

Sponsored Programs Administration Buzz Session

NIH Updates

February 25, 2026

12:10 – 1:00 PM CT



Guidance on Salary Limitation for Grants and Cooperative Agreements FY 2026 (NOT-OD-26-034) 01/28/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-034.html>

Correction to Guidance on Salary Limitation for Grants and Cooperative Agreements FY 2026 (NOT-OD-26-038) 02/09/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-038.html>

- Applies to NIH grants, cooperative agreements, extramural research and development contracts, and Other Transaction Awards
- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 restricts the amount of salary to Executive Level II of the Federal Executive pay scale
- Per Office of Personnel Management
 - Effective 01/01/2026, the salary limitation for Executive Level II is **\$228,000**
- Recipients may re-budget funds, if available and appropriate, to accommodate the current Executive Level II salary level (no additional funds will be awarded)



NIH Requires Use of the eRA Prior Approval Module for the Submission of ALL Prior Approval Requests (NOT-OD-26-026)

01/21/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-026.html>

- Effective 02/20/2026, all prior approval requests must be submitted in the eRA Commons Prior Approval Module
- NIH is in the process of updating GPS, system validations, and other resources
- Grants Policy Statement:
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_8/8.1.2_prior_approval_requirements.htm
- Commons User Guide:
https://www.era.nih.gov/erahelp/Commons/Commons/Prior_Approval%20Module/Prior_Approval.htm?tocpath=Prior%20Approval%20Module%7C_0



NIH Requires Use of the eRA Prior Approval Module for the Submission of ALL Prior Approval Requests (NOT-OD-26-026)

01/21/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-026.html>

Types

- Withdrawal
- Carryover
- Change of PD/PI*
- No-Cost Extension
- DMS
- Other
 - Change in Scope or Objectives
 - Change in Key Personnel*
 - Adding a new subaward

*Change of PD/PI requests for multi-component/multi-project awards must use the “Other Request” type



NIH Removing AIDS Application Due Dates from NOFOs (NOT-OD-26-029) 01/28/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-029.html>

- NIH is merging AIDS due dates into standard due dates
 - Last AIDS due date will be May 7
- Non-standard due dates were implemented in 1988 to shorten the time to award for AIDS-related applications
- Merging due dates will reduce administrative burden (separate NIH processing, applicant uncertainty) while maintaining three review cycles
- Congress requires expedited review of AIDS applications
- NIH is in the process of updating NOFOs, GPS, application guides, system validations, and other resources



NIH No Longer Requires Advanced Permission for Conference Grant Applications (NOT-OD-26-040) 02/10/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-040.html>

- Effective immediately, prior approval to submit an R13/U13 application is no longer required
- NIH Director's Statement of Priorities: <https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/nih-director/statements/advancing-nih-mission-through-unified-strategy>
- Institute, Center, or Office (ICO) Profiles: <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research/nih-institutes-centers-offices>
 - Use the PHS Assignment Request Form
- Proposed start date should precede the conference start date (except in exigent circumstances)
 - Earliest start date for applications submitted on or before 04/12/2026 is December 2026
- NIH is in the process of updating NOFOs, GPS, application guides, system validations, and other resources



Reminder of Requirement for Certification of IRB Approval

(NOT-OD-26-043) 02/18/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-043.html>

- NIH requires certification that all non-exempt human subjects research (HSR) has been reviewed and approved by an appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Non-exempt HSR cannot be initiated - nor can NIH funds be used - until IRB certification has been provided to and accepted by the NIH
- Applicants must submit the date of IRB approval, typically at Just-in-Time: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/human-subjects/pre-and-post-award-processes/jit>
 - In the case of multiple protocols, submit the date of the last protocol approved
 - Pending, conditional, interim, or expired approval are not acceptable

Reminder of Requirement for Certification of IRB Approval (NOT-OD-26-043) 02/18/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-043.html>

