NSF Update

• Changes to the Grant Proposal Guide
• Changes to Merit Review Criteria
• Update on compliance practices
• Changes to Annual Reporting with brief overview of Research.gov
Significant changes include:

Biographical Sketch

• Revision of the instructions to rename the “Publications” section to “Products”
  • This change makes clear that products may include, but are not limited to, publications, data sets, software, patents, and copyrights.
Significant changes include:

Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources

• Aggregated description of the internal and external resources that are, or will be available to the project (both physical and personnel) should be provided.
• The new format will assist proposers in complying with the NSF cost sharing policy.
• Must upload an attachment for Facilities section.
  • If there is no facilities, equipment and other resources information, a statement to that effect should be included in this section of the proposal and uploaded into FastLane.
Significant changes include:

PD/PI can be removed from budget form

• The Budget form has been updated to describe a new functionality in FastLane regarding senior personnel and the budget.

• If no person months and no salary are being requested for senior personnel, they should be removed from Section A of the budget. This change was made for consistency with NSF’s cost sharing policy.
  • Lead PI can now be removed
Significant changes include:

Must include F&A on budget

- Except as noted in the GPG sections on participant support and international travel grants, or as specified in an NSF program solicitation, the applicable indirect cost rate negotiated by the organization with the cognizant negotiating agency must be used in computing indirect costs for a proposal.
- Investigators can no longer request a waiver of indirect from the office of VPRGS.
Significant changes include:

References Cited

• If there are no references cited, a statement to that effect should be included in this section of the proposal and uploaded into FastLane.

• Please do not use et al. You must list all authors.
A New version of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) NSF 13-1

- Effective January 14, 2013
- Revisions to the NSF Merit Review Criteria which implement the National Science Board’s (NSB) recommendations. Changes will affect the project summary and project description sections of proposals.
Evaluating Merit Review Criteria

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:
   a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
   b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?
Merit Review Criteria

• Project Summary will require text boxes in FastLane not to exceed 4,600 characters and 51 lines. It will include:
  • Overview
  • Statement on Intellectual Merit
  • Statement on Broader Impacts

• Remember to recheck summary if pasting into text boxes from another document, because some characters are not accurately pasting.
Merit Review Criteria

- Proposals with special characters may upload Project Summary as a PDF document
  - Must have special Characters to upload as PDF
- Text boxes must be filled out or a project summary must be uploaded or FastLane will **not accept the proposal**.
  - Collaborative is exception
Merit Review Criteria

• Project Description
  • Must contain a separate section with a discussion of the broader impacts of the proposed activities
  • Results from Prior Support (if any) must address intellectual merit and broader impacts
  • May be returned without review if missing these elements

• Resources
  • NSF Merit Review Website
    www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/
  • Resources for the Proposer Community
    www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/resources.jsp
NSF Proposal Compliance

- Adherence to the Grant Proposal Guide varies by division.
  - DMR is taking basically a zero-tolerance approach regarding compliance with the Grant Proposal Guide.
    - Some examples include: A letter of collaboration included with a proposal can only say, in effect, "I agree to do the tasks listed in the Project Description". Anything more (e.g., context about what the collaborator's expertise is, or mentioning that this continues an existing collaboration) is no longer allowed, and would be cause for either deletion of the letter or outright rejection of the proposal without review.
    - Your references have to be perfectly formatted - leaving out titles, or leaving out the second page number, or using "et al." instead of long author lists - all of these can lead to a proposal being rejected without review.
Stay tuned for future changes!

Have questions, please let us know at

NSF@osp.msu.edu

or check out our website at:

www.osp.msu.edu
Stacy Salisbury
Stephanie Hay
Contract and Grant Administration
January 2013
Project Reporting in FastLane is moving to Research.gov

- NSF will require project reporting on Research.gov, replacing NSF’s annual, final, and interim project reporting capabilities in the FastLane System.

- This does not affect proposal submissions in FastLane.
Key Differences of the New Project Report System

- Project reporting dashboard
- Structured collection of data
- Rich text editor
- PDF upload to support images, charts, and other complex graphics
- Improved citation search through Thomson Web of Science
- Special reporting requirements are controlled by solicitation
- PI no longer provides demographic information on significant participants
NSF Project Report Components

• Accomplishments: What was done? What was learned?
• Products: What has the project produced?
• Participants & Other Collaborating Organizations: Who has been involved?
• Impact: What is the impact of the project? How has it contributed?
• Changes/Problems
• Special Reporting Requirements (where applicable as noted in the RFP)
• Appendix 1: Demographic Information for Significant Contributors
Changes to Project Participants Demographic Information

- NSF no longer allows PI/co-PIs to enter demographic information on behalf of project participants. Instead, all participants identified on the report will receive an email requesting them to provide their own demographic information directly to NSF. The email will contain a link to the appropriate site where each participant can enter his or her own demographic information. Submission of this information is voluntary. This change was made to comply with Federal-wide privacy standards and to better protect the privacy of participants.
Project Reports Access: PI View

- Login with FastLane User ID and password
- Access Project Report Dashboard or navigation
# Annual, Final, and Interim Project Reports: PI View

