

Sponsored Research - News, Updates, Reminders

April 2025

The Sponsored Research - News, Updates & Reminders is a monthly e-newsletter published by the Offices of Sponsored Programs (OSP) and Grants Management (OGM). [Subscribe through this link](#) to receive monthly information that impacts pre and post-award administration. Do not miss out on receiving up to date announcements, Sponsor updates, training opportunities and much more!



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Reminder: Guidance on Federal Orders and Agency Mandates

We're excited to share that a new website has launched under the name "[2025 Federal Transition and University Guidance](#)", replacing the previous version. This updated platform will serve as a central hub for ongoing updates, including the latest information on executive orders, federal directives and guidance for researchers. We'll continue to use it to update and share timely guidance and important announcements.

A new "Questions" section has also been added, where we welcome you to share how federal disruptions are impacting your research and activities. Your input is essential as it directly informs our advocacy efforts on your and our University's behalf.

As previously directed, faculty, staff, students, and postdocs should continue their research and sponsored project activities as usual, unless otherwise directed. If you receive any direct communication from a federal agency or other sponsors, such as a notice related to a specific (sub)award, please forward it to OSP (osp@stonybrook.edu) so we can provide timely support and response. OSP will consult with the SUNY Office of General Counsel or the RF General Counsel as needed and provide appropriate guidance..

For more updates on federal research policy changes, visit [Council on Governmental Relations \(COGR\)](#).

Sponsor Updates



NIH Updates & Reminders

Reminder: NIH Common Forms - Postponed Implementation

The [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) has delayed the [implementation](#) of the Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support, which was initially set for May 25, 2025. The new date has yet to be announced.

NIH Launches “Implementation of New Initiatives and Policies” Page

The NIH has launched a new [Implementation of New Initiatives and Policies](#) page on the [NIH Grants & Funding Website](#) to help applicants and recipients stay informed on recent and upcoming changes affecting grant applications and administration.

Page Highlights Include:

- [NIH Grants and Funding Information Status](#). Keep up to date on how NIH grants and funding information is evolving as we align with new agency priorities (e.g., status of communications, funding opportunities, application guidance, and more).
- [Upcoming Changes](#). Get the latest status on in-progress initiatives like our adoption of Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support.
- [Recent Changes](#). Learn about key initiatives implemented in 2024 that culminated in numerous changes to grant application content and review for due dates on or after January 25, 2025 and any adjustments made to those initiatives.

Bookmark the page, share it with colleagues, and check back regularly for the latest updates.

For questions, contact: grantsinfo@od.nih.gov.

Reminder: Application Requirements for Projects Involving Activities Outside of the United States or Partnerships with International Collaborators (4/23/25)

This notice serves as a [reminder of longstanding application requirements](#) for projects involving activities outside of the United States or partnerships with international collaborators.

NIH supports properly conducted and principled international collaborations that are integral for our country to remain competitive. These international collaborations must present special opportunities for furthering research programs through the use of unusual talents, resources, populations, or environmental conditions in other countries which are not readily available in the United States, or which provide augmentation of existing United States resources. In addition, collaborations must have specific relevance to the mission and objectives of the awarding Institute, Center or Office, and have the potential for significantly advancing the health sciences in the United States.

In order for NIH to fully assess all foreign activities and collaborations prior to award, the [SF-424 R&R Other Project Information Form](#) requires applicants to indicate whether the project involves activities outside of the United States or partnerships with international collaborators. If the applicant checks “Yes” to this question, they must include a “Foreign Justification” attachment in Field 12, Other Attachments. This justification must describe special resources or characteristics of the research project (e.g., human subjects, animals, disease, equipment, and techniques), including the reasons why the facilities or other aspects of the proposed project are more appropriate than a domestic setting. In the body of the text, begin the section with a heading indicating “Foreign Justification” and name the file “Foreign Justification.”

As a reminder, this attachment is required for all applications that involve activities outside of the United States or partnership with international collaborators, regardless of whether the foreign component will receive funds from the NIH award. Applications that do not include this attachment, as required, will be withdrawn and will not be reviewed.