- NIH may issue a Notice of Award with a restriction on non-exempt HSR
- Applicants should consider these requirements when deciding when to initiate IRB review for NIH applications
- Am I doing Human Subjects Research?
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/human-subjects/hs-decision>



Basic Experimental Studies in Humans (BESH) Will No Longer Be Considered Clinical Trials by the NIH (NOT-OD-26-032) 01/29/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-032.html>

- Effective with applications submitted to due dates on or after 05/25/2026, Basic Experimental Studies Involving Humans (BESH) will no longer be considered Clinical Trials
- In 2017, FORMS-E introduced PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form
- In a Clinical Trial, the answer to all four questions must be "yes"
 - Does the study involve human participants?
 - Are the participants prospectively assigned to an intervention?
 - Is the study designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants?
 - Is the effect being evaluated a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome?



Is My Project a Clinical Trial, Basic Experimental Study Involving Humans (BESH), or an Observational Study Involving Humans?

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/clinical-trials/clinical-trial-besh-or-observational-study-involving-humans>

Study Type	Human Participants?	Prospectively Assigned Intervention?	Evaluate Effect of Intervention?	Health-Related Outcome?
Clinical Trial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
BESH	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Observational	Yes	No	No	Yes or No



Basic Experimental Studies in Humans (BESH) Will No Longer Be Considered Clinical Trials by the NIH (NOT-OD-26-032) 01/29/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-032.html>

- BESH seek to understand fundamental aspects of phenomena without direct application to clinical processes or products
- BESH will still need to follow human subjects research requirements but not those specific to Clinical Trials
- NIH is in the process of updating NOFOs, GPS, application guides, system validations, and other resources
 - Parent announcements:
 - Clinical Trials not allowed
 - Clinical Trials required
 - Clinical Trials optional
 - BESH (will be expired)



Updated Elements of an NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan

(NOT-OD-26-046) 02/25/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-046.html>

Effective 01/25/2023 (current)

- Data Type
- Related Tools, Software and/or Code
- Standards
- Data Preservation, Access, and Associated Timelines
 - Additional guidance related to genomic data
- Access, Distribution, or Reuse Considerations
 - Additional guidance related to genomic data
- Oversight of Data Management and Sharing



Updated Elements of an NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan

(NOT-OD-26-046) 02/25/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-046.html>

Effective 05/25/2026 (new)

- Will there be maximum appropriate sharing of scientific data?
- Will the scientific data be shared by the time of publication?
- Will data be made available for at least as long as required by applicable data repository policies and/or journal policies?
- If you anticipate that sharing will be limited in some other way, please describe these limitations
- If scientific data from human research participants will be shared, will privacy, rights, and confidentiality of participants be protected?
- Expected Data Type and Established or Example Repository
- Additional information for projects to generate large-scale human genomic data

NIH is in the process of updating NOFOs, GPS, application guides, system validations, and other resources.



NE DHHS Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rural-Health-Transformation.aspx>

UNMC process

https://www.unmc.edu/vcr/_documents/newsletter/rhtf-internal-review-procedures.pdf

- VCR review and approval in NuRamp Internal Competitions
 - Narrative
 - Budget
- SPA review and approval of subproposal to NE DHHS
 - Documents requested by NE DHHS
 - Workplan
 - Financial Workbook
 - Budget Justification



Ticker “My Requests” page (current)

My requests

Organization:
 Submission Status:
 Type:
 Ticket Status:

Ticket	Type	Ticket Status	Submission Status	Due Date	Time Due	PI	Project Title
#25293	GKS	P	N	Tue, Mar 3, 2026	COB	T > Thompson, Shaun	Minimizing ICU Neurological Dysfunction
#25197	GKS	P	N	Tue, Mar 10, 2026	5 PM CST	Y > Yelamanchili, Sowmya	
#25314	GKS	P	N	Tue, Mar 10, 2026	5pm	C > Chand, Subhash	
#25470	GKS	P	N	Mon, Mar 16, 2026	5 PM Central	M > Mukherjee, Kamalika	miRNA export function of ELAVL protein I
#25307	GKS	P	N	Mon, Apr 27, 2026	N/A	P > Pendyala, Gurudutt	Machine based approaches to decode m
#23970	K	H	O			T > Thompson, Shaun	
#24223	AS	O	O			P > Pellegrino, Peter	
#24615	K	O	O			Z > Zehr, Levi	
#24640	AS	H	O			W > Wang, Hanjun	
#25324	AS	O	O			K > Kanmogne, Georgette	
#25376	AS	P	O			W > Wang, Hanjun	



