The latest news and important updates regarding sponsored grant proposals, awards, and compliance.

Proposal Development

NSF CAREER Program Webinar: May 26, 2016

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is hosting a webinar about developing applications to the NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) on May 26 from 1:00-3:00pm EST. The webinar will give participants the opportunity to interact with members of the NSF CAREER Coordinating Committee in a question-and-answer format.

Participants may submit questions about CAREER proposal development and submission in advance of and during the webinar by sending e-mail to careerwebinarqs@nsf.gov. Questions requiring determinations of eligibility for the CAREER program will not be addressed during the webinar. Prior registration is not required.

If you are developing a CAREER proposal, Proposal Development Services is here to help. We can help strategize your approach, provide templates, and review and edit drafts. You also can find CAREER program resources such as FAQs and slides from prior presentations on the NSF CAREER program web page.

Institute of Education Sciences: Grant Writing Seminar Series

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is hosting a Reading, Writing, and Language Development Grant Writing Seminar Series for New and Early-Stage Investigators. The four-session webinar series provides in-depth support for new investigators to prepare successful grant applications related to literacy. Only sixteen investigators will be selected to participate in the seminar. Applications are due May 16, 2016.

The seminar is open to postdoctoral fellows or new and early-stage investigators who have not served as a Principal Investigator or a Co-Principal Investigator on an IES grant, and who are interested in submitting an application to the IES Education Research Competition 84.305A or the Special Education Research Competition 84.324A. Complete information is provided here and on the IES website. Questions? Contact Rebecca McGill-Wilkinson at 202-245-7613.

New NSF Report Documents Increases in Federal R&D Funding

The National Science Foundation has released a new report on federal research spending between FY 2013 and FY 2014. According to a new InfoBrief from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), federal funding for research rose by $3.7 billion, or 6%. Research is estimated to remain relatively flat at $63.4 billion in FY 2015 and is projected to increase by $2.7 billion (4%) to $66.2 billion in FY 2016.

Over one-third of the increase in total funding came from increases to the Health and Human Services (HHS) budget, which includes the National Institutes of Health. HHS funding totaled $30.6 billion in FY 14 and accounted for almost half of all research funding. The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Defense, and the NSF all saw increases of nearly 10% in their FY 2014 budget from the previous years. To read more about the "Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development" that this data is drawn from, click here.

Pre-Award Administration
**WISPER Clean-Up During June**

In June the Pre-Award Administrators will be cleaning up WISPER records. During this time campus administrators and Principal Investigators may be contacted by Pre-Award staff to verify the status of submissions. Our goal is to ensure that data associated with proposal submissions and awards remain accurate, which is only possible through accurate WISPER records. If you have questions about our data integrity efforts, please contact your Pre-Award Specialist.

**Review Encumbrances on Sponsored Projects**

With the end of the semester quickly approaching, now is a great opportunity to review encumbrances to verify accuracy. **What is an encumbrance?** It is the amount of funds that has been committed to certain transactions. Encumbrances on sponsored projects are commonly incurred on personnel salaries and subawards.

For example, a sponsored project involves a subaward for $50,000. When UWM executes the subaward agreement, an encumbrance is created against the project account for $50,000, which reduces the available balance by $50,000. This ensures that UWM has sufficient funds available to pay the subrecipient during the performance period (as the subrecipient will likely invoice throughout the performance period for the $50,000).

Principal Investigators and administrators involved in post-award sponsored project management are encouraged to review project accounts and prepare encumbrances for the upcoming fiscal year and review whether subawards will need to be extended in the coming months. **Questions about encumbrances?** Contact your Post-Award Specialist for assistance.

**Questions about subawards?** Contact Jessica Stroud (stroud@uwm.edu).

**Updates to Adobe Reader Compatibility with Grants.gov**

In April we reported that the latest version of Adobe Reader was not compatible with Grants.gov application packages. Grants.gov has announced that most of the issues with Adobe Reader have been resolved. Please carefully review the notice and work with your local IT staff to verify system configuration and the compatibility of UWM-owned computing devices. Please note that the compatibility issues do not impact Grants.gov applications created in Adobe Acrobat.