NSF Updates



Updates on NSF Priorities

NSF has now published an [Updates on NSF Priorities](#) page that provides updated guidance on the priorities of the U.S. National Science Foundation. On this page you will find a statement of NSF Priorities (4/18/25), Frequently Asked Questions and will have the ability to submit your own questions to NSF. Here are some highlights from the FAQ:

- **Can I still propose broadening participation activities (e.g., outreach) in fulfillment of the Broader Impacts criterion?**

Investigators should prioritize the first six broader impact goals as [defined by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010](#). Investigators wishing to address goal seven — expanding participation in STEM for women and underrepresented groups — must ensure that all outreach, recruitment, or participatory activities in NSF projects are open and available to all Americans. Investigators may conduct these types of engagement activities to individuals, institutions, groups, or communities based on protected characteristics only as part of broad engagement activities. Investigators may also expand participation in STEM based on non-protected characteristics, including but not limited to institutional type, geography, socioeconomic status, and career stage. However, engagement activities aimed at these characteristics cannot indirectly preference or exclude individuals or groups based on protected characteristics.

- **What are the protected and non-protected characteristics?**

Protected characteristics are those contained in relevant laws, such as but not limited to, the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

- **There are still gaps in the achievements of certain groups of people. Can we still research those?**

NSF will continue to fund projects that rate highly using our Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts review criteria in high priority S&E areas. Projects that aim to create more opportunities for more people in every region of the country to participate in science and technology remain an important part of NSF's mission.

NSF will continue to operate legally mandated programs that aim to expand participation in STEM for individuals of protected characteristics so long as the projects submitted to these programs do not preference or limit participation based on these protected characteristics.

- **Can I research individuals or groups based on protected characteristics in other areas of S&E?**

Yes. Researchers may recruit or study individuals based on protected characteristics when doing so is (1) intrinsic to the research question (e.g., research on human physiology), (2) not focused on broadening participation in STEM on the basis of protected characteristics, and (3) aimed to fill an important gap in S&E knowledge. For example, research on technology to assist individuals with disabilities may be supported even when the research subject recruitment is limited to those with disabilities.

- **Is there a list of words I should be avoiding?**

There is not a list of words. Investigators should focus on Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts for proposals in a way that is consistent with NSF priorities.

NSF Supplemental Awards in FY2025 Update

The Office of Sponsored Programs has learned that NSF will not process Supplements to existing awards for the remainder of FY25. The message NSF has shared is that they are taking this step to ensure alignment with NSF priorities and to prepare for an uncertain NSF budget future.

We understand this news may prompt questions or concerns, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely. As we learn more from NSF or receive additional guidance, we will share updates with you. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to [reach out](#) to your Specialist in the Office of Sponsored Programs if you need assistance or have questions about how this change may affect your current or planned activities.

Reminder: NSF Implementation of Recent Executive Orders

The NSF has created a page titled [NSF Implementation of Recent Executive Orders](#) that provides information regarding recent executive orders and their impact on the U.S. National Science Foundation community. The page is updated frequently so be certain to bookmark the page!

DOE Updates



The Office for Research and Innovation is monitoring the Department of Energy's (DOE) recent policy proposing a 15% cap on indirect cost (IDC) recovery for research awards to universities. A temporary restraining order (TRO) is currently in place as part of a legal challenge to this policy.

Some institutions have reported receiving letters from DOE requesting acceptance of the 15% rate under threat of award termination. Our guidance is not to respond or sign anything at this time.

Principal Investigators should continue using our current federally negotiated F&A rate agreement for all proposals unless advised otherwise.

We are working closely with SUNY and the Research Foundation to evaluate the impact of this policy. Further updates will be shared via email and posted to our website.

For questions, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs.

myResearch Updates and Reminders

General myResearch Reminders

We would like to remind myResearch Grants users of the importance of utilizing the [myResearch Grants training resources](#) - or testing environment for those who have taken part in our training sessions - to create sample proposals or get more familiarized with the system without any impact on the live environment.

Key Reminders:

- Training & Testing: Use the [myResearch Grants Test](#) environment to practice proposal submissions. Please visit the [OSP/ OGM training website](#) to view the upcoming class schedule and [register for classes](#).
- Avoid Errors: Do not submit sample proposals in the live system to prevent inaccurate data, cluttered inboxes, and confusion.
- Reduce Risks: Using the live system incorrectly can lead to submission errors, such as mistakenly submitting incomplete or incorrect proposals to sponsors. This can have serious repercussions on our institution's reputation and success rates.
- Minimize Disruptions: Non-essential use slows down the system—reserve the live environment for real submissions only.

For assistance, contact ovpr_myresearchgrants@stonybrook.edu.

