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## **WELCOME BACK!**

Welcome to the 2025-26 academic year! Despite the turbulence of last year, we are looking for a better year ahead for the grant world. If you missed the summer news, the federal grant landscape remains challenging. Our office has been sharing updates, and we hope you've found this information beneficial.

We've been sending crucial updates through your department leadership, and we trust that this information has reached you. If not, please check with your department leadership to ensure you're in the loop.

Since January, we've also been sharing key updates via Dean Sousa's weekly townhall meetings. If you missed any, you can catch up here.

Additionally, it's important to stay informed about the new NIH guidelines, including <u>limits on the number of NIH grants faculty can submit</u>, <u>NIH public access policy</u>, and <u>limit on the use of AI for grant writing</u>. Our central office provides vital updates and changes <u>here</u>.

We are here to support and serve you and we look forward to a productive year for all of us.

### **NIH POLICY UPDATES**

# Al Usage & Application Submission Limitations

The recent NIH NOT-OD-25-132 provides guidance on the use of AI and announces upcoming limits to the number of grant submissions per calendar year.

Researchers are being reminded that artificial intelligence should be used cautiously as a tool to assist, rather than the primary creative element in their research endeavors. NIH is using AI detection technology to remove funding applications that are deemed to contain substantially AI-generated material. They want to fund original, innovative ideas for improving public health while maintaining research integrity. Additional information on using AI for Peer Reviews can be found here.

Effective September 25, 2025, NIH will limit application submissions to six per calendar year. The count will cover PI/PD or MPI roles on new, renewal, resubmission, or revision submissions. See the <u>FAQs</u> for count and exception details.

# Foreign Subawards

NIH is in the process of implementing <u>new policy changes</u> for foreign subawards.

The goal is to increase transparency, accountability, and consistent tracking of expenditures. Currently, NIH grant proposals and active awards should not include subawards to foreign sites. The new policy does not apply to funds used for foreign consultants, supplies, or equipment to foreign vendors. It is important to ensure that these are disclosed in every grant application.

For current awards, ICOs can renegotiate awards to remove subaward sites, with the preference to transition activities to a domestic site. If you have a current award that involves human subjects at an international site, the current solution is to convert your foreign subaward to a Type 3 administrative supplement. These supplements are excluded from automatic carryover, SNAP, rebudgeting between primary award and supplements within the same budget year, and will have separate financial reports. This approach ensures compliance while maintaining continuity in international research collaborations. Please consult with your post award administrator for further guidance.

#### **Public Access**

As of July 1, 2025, all manuscripts that have been accepted for publication must be submitted to PubMed Central with public availability without embargo. This applies to all NIH-funded research and award recipients. The new policy aims to provide equitable access and transparency to all federally funded research projects. NIH has created a website with FAQs to assist researchers with compliance and guidance. More information can be found here.

## **Publication Costs, Possible Changes**

Have you experienced excessively high publishing fees that impact your NIH-funded research? Do you want your voice heard on potential policy changes to limit publication costs? NIH is seeking public feedback on this issue and welcomes feedback from the research community. This is a vital opportunity to impact future policy and promote fair publishing practices. The deadline for comments is September 15, 2025 and must be submitted electronically. Be sure to <a href="submit your feedback">submit your feedback</a> in a timely manner to ensure it is considered.

#### GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

Our office is committed to providing current and essential information to our faculty and staff. Your feedback is vital to helping us improve and continue delivering an informative newsletter. By sharing your insights, you help us better understand what content matters most to you and how we can enhance our communication. You can find our survey <a href="here">here</a>.

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