

Federal Reviewer Guidance on Conflict of Interest Assessment

[Policy for Managing Conflict of Interest in Initial Peer Review](#)

1) Major Professional Role

Reviewer contributes to **the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive, measureable way.**

The reviewer is:

- the **PD/PI** or any one of multiple PDs/Pis
- is listed among the **Senior/Key Personnel, Project/Site/Core Directors, Other Significant Contributors, Collaborators, or Consultants** in the application. [READ MORE](#)

Yes to any of the statements

Reviewer needs to contact the SRO as s/he may not be able to serve

2) Direct Financial Benefit

Reviewer or reviewer's close relative could receive a **direct financial benefit** of any amount from an application. [READ MORE](#)

Yes to any of the statements

3) Indirect Financial Benefit

Reviewer has received during the last twelve months, or could receive, an **indirect financial benefit** from the applicant institution or any of the PIs of an application, that in the aggregate exceeds **\$10,000 per year.** [READ MORE](#)

Yes to any of the statements

4) Employment

Reviewer is a **salaried full or part-time employee** of any of the PDs/Pis and/or any of the institutions of an application. [READ MORE](#)

Yes to any of the statements

5) Professional Associates/ Personal Relationship

Application involves an individual that is:

- a **colleague, scientific mentor, or student** of the reviewer with whom s/he is **currently conducting research** or other significant professional activities or has conducted such activities **within three years** of the date of the review.
- a **spouse, family member or close personal friend** of the reviewer [READ MORE](#)

Yes to any of the statements

Reviewer needs to contact the SRO as s/he may not be able to review the application in question

6) Appearance of a Conflict of Interest

Occurs when a **reviewer, close relative or professional associate** of the reviewer has a **financial or other interest** in an application that is known to the reviewer or the SRO.

- a reasonable person with all the relevant facts could question the impartiality of the reviewer.
- a reviewer feels uncomfortable or is uncertain if s/he is unbiased reviewing an application due to unusual circumstances involved. [READ MORE](#)

Yes to any of the statements

None of the above applies AND reviewer as a **federal employee** has ensured that s/he is complying with all applicable **ethical conduct rules** and has obtained required **clearance** for SRG service from her/his employing institute, agency, or office. (For additional information see [NOT-OD-13-010](#))

Yes to all of the statements

Reviewer may review the application in question