Ticker “My Requests” page (option)

Requests

My requests

Requests I am CC'd on

15 requests

Subject	ID	Created date	Updated date	Status
FW: NoA: 5U54GM115458-10 PI: MATTHEW RIZZO	#25274	Feb 9, 2026	Feb 9, 2026, 7:09 PM	Solved
PSM: PID 26857 (Datta - NIH)(1R01CA276030-01)	#6308	May 19, 2022	Oct 31, 2025, 2:23 AM	Solved
Request for Confirmation on Inventions Report - PID 23586 (Spagnoli...	#23791	Oct 2, 2025	Oct 24, 2025, 9:00 AM	Solved
TN : PID 8340 (DINH, HONG-KHANH B - NIH)(5F32HD042909-03)	#21694	May 21, 2025	Oct 24, 2025, 7:59 AM	Solved
New Award Doc in	#25	Feb 3, 2021	Jul 23, 2025, 8:57 AM	Solved
IF ID # 14507 (Phatak – UNO – NU Foundation/WIN)(new sub propos...	#585	Apr 16, 2021	Jul 23, 2025, 8:42 AM	Solved
Bonasera LOI Alzheimer's Association	#946	May 3, 2021	Jul 23, 2025, 8:29 AM	Solved
PID 25447 (Lyubchenko - NIAID)(1R01AI165588-01)(PSAM)	#1041	May 10, 2021	Jul 23, 2025, 8:25 AM	Solved
PID # 21328 (Runge – Commerce)(award # ED19HDQ0200064) - Prog...	#1116	May 17, 2021	Jul 23, 2025, 8:23 AM	Solved
HALFSHEET : ACURO APPROVAL - PID 26307 (Baranowska-Kortylewic...	#3240	Oct 20, 2021	Jul 23, 2025, 6:56 AM	Solved
Closeout of Award Number: W81XWH-14-1-0058, Log Number: 1321...	#17922	Aug 8, 2024	Jan 2, 2025, 8:02 PM	Solved
NE DHHS LB 506	#18780	Oct 2, 2024	Oct 7, 2024, 9:52 AM	Solved
2023 - 2024 LB 506 Award - 73254	#11579	May 17, 2023	Jun 26, 2023, 2:04 PM	Solved



Ticker “My Requests” page

Show and hide columns ✕

Column

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ID
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Created date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Updated date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requester
<input type="checkbox"/>	Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Award Type (What is it?)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount obligated on the award document
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Needed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Which department is this for?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start Date of Award
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount Obligated By K Action
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Party
<input type="checkbox"/>	▼ Team SPA Status

Cancel Save

Filters ✕

Select filter

- Created date
- Updated date
- Status
- Priority
- Award Type (What is it?)
- Amount obligated on the award document
- Action Needed
- Which department is this for?
- Start Date of Award
- Sponsor
- Amount Obligated By K Action

Filters ✕

Select filter

Due Date Entry ▼

Due Date Entry

- In the past day
- In the past week
- In the past month
- In the past 3 months
- In the past 6 months
- In the past year
- Custom

Adjusted Timeline for NIH's Implementation of Common Forms

NOT-OD-26-033

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-033.html>

Leniency period for Common Forms through May 2026

- NIH will provide a Warning for Common Forms related issues
- Applicants are encouraged to use the Common Forms
- NIH will accept “old” biosketch and OS format during leniency period
- A notice will be issued in Spring 2026 detailing when the Warning will be escalated to an Error

What does this mean for us? **Please continue to use the new Common Forms!**



ERA Commons Enhancements to Integrate the NIH Common Forms

ERA Commons updates effective January 26, 2026.