Other Reminders:

- For clinical trials or testing/lab studies, log into the [myResearch Agreement module](#) and create an agreement log. Complete the smart forms and submit—your Contract team will follow up. Agreements handled by The Research Foundation and OSP can be initiated by OSP or the PI/research staff. For questions, contact osp_contracts@stonybrook.edu.
- Off-Campus Determination: The off-campus rate applies if over 50% of project personnel effort occurs off-campus for more than half the award period. Telecommuting, conferences, and incidental travel do not qualify. Submit the F&A/IDC Off-Campus Rate Request Form with your proposal in Field 9.0 under General Proposal Information. Select 100% off-campus and Yes to DHHS F&A Rate—MyResearch will prompt form upload.

OSP News, Announcements and Reminders

New F&A Rate Agreement

We are pleased to announce that Stony Brook University has received its new Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rate agreement. These rates have been formally negotiated and finalized with our cognizant federal agency.

Below is a summary of the final F&A rates now in effect:

Final Negotiated Rates:	Location	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Organized Research	On-Campus	59.5%	59.5%	58.5%	58.5%	59.5%
Organized Research	Off-Campus	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
Research DOD Contract	On-Campus	62.5%	62.5%	61.5%	61.5%	62.5%
Research DOD Contract	Off-Campus	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
Instruction	On-Campus	52.0%	52.0%	52.0%	52.0%	52.0%
Instruction	Off-Campus	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
Other Sponsored Programs	On-Campus	42.0%	42.0%	43.0%	43.0%	43.0%
Other Sponsored Programs	Off-Campus	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%	26.0%
IPA	All	9.0%	9.0%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%

(Please refer to the [full agreement](#) for additional details and future rate projections. Please note that the proposed fringe benefit rates differ from those listed in the approved F&A rate agreement; while they have been submitted to DHHS, they have not yet received full approval—continue using the rates we disseminated in January, not those reflected in the F&A agreement.)

In addition to the updated rates, there are important changes on proposals with a start date on or after July 1, 2025 in how F&A is now recovered:

- The equipment threshold has been raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000, meaning items under \$10,000 are now excluded from the Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) base.
- The subaward threshold for F&A recovery has increased from the first \$25,000 to the first \$50,000 of each subaward.

These updates represent meaningful adjustments that may impact budgeting for proposals and awards moving forward.

For questions, updated budget forms, guidance, or to view the full agreement, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs or visit the [OSP-OGM website](#).

Compliance & Ethics in Brief

Federal and other sponsors require financial, technical or other reports to be submitted at specific points during the lifecycle of a sponsored award. These reports and deadlines are spelled out in the terms and conditions of the award. Principal Investigators and Sponsored Programs administrators have different responsibilities when it comes to preparing, sending, and tracking these reports.

In the following [video](#), Jada Walker, from the Central Office Sponsored Programs Office, discusses why these reports are important and provides an overview of the different responsibilities of PIs, campus staff, and Central Office staff at the Research Foundation regarding these sponsor-required reports.

If you have any questions about reports required by sponsors, please contact your [OSP Post-Award Specialist](#).

OSP Staff Updates

Kristen Ford Named Senior Contracts and Subawards Specialist

We are pleased to share that **Kristen Ford** has been promoted to **Senior Contracts and Subawards Specialist** in the Office of Sponsored Programs. With many years of experience and service, Kristen has consistently demonstrated exceptional attention to detail and a deep understanding of both pre- and post-award processes—including how they intersect with financial post-award management. This promotion is a well-earned recognition of Kristen's continued contributions and growth. Congratulations Kristen!

Reminder: Stay Up to Date on Departmental Assignments in OSP

As we continue to enhance support for our research community, we want to remind you to regularly check the [Departmental Assignment webpage](#).

With new staff members recently joining the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) and potential departmental reassignments, reviewing this page ensures you always know who manages your department's sponsored programs portfolio.

Staying up to date helps ensure smooth communication and timely support for all your proposal and award needs.

Thank you for your attention, and please don't hesitate to reach out to the [OSP team](#) if you have any questions.

OGM News, Announcements and Reminders

Federal Agency Program or Grant Officer Inquiry

Occasionally, Federal Program Officers will connect with Principal Investigators to ask about spend rates if they determine that sponsored award funding is not being utilized in the expected time frame or budget cycle. In these discussions they will sometimes suggest that the campus research administrative team is possibly not invoicing timely. While there may be isolated circumstances when invoicing is delayed generally due to system connections with the federal agencies, be advised that the Office of Grants Management invoices federal sponsors for the cost incurred monthly.

