

Summary of Significant Changes to the NIH GPS for December 2021 Version

(Guide Notices Issued Before October 1, 2021)

The revised NIH Grants Policy Statement (NIHGPS, rev. 12/17/2021) represents an update to the April 2021 version and is applicable to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements beginning on or after October 1, 2021. While the update does not introduce any new material for the first time, it incorporates new and modified requirements, clarifies certain policies, and implements changes in statutes, regulations, and policies that have been implemented through appropriate legal and/or policy processes since the previous version of the NIHGPS dated April 2021. The 12/17/2021 revision supersedes, in its entirety, the NIH Grants Policy Statement (April 2021) as a standard term and condition of the award.

Notable Policy Changes: Implements new policies and provides clarification of existing policies that were previously announced in the NIH Guide since October 2020 and listed at [Grants Policy & Guidance](#).

NIH Policy Changes

Section	Significant Changes	Reason
PART I: NIH Grants – General Information	Section 1.2 Definition of Terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added the definition for Honoraria • Added the definition for Offset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added to provide context for policy instruction changes.
PART II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards Chapter 2 – The National Institutes of Health as a Grant-Making Organization	Section 2.4.1.4 Additional Review Criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inserted language noting that Diversity Plans will be considered under Additional Review Criteria for Conference grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added per NOT-OD-21-055: Notice of Changes in the Review Criteria for Applications Submitted for NIH Support for Scientific Conferences (R13 and U13).
	Section 2.3.7.12 Biographical Sketches, Section 2.5.1 Just-in-Time and Section 4.1.10 Financial Conflict of Interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added link to forms, instructions, and NIH disclosure table. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added link to NIH disclosure table to provide additional resources for updated disclosure forms and instructions.

<p>Chapter 4 – Public Policy Requirements, Objectives, and Other Appropriations Mandates</p>	<p>Section 4.1.15 Human Subjects Protections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added language to state NIH’s role in deciding whether activities are exempt or not from human subjects requirements. • Added language noting recipient responsibility to ensure all institutions under an award are meeting human subjects requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added to clarify NIH’s role in determining human subjects exemptions and recipient responsibilities.
	<p>Section 4.1.15.10 NIH Policy on the Use of Single Institutional Review Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewrote the section to clarify that providing the name of the sIRB suffices as the sIRB plan as outlined in the policy, to clarify the subtle differences between NIH sIRB policy and the revised Common Rule and removed exceptions language that is repetitive with policy language and could cause confusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added to align with current policy and application instructions.
<p>Chapter 11 – Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards</p>	<p>Section 11.2.9.7 Childcare Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a new section regarding the allowability of childcare costs for full-time NRSA fellows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added per NOT-OD-21-074: Announcement of Childcare Costs for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Fellows. • Note: NOT-OD-21-177 announced the upcoming availability of childcare costs for NRSA trainees later in FY22. This update will be incorporated into the next cycle of Grants Policy Statement updates, once the policy is effective.
<p>Chapter 14 – Support of Scientific Meetings (Conference Grants)</p>	<p>Section 14.5 Application Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added language noting applicants should describe in the Personal Statement of the Biographical Sketch senior/key persons’ past experiences with enhancing diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added per NOT-OD-21-055: Notice of Changes in the Review Criteria for Applications Submitted for NIH Support for Scientific Conferences (R13 and U13)
	<p>Section 14.6.2 Guideline on the Inclusion of Underrepresented Populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added per NOT-OD-21-053: Updated Guidelines for Enhancing Diversity and Creating Safe Environments in

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated language to coincide with NIH policy on enhancing diversity in NIH supported conferences. 	Conferences Supported by NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements
	<p>Section 14.7 Application Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added language for the new review criteria regarding required diversity plans for conference grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added per NOT-OD-21-055: Notice of Changes in the Review Criteria for Applications Submitted for NIH Support for Scientific Conferences (R13 and U13)
	<p>Section 14.11.2.1 Progress/Final Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Summary of outcomes of plans to enhance diversity to the required elements of the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added per NOT-OD-21-053: Updated Guidelines for Enhancing Diversity and Creating Safe Environments in Conferences Supported by NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements