

# Sponsored Programs Administration Buzz Session

## NIH Update

**April 22, 2026**

**1:40 – 2:30 PM CT**



**Updated Application Policies: NIH Administrative Burden Reduction Effort – Removal of Requirements for Letters of Intent and Unsolicited Applications Requesting \$500,000 or More in Direct Costs (NOT-OD-26-019) 12/03/2025**

*<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-019.html>*

Now in effect

- **Letters of Intent** not requested, accepted, or acknowledged
- Unsolicited Applications **Requesting \$500,000 or More in Direct Costs** in any Budget Period do not require prior approval to submit



# 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>

Now in effect

- R13/U13 applications do not require prior approval to submit
  - To determine fit, review:
    - 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



## **Update of NIH Late Application Submission Policy and End of Continuous Submission (NOT-OD-26-064) 03/31/2026**

*<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-064.html>*

- Last continuous submission deadline = August 10, 2026 (Cycle II)
- After August 10, PIs who serve on NIH study section, special emphasis panel, or other eligible board, committee, or council within four weeks of (before or after) an applicable due date may submit late



# 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>

- Last dedicated AIDS due date is May 7 (Cycle I)
  - Notify SPA by April 23
  - Release to SPA by COB May 4
- Starting with Cycle II (due dates on or after May 25), AIDS applications will be accepted for standard dates
  - Next standard due date for new R01s is June 5



# Implementation of Changes for Basic Experimental Studies with Humans (NOT-OD-26-067) 04/06/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-067.html>

Effective for applications submitted to due dates on or after May 25

- Basic Experimental Studies Involving Humans (BESH) will no longer be considered Clinical Trials

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



# Implementation of Changes for Basic Experimental Studies with Humans (NOT-OD-26-067) 04/06/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-067.html>

Effective for applications submitted to due dates on or after May 25

- Basic Experimental Studies Involving Humans (BESH) will no longer be considered Clinical Trials

Parent announcement	BESH only
Clinical Trials not allowed	Yes
Clinical Trials required	No
Clinical Trials optional	Yes
BESH	N/A



# New Application Structure for NIH-Funded International Collaborations (NOT-OD-25-155) 09/12/2025

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-155.html>

<b>PF5</b>	Collaborative International Research Project	<p><a href="https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/PF5">https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/PF5</a></p> <p><b>PA-26-002</b> Next standard due date May 25</p>
<b>UF5</b>	Collaborative International Cooperative Agreement	<p><a href="https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/UF5">https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/UF5</a></p>
<b>RF2</b>	Linked International Research Project	<p><a href="https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/RF2">https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/RF2</a></p>
<b>UL2</b>	Linked International Cooperative Agreement	<p><a href="https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/UL2">https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/UL2</a></p>

	Domestic Applicant / Recipient	Foreign Collaborator
<b>Application (single)</b>	Overall Component Research Project	International Component
<b>Review</b>	Including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unusual talent, resources, populations, or environmental conditions in other countries</li> <li>• Relevance to the mission/objectives of IC and potential for significantly advancing health sciences in US</li> </ul>	
<i>Disaggregation</i>		
<b>Just in Time</b>	For own project	For own project. Must be registered in SAM, Grants.gov, and Commons.
<b>Award</b>	RF2 or UL2	PF5 or UF5
<b>Programmatic Reporting</b>	TBD	
<b>Financial Reporting</b>	For own award	For own award

# 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>

**Required** for applications submitted to due dates on or after May 25

**Recommended now**

- 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

Template: <https://grants.nih.gov/sites/default/files/dms-blank-format-page-2026.docx>



# Supporting Fairness and Originality in NIH Research Applications

(NOT-OD-25-132) 07/17/2025

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-132.html>

Now in effect

- NIH will only accept **six** applications each from a PI
  - for all council rounds in a calendar year
  - whether new, renewal, or resubmission
  - for all activity codes except Ts and R13s



# Supporting Fairness and Originality in NIH Research Applications (NOT-OD-25-132) 07/17/2025

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-132.html>

Calendar Year	Applications submitted for due dates between
2026	September 25, 2026, and May 7, 2026
2027	May 25, 2026, and May 7, 2027