## Project Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Number</th>
<th>Award Title</th>
<th>Report Type</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Days Until Overdue</th>
<th>Report Due Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>030204</td>
<td>NEESR-SG: Smart and Resilient Steel Walls for Reducing Earthquake Impacts</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Returned</td>
<td></td>
<td>1001/2011</td>
<td>Create/Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>072306</td>
<td>MRI: Acquisition of Equipment to Simulate Collapse of Engineered Systems under E-Jement</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Due</td>
<td>OVERDUE</td>
<td>06/01/2012</td>
<td>Create/Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0421877</td>
<td>NEESR-SG: Seismic Behavior, Analysis and Design of Complex Wall Systems</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Due</td>
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<td>Due</td>
<td>OVERDUE</td>
<td>07/27/2012</td>
<td>Create/Ed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Export options:* CSV, XML, PDF, HTML.
What is the impact on the development of the principal discipline(s) of the project?

Describe how findings, results, techniques that were developed or extended, or other products from the project made an impact or are likely to make an impact on the base of knowledge, theory, and research (and/or pedagogical methods in the principal disciplinary fields) of the project.

Noting to report
Project Report: PI View
Search Products/Journals

Products - What has the project produced?
< Back to Publication Entries

Search Publications:
Enter search criteria to search Thomson Reuters Web of Science (R) required ‘Author’ field will help to speed up your search.

* Required fields
  Type: Journal
* Author(s):
  
  Title:
  Journal:
  Conference:
  Time Span: Select One

Search
< Back to Publication Entries

Products:
- Publications
- Technologies or techniques
- Inventions, patent applications, and/or licenses
- Websites
- Other Products

Add a publication citation from Thomson Web of Science
PDF files can be uploaded for:
- Accomplishments
- Products
- Special Requirements
Final Target Launch Date: March 18, 2013

- All NSF awards and institutions
- NSF awardees must stop submitting project reports in FastLane starting on February 1, 2013
- Program Officers must approve all submitted reports by March 15, 2013
- Overdue dates will be extended by 45 days for reports overdue between 1/31-3/31 and by 30 days for reports overdue between 4/1-4/30
- Email reminders for report due dates have been suspended
- If you start a report in FastLane you will want to complete it before NSF’s launch date to Research.gov
Screen Shots and Instructions

Project Reports

On March 18, 2013, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will completely transfer all project reporting from FastLane to Research.gov. This means that Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-PIs will use Research.gov to meet all NSF project reporting requirements, including submission of Final, Annual and Interim Project Reports and the Project Outcomes Report. The new Project Reporting Dashboard will make it easier for PIs, Co-PIs, and Sponsored Project Office (SPO) staff to see which reports are due or overdue, and will provide access to all reports submitted to NSF. Research.gov provides research-related information and grants management services in one location. Research.gov is the modernization of FastLane, providing the next generation of grants management capabilities for the research community.

How can I prepare and submit Project Reports on Research.gov?

1. Login to Research.gov using your FastLane user ID and password. First time Research.gov users, see How Do I Login?

2. You will see any required reports on your Project Report Dashboard.
Screen Shots and Instructions

Annual and Final Project Reports

The new project reporting service in Research.gov will meet the federal government’s requirement that research agencies implement a new reporting format for research and research-related projects called the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR). The RPPR is the result of a government-wide effort to create greater consistency in the administration of federal research awards by standardizing reporting formats. The transition began with a small group of pilot users from 13 research organizations who have been successfully submitting reports since October 2012.

Project Outcomes Reports

The Project Outcomes Report for the General Public is a required report, written by PIs specifically for the public that provides insight into the outcomes of NSF-funded research. The America COMPETES Act (ACA) of 2007, Section 7010, requires that both research outcomes and citations of published documents resulting from research funded, in whole or in part, by NSF be made available to the public in a timely manner and electronic format. A Project Outcomes Report is required for new awards or existing awards that receive funding amendments on or after January 1, 2012.

Following submission, the public can view a Project Outcomes Report for the General Public online through Research.gov’s Research funding & Results search service.

For More Information

- Project Report Overview
  - This document previews the new project report format, questions, and screen shots and can be used to help your organization prepare for the transition.
- Project Reporting Fact Sheet
  - In March 2012, NSF will completely transfer all project reporting from FastLane to Research.gov.
- Project Report Frequently Asked Questions for Research Organizations
  - Background on reporting requirements and answers to common technical questions.
- Project Reporting Getting Started Guide
  - Prepare and submit your Final, Annual, and Interim Project Reports on Research.gov.
- Project Reports On Research.gov: What’s In It For Me?
  - Presented January 2013
Research.gov Webinar Series

• NSF is hosting a series of Research.gov webinars for NSF grantees interested in learning more about Research.gov

• Email webinars@research.gov if you are interested in attending the following webinar:
  • March 8: Project Reports on Research.gov: What’s In It for Me?

• Research.gov Help Desk
  • Rgov@nsf.gov or 1-800-381-1532
Questions?

Have questions, please let us know at

awards@cga.msu.edu

Stephanie Hay 884-4253
Stacy Salisbury 884-4252