All inquiries regarding spend rates and invoicing should be directed to the assigned the department Sponsored Award Analyst - [Departmental Assignment webpage](#)

Principal Investigators are reminded that sponsored award spending must support the current need and must be reasonable and allocable, for immediate use to fulfill scope objectives.

There is no circumstance where we approve prepayments or advance spending, even when a funding agency representative suggests otherwise. Federal rules only allow for invoicing for completed cost and at no time are we permitted to invoice for encumbered or to be charged cost.

Please don't hesitate to contact OGM office with any concerns

ClinCard powered by Greenphire available for Subject and Participant Payments

The Office of Research and Innovation is pleased to share that we can now offer ClinCard payment tools through Greenphire, replacing the transactional payment, cash advance and bank account processes.

The Greenphire/ClinCard tool allows study teams to load participant payments onto reloadable, point of sale debit cards, with VISA logo or virtually using participant email contact.

This tool provides tracking and reporting of payments across all studies, enabling compliance with tax law and HIPAA regulations and eliminates the need for reconciliation of cash advances.

The OR&I is able to support the fees associated with this program and is available to provide an overview and demonstration of this electronic tool.

Interested study teams should email ogm_ovpr@stonybrook.edu.

New WolfMart Enhancements

Procurement is excited to announce some new enhancements to WolfMart—automated Order Acknowledgements (OAs) and Advance Shipping Notices (ASNs) are now available for Sigma Aldrich in WolfMart. These enhancements will make it easier to track orders from this vendor, as well as give accurate delivery information. ****PLEASE NOTE**** Some Sigma Aldrich orders that are fulfilled by third parties may not support OAs or ASNs. If you have any questions, please reach out to wolfmart_help@stonybrook.edu.

The Research Foundation Equipment Insurance

The Research Foundation for SUNY provides campus users access to a [policy that can protect equipment](#) purchased with and used in support of, Research Foundation sponsored research activity.

This low cost coverage through the RF for SUNY's carrier AMSURE, protects equipment against loss including flood and earthquake.

The annual premium rate under the equipment policy is \$1.43 per \$100 of coverage with a deductible of \$1000. Settlement of claims is based on the replacement value of the damaged or lost equipment. Insurance may be renewed during each new award budget period.

The signed RF purchase requisition using the supplier AMSURE, a copy of the original purchase order for the equipment and a completed insurance floater form should be sent to OGM email. ogm_ovpr@stonybrook.edu.

In some circumstances additional rider coverage will be necessary when replacement costs for higher priced items requiring coverage are cost prohibitive. The Office of Compliance Services for the Research Foundation for SUNY will consult with insurance carriers to determine the best coverage plan.

End of Award Period Expenditures

Expenditures in the final 90 days of the active Award period must be necessary for the conduct of grant activities and be for items that will be fully utilized prior to the end of the award.

Expenditures during this time period must clearly reflect why the items are needed and represent a quantity that is reasonable for the time that they will be utilized. Items of long term use, such as computers and computer accessories, equipment, and service agreements that exceed the award end date, should not be submitted for consideration.

Procurement of equipment and supplies may not be purchased simply to use an unobligated balance remaining at the end of the project and these costs are highly scrutinized during audit and are targets for disallowed cost. The [annual federal cost audit](#) targets end of award charges to confirm that there is satisfactory evidence that all costs are necessary, reasonable and will be utilized within the award period. The OGM approval process serves to document this review and is critical to our federal cost accounting standard compliance. [2 CFR 200.402-.405](#).

Bank of America Credit Cards cannot not be used during the final 90 days of active award periods as these transactions are not encumbered and may not be charged back to Award funds until 45/60 following expenditure date, therefore award funds may not be available creating a disallowed expense that cannot be charged back to intended award.

OGM Staff updates

Corinne Lentz promoted to Senior Sponsored Award Analyst

The Office of Grants Management is pleased to announce the promotion of **Corinne Lentz** to **Senior Sponsored Award Analyst**. In this role Corinne will serve to support additional responsibilities in OGM related to all matters post award fiscal management, collection of payments to the RF for SUNY and compliance with the financial health of externally sponsored awards.

Stay Up to Date on Departmental Assignments in OGM

As we continue to enhance support for our research community, we want to remind you to regularly check the [Departmental Assignment webpage](#).

With new staff members recently joining the Office of Grants Management (OGM) and potential departmental reassignments, reviewing this page ensures you always know who manages your department's sponsored programs portfolio.