## Review and Award Cycles

	Cycle I	Cycle II	Cycle III
Application Due Dates	January 25 - May 7	May 25 - September 7	September 25 - January 7
Scientific Merit Review	June - July	October - November	February - March
Advisory Council Round	August or October *	January	May
Earliest Project Start Date	September or December *	April	July

# 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>

Now in effect

All PARs must be submitted in the Commons Prior Approval module

## 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 awards must use the “Other Request” type



# Prior Approval Requirement for Changes to Domestic Subawards (NOT-OD-26-062) 03/25/2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-062.html>

## Previously: 8.1.1 NIH Standard Terms of Award

- Transfer of performance of substantive programmatic work to a third party (by consortium agreement) did not require prior approval unless the transfer would be to a foreign component or would result in a change in scope

## Effective June 1, 2026

- Adding a new domestic subaward to a project post-award, when the arrangement was not originally part of the peer-reviewed and approved application, requires prior approval.



# NIH Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support

NIH Common Forms Timeline	
<b>July 2024</b>	<a href="#">NOT-OD-24-163</a> announced the NIH will adopt the Common Forms and require them for submissions on or after May 25, 2025.
<b>March 2025</b>	NIH postpones implementation of Common Forms and states the implementation date is TBD.
<b>September 2025</b>	<a href="#">NOT-OD-25-152</a> states SciENCv will have a preview of NIH Common Forms on or before 9/15/25.
<b>December 2025</b>	<a href="#">NOT-OD-26-018</a> NIH announced Common Forms must be used for submissions due on or after 1/25/26.
<b>February 2026</b>	<a href="#">NOT-OD-26-033</a> adjusts the timeline for Common Form implementation. NIH announced a leniency period through Spring 2026 and will accept both Common Forms and old format for biosketches and OS. NIH will issue another notice in Spring 2026 announcing when the leniency period will end (most likely in May 2026).
<b>April 2026</b>	<a href="#">NOT-OD-26-079</a> announced the NIH Common Form leniency period will end May 7, 2026. All submissions on or after <b>May 8, 2026</b> must meet the NIH Common Form requirements, or they will receive an Error upon submission.

# Announcement of Upcoming System Enforcement of Common Forms and End of NIH's Leniency Period

**NOT-OD-26-079** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-079.html>

## Effective Date:

- The NIH leniency period for the Common Forms will end on May 7, 2026. All application due dates and Just-In-Time (JIT), Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR), and Prior Approval submissions on or after **May 8, 2026** must use the Common Forms. Submissions that do not use the correct Common Forms will Error out and not be accepted.

## Updates regarding entry of zero effort on Current and Pending (Other) Support:

- On April 22, 2026, SciENcv and era Commons will undergo system updates to allow entry of 0 person months on Other Support forms.

## Updates regarding Research Security Training Certification:

- On April 22, 2026, SciENcv will add the Research Security Training (RST) Certification back to the Common Forms to provide individuals time to comply with the requirement for applications submitted for due dates on or after May 25, 2026
- If the Common Forms were certified prior to 4/22/26 and will be submitted for a submission due on or after May 25, 2026, then the forms should be recertified to include the RST certification.
- NIH will not hold individuals accountable for the RST certification for submissions due on or before May 24, 2026.



# Announcement of Upcoming System Enforcement of Common Forms and End of NIH's Leniency Period

**NOT-OD-26-079** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-079.html>

## SciENcv / era Commons / ORCID ID Reminders

### Senior/Key Personnel Must:

- Complete the Common Forms using SciENcv to produce digitally certified PDFs.
- Obtain an ORCID ID. <https://orcid.org/>
- Link the ORCID ID to their era Commons account in their Personal Profile (PPF).
  - **NOTE:** The ORCID ID can be linked to only one Commons account. If you get an error from eRA Commons when trying to link your ORCID ID, or need to remove an existing ORCID ID from a Commons Account, contact the [eRA Service Desk](#).
  - [https://www.era.nih.gov/erahelp/commons/PPF\\_Help/8\\_2\\_orcid.htm](https://www.era.nih.gov/erahelp/commons/PPF_Help/8_2_orcid.htm)

### Other steps outlined in NOT-OD-26-079 S/K Personnel can take to help ensure Common Forms meet NIH requirements:

- Confirm the ORCID ID is displayed in the Persistent Identifier (PID) Section of the Common Form
- Confirm the personal profile associated with the eRA Commons username entered in the Credential field of the application includes the same ORCID ID displayed in the PID field of the Common Form being submitted.