Changes impact RPPRs, JITs, and prior approval requests.

RPPR Section D. Participants

- Participant section user interface is updated to move questions related to New Senior/Key Personnel, Changes in Senior/Key Personnel Current and Pending (Other)Support, and New Other Significant Contributors into the Participant Modal.
- ERA Commons video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRN4j8d3dM8>

<https://www.era.nih.gov/news/era-enhancements-changes-prior-approval-just-time-and-rppr-be-released-monday-january-26-align>



ERA Commons Enhancements to Integrate the NIH Common Forms

Add Participant

✕

Required Fields

eRA Commons User ID [Populate from Profile](#) **ORCID ID**

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Degree(s) Supplement Support (SS)

Project Role

Person Months Calendar Academic Summer

Number between 0.0 and 12.0 Number between 0.0 and 9.0 Number between 0.0 and 3.0

Senior/Key Personnel? [For a definition of Senior/Key Personnel See the NIH Grants Policy Statement: Section 3.2 Definition of Terms E](#)

Yes
 No

Is the individual's primary affiliation with a foreign organization? **+**

Select "no" if the individual's primary affiliation is with a foreign organization but the individual is working on this award solely while in the U.S.

Yes
 No

Cancel



ERA Commons Enhancements to Integrate the NIH Common Forms

Senior/Key Personnel?

For a definition of Senior/Key Personnel See the NIH Grants Policy Statement [Section 1.2 Definition of Terms](#)

Yes
 No

New Senior/Key Personnel

Is this Senior/Key Person contributing measurable effort and:

(1) new to the project since the last reporting period;
(2) currently participating on the project but was elevated to a Senior/Key Role during the last reporting period;
(3) will be new to the project for the next reporting period; or
(4) currently participating on the project but will be elevated to a Senior/Key Role during the next reporting period?

Yes
 No

Changes in Current and Pending (Other) Support

Has there been a change in the active Current and Pending (Other) Support of this Senior/Key person since the last reporting period?

Yes
 No

Please provide the following documentation:

Submit this documentation using the required forms and instructions found in [SciENCe: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae](#) or additional information on the Common Forms see our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) - Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending \(Other\) Support](#)

Current and Pending (Other) Support (CPOS) Common Form

Drop files here to upload, or [browse](#).
Max File Count: 1 Accepted File Types: PDF Max File Size: 6MB

Foreign Contract Document

Drop files here to upload, or [browse](#).
Max File Count: 1 Accepted File Types: PDF Max File Size: 6MB

Is the individual's primary affiliation with a foreign organization?

Select "no" if the individual's primary affiliation is with a foreign organization but the individual is working on this award solely while in the U.S.

Yes
 No

Cancel [+ Add Participant](#)



ERA Commons Enhancements to Integrate the NIH Common Forms

New User Interface for RPPRs, JITs, and prior approval requests will not impact the ability of users to take advantage of the NIH Common Forms leniency period

- ERA Commons will issue a Warning if NIH Common Forms are not used, but the submission will still be able to be submitted to the NIH.
- Users who have initiated but NOT SUBMITTED their RPPR as of January 25, 2026, will need to redo the Participant section.
- Users who have initiated but NOT SUBMITTED their Change of PI Prior Approval or JIT as of January 25, 2026 will need to redo the submission.

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/common-forms-biographical-sketch-current-pending-support.htm?anchor=57876>

<https://www.era.nih.gov/news/era-enhancements-changes-prior-approval-just-time-and-rppr-be-released-monday-january-26-align>



Annual Senior/Key Personnel Certification of Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP) Participation/Non-Participation

NOT-OD-26-018

“For NIH awards with RPPRs submitted on or after January 25, 2026, individuals serving as senior/key personnel must certify annually to their participation or non-participation in an MFTRP by uploading a certification statement in Section G.1, Special Notice of Award and Funding Opportunity Announcement Reporting Requirements as a flattened PDF file.