OGM email reminders

The Office of Grants Management maintains several monitored email boxes as outlined below.

ogm_ovpr@stonybrook.edu - for incoming documents that require processing, such as a material and services requisitions for recharging, paper travel reimbursements for non-employees and for general inquiries. Please be sure to include all Award/Project information in your email so we can properly direct your inquiry.

sbu_subrecipient_invoice@stonybrook.edu - for incoming subaward invoices from partnering institutions that are collaborating with SBU PIs to report expenditures and request payment against active agreements on sponsored awards.

ogm_billing@stonybrook.edu - for incoming payment information from those sponsors that pay The RF for SUNY for sponsored and non-sponsored research activity.

ogm_clinicaltrialreceivables@stonybrook.edu - for incoming payment information specific to Clinical Trial Awards.

Training, Workshops and Other News

RF Spring Learning Series

The RF Spring Learning Series offers a variety of opportunities to sharpen your skills, gain fresh insights, and connect with colleagues. Whether you're looking to enhance your leadership, boost workplace well-being, or develop essential professional skills, these sessions are designed to support your growth.

[Register for the RF Spring Learning Series](#)

myResearch Grants Training Sessions

myResearch Training sessions: myResearch Grants is the campus approval system required prior to the submission of all funding applications to a sponsor. OSP offers hands-on training classes, via Zoom, to instruct participants on how to build a sample funding proposal in the myResearch Grants Test environment, including how to fill out the smart forms, complete the main FP section with required attachments, budget sections and credit split section. We will also discuss routing, revising the FP and answer any questions that you may have about the process. Each training session will cover the same content, so please only sign up for multiple dates if you would like a refresher on the information. Please visit the [OSP/ OGM training website](#) to view the upcoming class schedule and [register for classes](#).

Virtual Coffee Break with a Concur Subject Matter Expert

Grab a cup of coffee and join subject matter experts from the Procurement, Travel & Card Programs Office for a virtual coffee break. Sessions will offer demos, training, time to 'ask the experts' and lots of Concur information. Zoom sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, from 10am-11am (see link below for your calendar).

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/95159832884?pwd=ne90Tic0iFt2vcFg1piqMJhHKmVbsw.1>

WolfMart Live Training is Available!

Are you new to WolfMart and unsure of how to use it, or an existing WolfMart user that could benefit from a WolfMart refresher? Procurement now offers LIVE WolfMart training classes via Zoom! This comprehensive training course covers all the basics of WolfMart: site navigation, how to put through requisitions and purchase orders, various special request forms and when to use each, as well as tips and tricks. Training sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. [Register for a WolfMart Live training session](#).

RF Report Center Access Request and Training

To request access to the RF Activity Interface Reporting (RFAIR) dashboard for research team members that support Department, PI with RF Awards should complete [this form](#) and return to ovpr_rf_access@stonybrook.edu.

[RF Report Center](#) is an analytical tool allowing campus users to view integrated financial and administrative information from the RF business system.

Campus users are encouraged to request RF Report Center Training. One-on-one training is available once access is live. To make an appointment email ogm_ovpr@stonybrook.edu.

External Newsletters

[Access external newsletters on the OSP-OGM website](#) for the most up to date information from Grants.gov, NIH and other agencies.

Team Spotlights

Who is working on a cool new project and why? Working with someone who exceeded your expectations? This section will focus on recognizing the great service provided, and the good that happens on a daily basis in OSP and OGM.

From a department administrator through a Wolfie Gram

*Congratulations! Your employee **Cinthia Alvarez-Buonaiuto** has received a Gratitude Gram THANK YOU so much for always going above and beyond to not only make sure that our payments are approved so quickly, but most of all for taking the time to work with me, answer questions, understand our faculty's unique needs and ensure that they are being met while adhering to the guidelines of each award. Our faculty have hosted 3 large conferences over the last year that resulted in unusually high volumes of varying types of reimbursements and you helped with ALL of them. You are always so responsive, professional and willing to assist and your efforts are so very much appreciated!*

Gratitude Gram for Marcia Smith in Sponsored Programs

Marcia, thank you so much for your patience, expertise, and efficiency during this most recent submission. We obviously couldn't have submitted this without you and we appreciate your guidance and affability. Thank you so much!

Have questions on a specific topic?

The Offices of Sponsored Programs and Grants Management launched a new webpage which allows you to find your contact information in our offices, as well as other units in OVPR, by searching a specific topic. This information is available on the [OSP-OGM website](#).