

News and Notes

Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) News

COVID-19 Sponsor Updates and Funding Opportunities

OSP has a webpage that links to sponsor updates related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and highlights COVID-19 funding opportunities. This page is updated on a regular basis.

For more information, see the [OSP COVID-19 webpage](#).

OSP Accepting 2019 COI Disclosures Until Further Notice

Due to the postponed rollout of Conflict of Interest (COI) MyDisclosures, OSP will be accepting 2019 COI disclosures until further notice.

See the [COI website](#) for more information.

Project Changes due to COVID-19

Investigators are encouraged to assess their active sponsored projects, review award terms and conditions, and check sponsor websites for COVID-19 updates to determine how and when to communicate to sponsors project delays or scope changes due to COVID-19. All prior approval requests are required to be reviewed and endorsed by OSP before submission to the sponsor.

University News

New Website for Managing International Research and Engagement

Pitt Research has developed a [Managing International Research and Engagement Website](#). Topics covered include:

- Federal Attention Continues Over International Activities
 - Guidance for Disclosure of International Activities and Engagements
 - Resources for Pitt Investigators Collaborating Internationally
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Funding Agency Updates

Downtime of National Institutes of Health eRA Modules

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) eRA modules (including eRA Commons, ASSIST, and RePorter, etc.) will be unavailable Friday, April 17, 2020 through Monday, April 20, 2020. Per [NIH Notice NOT-OD-20-096](#):

“Grants.gov will continue processing applications during the migration window. Applications received via Grants.gov will be put in a queue and eRA will process them on Monday night, April 20. The standard 2-day viewing window for successfully submitted applications will be applied.”

NIH FORMS-F and MyFunding

The NIH is requiring the use of FORMS-F for all proposals with due dates on or after May 25, 2020. For a high-level summary of the changes between FORMS-E and FORMS-F, see the [NIH website](#).

The SF-424 feature of MyFunding that allows System-To-System proposal submissions has been upgraded to support NIH FORMS-F.

View [NIH Notice NOT-OD-20-077](#) for more details about the FORMS-F requirement.

NIH Early Stage Investigator Status and COVID-19

The NIH is allowing Early Stage Investigator (ESI) status to be extended due to disruptions from COVID-19. ESI extension requests can be submitted using [these instructions](#).

See the [NIH Extramural Nexus post](#) for more information about extending an ESI status.

National Science Foundation Requires New Formats

Beginning June 1, 2020, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will be requiring the use of new formats for the Biographical Sketch and Pending Support documents. NSF issued [FAQs](#) that address what information should be listed in Current and Pending Support beginning June 1, 2020. In addition, NSF also recorded a [webinar](#) about the new format requirements with the following topics:

- the policy guidance for preparation of the biographical sketch and current and pending support sections of the proposal;
- a walk-through of the user experience in accessing these formats in NSF systems;
- detailed guidance from NIH on using SciENCv for preparing both documents; and
- answers to a number of frequently asked questions.

For additional information, see the NSF pages for the [biographical sketch](#) and [current and pending support](#).