

News Flash – Breaking News from the Office of Clinical Awards Administration

Threeish things you need to know right now:

Salary and Tuition rate updates

As of January 2020 the new NIH salary cap is \$197,300 for a calendar year appointment, \$147,975 for academic year appointment and \$16,442 per summer month. This is a 5,000 increase from last year. Please be sure to check with project team members to make sure that they are still at or above the cap.

At the same time NIH, also raised the Graduate Student stipend rate to \$25,230 per year. This is the minimum that you should pay a grad student on an NIH grant with \$26,500 the average. Note, according to the current policies of the Graduate School, when you include a graduate student in your proposal you also need to include **100% tuition** cost, currently \$5,652, for each student regardless of their effort on the grant.

Many other sponsors use this cap besides NIH please make sure to note if they do on the MR budget form and your internal budget justification

NIH F Forms High Level Overview

The NIH Forms F will need to be used for the next big deadline cycle going into effect on all proposals due on or after May 25, 2020. An overview of the significant changes can be found on the [web](#) as part of the new General Application guide for NIH and other PHS agencies. Highlights include the following:

- On the Cover Page Supplement form, a new Human Fetal Tissue, section that has two new uploads pertaining to human fetal tissue obtained from elective abortions.
 - The new guidance states that if you are using human fetal tissue obtained from elective abortions regardless of the type of proposal and the amount of funds you are requesting you **CANNOT USE A MODULAR BUDGET** form.
- In the Human Subject section on these new forms you once again need to separate the Inclusion of Women and Minorities for the Inclusion of Individuals Across the Lifespan, (Children/Older adults)
- On the Assignment Request form, they removed the “do not assign to awarding component” and “do not assign to study section” fields and instructions. They added “rationale for assignment suggestions” field. Both of these fields should be used for this type of information, it should not be included in your cover letter.

- The Bio forms have been revised to have a new expiration date. This is something that OSP looks at when reviewing proposals so all bios will need to be updated on the new version of the form. While you are doing this, also update the following, (which OSP has been rejecting bios):
 - Remove all completed support that is more than 3 years old. This means nothing should be listed that was completed before the second half of 2016
 - You should never list:
 - Pending support on your bio. That is for the current and pending JIT submission
 - % effort and yearly/total amount awarded. This information should only be included in JIT current and pending or when asked

If the roll out of these forms is delayed, I will send out a mass email to all PIs that have made me aware that they are targeting the next set of deadlines (June – August)

NIH Specific Aims content updates

During the February/March submission cycle there was a new error warning on some proposals regarding graphic files in the specific aim page of proposals. After doing research on this message, I found that NIH is in the process of issuing a new policy regarding the use of graphic files on both the specific aim and abstract files due to potential copyright infringement. The warning is a notice of the upcoming policy change and will not prevent your proposal from being submitted. It is recommended that, although this is not a policy yet, you do not include graphics in these two files to avoid issues and preemptively get used to this upcoming policy,

New NCI Effort guidelines

In March, the National Cancer Institute, NCI, released their policy for minimum effort levels acceptable for their award. This new criteria will be part of their funding consideration going forward. Applications that do not meet the minimum criteria will not be considered for funding. If your proposal was submitted before this policy was enacted you will need to raise your effort to the minimum level to be funded.

Their guidelines include the following:

- R/U01 Single PI 15% (1.8 cal months) Multi PI 10% (1.2 cal months) each PI
- R21 5% (0.6 cal months)
- R35 50% (6 cal months)
- P01 PI 15% (1.8 cal months), Project PI 10% (1.2 cal months) if both 25% (3 cal months); Core Leader 5% (0.6 cal months)

Additional guidelines can be found in [NOT-CA-20-33](#).

Currently, this only applies to NCI, but I am often asked what is the standard effort for a certain type of award. Going forward I will be using these levels for all NIH ICs.

Also, keep in mind that effort reductions will not be approved below these levels for subsequent funding years.

Keep in mind – late breaking news

The National Institute of Minority Health Disparity is no longer accepting R21 proposals through the parent announcement. At the same time they released their own PAR ([PAR-20-150](#)), which is listed and “Clinical Trial Optional”, covering all types of submissions.

NIH Summer deadlines are closer than you think so please let me know if you plan to submit. Once I know you are targeting a deadline I can make sure that you are kept up to date on all the changes that may affect your submission.

If you have questions about the information included in this NewFlash, or relating to the submission of sponsored projects, feel free to contact us at 631-638-4490/ext 8-4490 or via email at SOMCAA@stonybrookmedicine.edu.