

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

(Guide Notices Issued Before October 1, 2020)

The revised NIH Grants Policy Statement (NIHGPS, rev. April 2021) represents an update to the December 2019 version and is applicable to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements beginning on or after October 1, 2020. 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 December 2020. The April 2021 revision supersedes, in its entirety, the NIH Grants Policy Statement (December 2019) as a standard term and condition of the award. Modifications to [application instructions](#) are not policy changes nor are they captured within the policy change table, as such.

Notable Policy Changes: Implements new policies and clarification of existing policies announced in the NIH Guide since October 2019, and listed at [Grants Policy & Guidance](#).

NIH Policy Changes

Section	Significant Changes	Reason
<p>PART II: Terms and Conditions of NIH Grant Awards</p> <p>Chapter 2 – The National Institutes of Health as a Grant-Making Organization</p>	<p>Section 2.3.5 Types of Funding Opportunity Announcements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added language on non-responsiveness criteria, per NOT-OD-20-114, Changes to Handling of Applications Submitted to Program Announcements with special Receipt, Referral, and/or Review Considerations (PAR) and Program Announcements with Set-Aside Funds (PAS).
	<p>Section 2.3.7.12 Biographical Sketches (Biosketches)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated all existing requirements on Biosketch into a single section.

	Section 2.3.9.3 Modified Submission Policy for Appointed Members of NIH Review and Advisory Group and Reviewers with Recent Substantial Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated language on continuous submission timelines, per NOT-OD-20-060, Update of NIH Continuous Submission Policy: Change in Submission Deadlines and End of Recent Substantial Service Option.
	Section 2.5.1 Just In Time Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated application instructions for Other Support per NOT-OD-21-073.
Chapter 5 – Notice of Award	Section 5.0 Notice of Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated elements of the Notice of Award, per NOT-OD-20-155, Upcoming Changes to the Notice of Award (NoA) Beginning October 1, 2020.
Chapter 8 – Administrative Requirements	Section 8.1.2.6 Change in Status, Including Absence of PD/PI and Other Senior/Key Personnel Named in the NoA and Section 8.1.2.7 Change of Recipient Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added language implementing the requirements outlined in NOT-OD-20-124, Guidance Regarding Change in Status, Including Absence of PD/PI and Other Key Personnel Named in the Notice of Award.
	Section 8.1.2.12 Need for Additional NIH Funding without Extension of Budget and Project Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated language on electronic submission requirements, per NOT-OD-20-128, Notice of Requirement for Electronic Submission of all Administrative Supplements.
	Section 8.4.1.5.2 Financial Expenditure Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated instructions for submission of Federal Financial Reports, per NOT-OD-20-127, Upcoming Mandatory Submission of the Federal Financial Report (FFR) in the Payment Management System Beginning January 1, 2021.

Chapter 10 – Construction	Section 10.1 General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed dollar threshold for Major and Minor Alteration and Renovations (A&R). Determinations of Major and Minor A&R will be made based on the type of work to be performed. Updated references to the current NIH Design Requirements Manual.
Chapter 11 – Ruth Kirschstein National Research Service Awards	Section 11.3.3.4 Recruitment Plan to Enhance Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Diversity Statement language per NOT-OD-20-031, Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity.
Chapter 12 – Research Career Development (“K”) Awards	Section 12.2.3.2.1 Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated extension language for K99/R00 awards, per NOT-OD-20-011, NIH Extension Policy for Eligibility Window for Pathway to Independence Awards (K99/R00).
Chapter 18 – Grants to For-Profit Organizations	Section 18.5 SBIR and STTR Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated language and program levels to adopt new Omnibus solicitation.