The file for each senior/key person must be named ‘MFTRPcert_[Name].pdf’ without quotations, where ‘[Name]’ is the name of the senior/key person.”

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-018.html>



Annual Senior/Key Personnel Certification of Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP) Participation/Non-Participation

New NIH Guidance for the annual MFTRP certification requirement

- Certification language included in the RPPR must align with the NIH Common Forms certification language
 - *“I [insert name] certify that, at the time of submission, I am not a party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program.”*
- S/K Personnel must provide MFTRP certification either via the NIH Common Forms for Biographical Sketch or Current/Pending (Other) Support forms OR by attached a certification statement in Section G.1 of the RPPR.
- MFTRP Certification Template available via SPA’s Ticker Helpdesk: <https://unmcspa.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/37998144837527-NIH-Malign-Foreign-Talent-Recruitment-Program-Certification-Annual-Requirements-for-S-K-Personnel>

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/common-forms-biographical-sketch-current-pending-support.htm?anchor=57890>



Additional NIH Common Forms Updates

Citations – NIH Common Form Biographical Sketch

- The only citations allowed in the NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form are the 5 Products Most Closely Related to the Proposed Project and the 5 Other Significant Products.
- Citations are not allowed in the Personal Statement or Contributions to Science sections
- S/K Personnel may reference the 5 products outlined in the Other Significant Products Section
 - Cannot include full citations for the reference
 - Suggested reference format: title, author's last name, publication, and/or year of publication

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/common-forms-biographical-sketch-current-pending-support.htm?anchor=57882>



Additional NIH Common Forms Updates

Academic vs. Institutional vs. Professional Appointments – NIH Common Form Biographical Sketch

“Senior/Key Persons must only identify all domestic and foreign professional appointments and positions outside of the primary organization for a period up to three years from the date the applicant submits the application to the agency for funding consideration”

Professional Appointment Definition: Formal appointments outside of one's primary place of employment that are due to one's professional expertise and generally temporary in nature. Common examples include editorial service for journals, serving on municipal, state, or federal advisory boards, and holding offices in professional societies.

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/common-forms-biographical-sketch-current-pending-support.htm?anchor=57873>

Additional NIH Common Forms Updates

Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form

How do you report 0 person months effort on the NIH Current/Pending (Other) Support Common Form?

- SciENCv working on an update to allow 0 person months effort.
- Current work arounds:
 - Enter 0.01 person months effort, and provide a statement in the Overall Objectives to clarify there is actually 0 effort.
 - Use old NIH Other Support Form

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/common-forms-biographical-sketch-current-pending-support.htm?anchor=57883>



Additional NIH Common Forms Updates

Hyperlinks

- To ensure consistency with other agencies' use of the federal-wide Common Forms, NIH will accept SciENcv-generated Biographical Sketch Common Forms that include hyperlinks generated through MyBibliography or ORCID.
- The ORCID ID is supposed to appear as a live link in the Common Forms.
- Applicants should not include a MyNCBI Bibliography link in the Common Form Biographical Sketch
 - The only hyperlinks currently allowed are the ones generated by SciENcv for the ORCID ID and the product citations
 - S/K Persons may link their MyNCBI Bibliography to their ORCID ID

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/common-forms-biographical-sketch-current-pending-support.htm?anchor=57887>



Troubleshooting NIH Common Forms Issues

SciENCv Helpdesk

- Create helpdesk ticket
 - <https://support.nlm.nih.gov/support/create-case/>
- Helpdesk email: NLMSciencv@mail.nih.gov

SciENCv workaround if you cannot link your Commons Forms to ORCID because it is already linked to another account

- <https://unmcspa.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/37963885553175-SciENCv-workaround-if-you-cannot-link-your-Commons-Forms-to-ORCID-because-it-is-already-linked-to-another-account>



Q&A

