points of Contact

General Application Questions:

E-Mail: GrantsInfo@nih.gov

Phone: 301-945-7573

Grants.gov Customer Support:

E-Mail: support@grants.gov

Webpage: <http://grants.gov/>

Phone: 1-800-518-4726

eRA Commons Helpdesk:

Web: <https://grants.nih.gov/support/index.html>

Toll-free: 1-866-504-9552

Phone: 301-402-7469

Hours: Mon-Fri, 7a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time



Thank you!
Any questions?