

News and Notes

Office of Sponsored Programs News

COVID-19 Sponsor Updates and Funding Opportunities

The Office of Sponsored Programs (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.

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.

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

University News

New University Financial Guideline for NSF 2-Month Salary Rule

The [Financial Compliance for Research Department](#), part of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, recently published guidelines pertaining to the University's application of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) 2-month salary rule.

"Section II.C.2.g(i)(a) of the [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) limits compensation reimbursement requested in proposal budgets for senior project personnel to no more than 2 months of their regular salary in any one year from all NSF-funded sponsored research awards."

Read the [newly published financial guideline](#) for more details.

Funding Agency Updates

National Institutes of Health Announce Upcoming Changes to Notice of Award

Beginning October 1, 2020, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Notices of Award (NOA) will look different. The first page will include financial award information and federal agency contacts (i.e. program officials and grants management specialists). The financial award information will include:

- Budget period start and end date
- Total amount of federal funds obligated by this action (direct and indirect cost amounts)
- Authorized carryover
- Offset
- Total amount of federal funds obligated this budget period
- Total approved cost sharing or matching, where applicable
- Project period start and end date
- Total amount of the federal award including approved cost sharing or matching this project period
- Authorized treatment of program income

See [NIH Notice NOT-OD-20-155](#) for more details.

2020 NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration

The NIH will be offering a free virtual seminar October 27-30, 2020. The target audience include research administrators, investigators, and graduate students who are new to working with the NIH. Attendees can expect:

- Four days of sessions with live and simu-live sessions, as well as an on-demand video library
- Three tracks designed around grants policies, processes, case-studies and Q&As
- Live chats one-on-one with NIH & HHS experts on the grants process and policies
- Downloadable resources to reuse and/or share with others at your institution

Registration is expected to open on September 4. More details can be found on the [NIH seminar website](#).

Restrictions on Covered Telecommunications in Federal Grants and Contracts*

On August 13, 2020, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published revisions to 2 CFR (Uniform Guidance). One of the revisions includes *§ 200.216 Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment*. This section includes language that prohibits recipients of federal grants from using grant funds to 1) procure or obtain; 2) extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or 3) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

Covered telecommunications equipment includes that which is produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

**Note that OSP has recently seen similar language in Federal Contract FAR clauses , despite the fact that these clauses are not yet finalized by the Federal government.*

Read the [revised published Uniform Guidance](#) document in the Federal Register.