# NIH Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support

## Validation Warnings/Errors

- During the leniency period, NIH will issue Warnings to applications that do not comply with the NIH Common Form requirements
- The leniency period will end May 7, 2026. An Error will be issued when submissions do not comply with the Common Forms beginning May 8, 2026.
  - If S/K Personnel do not have ORCID ID linked to their era Commons profile, the application will Error out once the leniency period ends.
  - SPA Analysts will ask Administrators to verify S/K Personnel have ORCID IDs linked to era Commons.

Type	Form Name	Validation Message
Warning	RR_KeyPersonExpanded	The ORCID ID entered in the Biographical Sketch Common Form for [REDACTED] does not match the ORCID for any eRA Commons users personal profile. An ORCID identifier, linked to their eRA Commons account, is required for all Senior/Key Personnel at the time of application with receipt dates starting on January 25, 2026 <a href="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-018.html" target="_blank">(NOT-OD-26-018)</a>. (005.53.6)
Warning	RR_KeyPersonExpanded	The grantor agency requires the use of SciENCv to produce the Biographical Sketch Common Form attachment for this application. The PD/PI [REDACTED] does not have a Biographical Sketch Common Form attachment meeting this requirement (<a href="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-018.html" target="_blank">NOT-OD-26-018</a>). (005.26.4)



## NIH Common Forms for Biographical Sketch

<b>Old NIH Bio Format: 5 page limit</b>	<b>Common Forms NIH Bio Format: No page limit</b>
Identifying Information and Education/Training	Identifying Information, Organization and Locations
A. Personal Statement	A. Professional Preparation
B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors	B. Appointments and Positions
C. Contributions to Science	C. Products
	NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement A. Personal Statement B. Honors C. Contributions to Science



## NIH Common Forms for Current and Pending (Other) Support

Old NIH Other Support	Common Forms NIH Other Support
<p><b>Person Months:</b> Effort classified as Calendar or Academic/Summer Months</p>	<p><b>Person Months:</b> Effort classified only in Person Months</p>
<p><b>Major Goals</b> Field</p>	<p><b>Overall Objectives:</b> The field label changed; limited to 1,500 characters.</p>
<p><b>Estimated Dollar Value of In-Kind Contribution:</b> Estimate required regardless of the time commitment or dollar value.</p>	<p><b>US Dollar Value of In-Kind Contribution:</b> The field label changed. An In-Kind Contribution should only be reported if estimated at \$5,000 or more AND requires a commitment of effort.</p>
<p><b>Overlap Section:</b> Overlap is summarized at the end of the document.</p>	<p><b>Statement of Potential Overlap:</b> Each entry will have its own Statement of Potential Overlap rather than being summarized at the end.</p>
<p><b>Supporting Documentation:</b> Append as a PDF following the Other Support Form</p>	<p><b>Supporting Documentation:</b> Not attached to the Other Support document in SciENcv. It will be attached in a separate field when submitting via JIT, RPPR, or PAR modules.</p>



# 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

- If S/K Personnel provide a Common Form biosketch or OS document in the RPPR, they do NOT need to provide a separate MFTRP Certification document.
- The MFTRP Certification document must be signed electronically.
- Final and Interim RPPRs must also include MFTRP Certification.
- All senior/key personnel designated by the recipient or named in the Notice of Award, regardless of level of effort, must provide MFTRP Certification.
- Consultants and Other Significant Contributors do not need to provide MFTRP Certification (unless named S/K in NOA).



# 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>



# Q&A

