OFFICE OF Sponsored Programs
a unit of the Office of Research

February 13, 2017

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

Grant Opportunities

Collaborative Research Grants in the Digital Humanities

The UWM Libraries Digital Humanities Lab has issued a Call for Proposals to support grant writing for collaborative group research projects in the digital humanities. **Proposals are due by February 15, 2017.**

Awardees will work together as a cohort to develop grant proposals by working with the Digital Humanities Lab and UWM grants experts. The cohort will participate in a series of short workshops on grant writing and project development. Project leaders will receive a $1,000 incentive to be awarded as a contribution to project expenses upon submission of a completed grant application.

Proposals may be submitted for projects that are underway or just beginning and should thoughtfully and innovatively integrate digital technology to advance research and make arts, humanities, and social science research, and cultural heritage materials more publicly visible, legible, and usable to the campus and wider community. More information is provided on the UWM Libraries Web page. **Questions?** Contact Ann Hanlon at hanlon@uwm.edu.

Proposal Development

Reminder: Review RFPs Carefully for Limited-Submission Requirements

Many federal and non-federal sponsors are increasing their use of limited-submission programs, which limit the number of letters of intent, pre-proposals, and/or proposals that UWM may submit. Proposal Development Services posts grant opportunities on the UWM Research Listservs and identifies those with limited-submission requirements. **To help prevent UWM from being disqualified for exceeding the number of submissions allowed**, the UWM Office of Research requires researchers to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply; if we receive more notices than the number of submissions allowed, an internal competition will be held to select the proposal(s) that best aligns with the grant program goals and objectives and meets the sponsor's review criteria.

Problems with Limited-Submission Programs
Sometimes researchers submit proposals to limited-submission programs without realizing it, mostly because the funding opportunity was not listed on the UWM Research Listservs or the requirement was not clearly stated in the program solicitation. We're also seeing sponsors that rarely limit submissions use this mechanism with much greater frequency, particularly the U.S. Dept. of Energy and U.S. Dept. of Justice, catching researchers and institutions off-guard.

Without carefully reviewing the program solicitation and informing the Office of Research of your intent to submit to a limited-submission program, **proposal submissions run the risk of (1) disqualifying UWM from the grant**

competition, and (2) disqualifying UWM colleagues who have been selected to submit through the internal competition process. Thus, it is critical to review solicitations carefully.

How to Quickly Check Solicitations for Limited-Submission Requirements
Depending on the file type of the program solicitation (e.g., Word, PDF, HTML) use the Search function to quickly find the following words that are usually found within a limited-submission program solicitation:

- **Limit** (e.g., "Limit on Number of Submissions", "Institutions are limited to three submissions")
- **Multiple** (e.g., "Multiple submissions are not allowed")
- **Not more than** (e.g., "Not more than one proposal per institution")
- **Only** (e.g., "Only 1 proposal per institution")
- **One** (e.g., "One proposal per institution allowed")

Questions? If you need help interpreting a program solicitation or if you have questions about a limited-submission program, please contact Michelle Schoenecker (schoene7@uwm.edu) or Kari Whittenberger-Keith (kariwk@uwm.edu).

Pre-Award Administration

WISPER Records Required for USGS/NIWR Pre-Proposals

WISPER The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR) issued a call for pre-proposals to support research for improving and enhancing the nation's water. **Pre-proposals are due on February 15 and invited full proposals are due on June 1, 2017.**

Pre-proposals must be submitted to Jean Touchett at the University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute via email (jtouchett@aqua.wisc.edu) **by 4:00pm on February 15, 2017**.

Since the pre-proposals require a budget and confirmation of the 1:1 cost-sharing match, **WISPER records are required for
pre-proposals**. **Questions?** Contact your Pre-Award Specialist.

Grants.gov Workspace

OSP has received lots of questions from UWM researchers about the new **Grants.gov Workspace** feature. Many have commented that Grants.gov appears to tout Workspace as a new way to collaborate with colleagues to develop submissions and that it may reduce administrative burden. OSP Pre-Award staff tested the system during its initial implementation, and here are our observations and clarifications:

Workspace allows multi-user collaboration, but not in real time. Multiple users can access a submission and begin working on a form; however, once a user begins working on a form, it's locked for editing by any other user. The PHS 398 form used for most NIH submissions has multiple attachments, and most research teams work on various components of these forms individually while developing a submission. In Workspace, only one user at a time can work on the PHS 398 form.

You can reuse application forms, but PIs are responsible for ensuring use of the correct form. If you wish to reuse an SF424 form from a previous submission, you must make sure that the form is correct, the form number has not changed, and that the form has not expired. If the form is incorrect, the application will be returned without review.

Multiple users can work on an application, but each user is responsible for obtaining access. Each user needs their own Grants.gov username and password. "Guest" access to application packages in Workspace is not allowed. For collaborators outside of UWM, their home institution must provide a Grants.gov username and password.

Error detection is limited only to Grants.gov transmissions. The Workspace functionality touts the ability to better detect errors in application packages, which is true only for those applications clearing through Grants.gov. For applications to NIH, Workspace cannot check for eRA Commons errors.

Given these challenges with Workspace, OSP currently does not recommend using it. PIs should continue to download the Adobe Forms application package for submissions through Grants.gov. **Questions?** Contact Ron Fleischmann (fleischm@uwm.edu), Associate Director of Pre-Award Administration.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

UWM Libraries Data Workshops

Data Management 101: Love Your Data
February 14, 4:00-5:00pm, Digital Humanities Lab (Library, Second Floor East)
Does your research data need a little love? Come to this special Valentine's Day session to learn how to manage it better. Instead of chocolate and flowers, we'll be covering backups, documentation, and much more.

Data Visualization 101: Make Better Charts
March 10, 12:00-1:00pm, Digital Humanities Lab (Library, Second Floor East)
With the trend toward collecting ever more data, it's increasingly important to present that data effectively. Often, that means with a chart. This session discusses how to pick the right chart for your data and how to streamline that chart to best tell your story.

Questions? Contact Kristen Briney, Data Services Librarian, at briney@uwm.edu.

Introduction to Research Computing Course

The UWM High-Performance Computing Service will hold its "Introduction to Research Computing" course on **February 18 and February 25 from 9:00am-4:00pm in EMS E256.** This free course provides an overview of computational research and an introduction to scientific programming. The goal is to help researchers determine which types of computational tools might be helpful to their research, as well as to help establish new connections between researchers with common interests. The course is part lecture, part open discussion, and part hands-on practice. Space is limited; registration is required. **Questions?** Send an email to research-computing@uwm.edu.

NSF Spring 2017 Grants Conference

NSF is holding its **Spring 2017 Grants Conference** in Louisville, KY, June 5-6, 2017. The conference is recommended for new faculty, researchers, and administrators seeking insight into a wide range of topics at NSF, including the current state of funding, new and current policies and procedures, and other important administrative issues.

NSF program officers representing each NSF directorate will be on hand to provide up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and answer your questions. To be notified about registering, visit the conference website and select "Get Notified."