

## URA Weekly Update for the Week Ending January 30, 2009

### Agency Updates & News

#### NIH:

**Extension of Error Correction Window:** NIH/AHRQ/CDC (NIOSH) and FDA will extend the electronic application error correction window to five (5) days for those opportunities with submission dates in February 2009. This change is being made in response to applicant concerns about Grants.gov system performance. This extension should allow applicants sufficient time to correct system identified errors or warnings following on-time submission. The full announcement is available at: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-044.html>

**Update of F-series:** The NIH/AHRQ/CDC/FDA transition to electronic submission of applications for Individual National Research Service Awards (Fs) originally scheduled to occur April 8, 2009 has been **postponed** due to Grants.gov-related delays. Until a new transition date is confirmed, these applications should continue to be submitted on paper PHS416-1 application forms. <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-044.html>

**Update of K-series:** NIH/AHRQ/CDC/FDA plans to **require** electronic submission of applications via **Grants.gov using the SF424 (R&R) forms for Individual Research Career Development Award Programs (“K”s) - with the exception of K12s** – have not changed. As previously announced in Guide Notice NOT-OD-08-073, this change is effective with the **February 12, 2009 submission date**. Applications previously submitted in paper that are being resubmitted as amended applications must submit electronically. We have posted on the URA website a helpful guide on the changes. Please see: [http://researchadmin.uchicago.edu/proposals/nihk\\_award\\_guidance.pdf](http://researchadmin.uchicago.edu/proposals/nihk_award_guidance.pdf)

#### Grants.gov:

Please make sure anyone who is initiating the Grants.gov package, updating the NIH Adobe form set or providing PDF documents is using Adobe 8.1.2 or greater. It is highly recommended to use Adobe 8.1.3. We have experienced submission errors if applications are using unsupported version of Adobe (including earlier releases prior to version 8.1.1). **Please make sure your investigators/applicants are using the correct version of Adobe.**

#### Grants.gov Submission Delays:

Please be aware that Grants.gov submission transmissions now take between **30 minutes to 1 hour for EACH** application. While Grants.Gov is aware of the issue and is in the process of addressing the problem, we anticipate the Grants.gov system to be extremely slow next week during the February 5 NIH R01 deadline.

As such, we request departments to try and submit their final adobe files to our office ASAP to avoid late submissions. We will be submitting applications as we receive them and will forward

the Grants.gov emails as we receive them. However, depending on the slowness of the system, applications submitted after the URA internal deadline may run the risk of missing the deadline. We have had 2 NIH grants miss the deadline due to the Grants.gov slowness.

We have notified both Grants.Gov and NIH Commons of the delays we have been experiencing and will contact them again as needed regarding late submissions.

## **NSF:**

**NSF Salary Limitations (reminder):** NSF published in the new Grants Proposals and Award Policies and Procedure Guide, effective January 5, 2009, a major revision of the Foundation's faculty salary reimbursement policy, to limit compensation for senior personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year from all NSF-funded grants. Please see Chapter II – Section C.2g (i), Salaries and Wages, has undergone a major revision of NSF's salary reimbursement policy. In general, the Foundation will now limit salary compensation for senior project personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year. This limit includes salary compensation received from all NSF-funded grants. This change moves away from the concept of summer salary and allows for reimbursement of two months of salary per year whenever appropriate during the year.

[http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf09\\_1/gpg\\_2.jsp#IIC2gi](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf09_1/gpg_2.jsp#IIC2gi)

## **Budget Policy Reminders:**

**Cost Sharing Reminder:** A note on cost sharing, the URA Grant & Contract Managers have seen a significant increase in the frequency and amounts of cost sharing. Please be reminded that cost sharing should be reasonable and limited per the cost sharing policies of the University. The clarification on cost sharing accounting is available at:

[http://adminet.uchicago.edu/adminann/grants\\_ann/clarification\\_of.shtml](http://adminet.uchicago.edu/adminann/grants_ann/clarification_of.shtml)

## **University Policy Reminders:**

**Contacting Granting Agencies:** Please do not directly contact a granting agency without first contacting University Research Administration. All agency contacts should be coordinated through URA. Recently, we have had several external contacts to Foundations in which contradictory guidance was received. If you have any questions regarding cost allowability, eligibility, deadlines, etc, please FIRST contact your URA Manager. Additionally, we have learned that several individuals (faculty and staff) are directly contacting foundations listed on the Sensitive Foundation list. A **Sensitive Foundation** is one for which clearance is needed before a faculty member or academic unit may approach the foundation to request support. University faculty and staff should not directly contact any foundation on this list without prior clearance from Foundation Relations on campus. The list is updated annually. To discuss contacting a Sensitive Foundation, please contact the University's Office of Foundation Relations at 2-7570 or 2-9184. For a current list of such foundations is available at:

<http://foundationrelations.uchicago.edu/intranet/wsp/sf/list.shtml>

## URA General Information

### URA Mailing Lists

URA maintains several email mailing lists. If you are new or maybe not receiving our notifications directly, please subscribe to our mailing lists:

[Announce-ura@lists.uchicago.edu](mailto:Announce-ura@lists.uchicago.edu)

URA general announcements list is used to disseminate information of general interest to the campus sponsored programs community

[Grantsadmin-ura@lists.uchicago.edu](mailto:Grantsadmin-ura@lists.uchicago.edu)

URA grants administrators' announcements list is used to disseminate information regarding policies and funding opportunities

[nsf@lists.uchicago.edu](mailto:nsf@lists.uchicago.edu)

Announcements from URA regarding funding opportunities and policies from the NSF.

[Nih-ura@lists.uchicago.edu](mailto:Nih-ura@lists.uchicago.edu)

Announcements from URA regarding research and training, funding opportunities and policies from the NIH.

To subscribe, go to the web site <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/> and search for the list. I find it easiest to search for "-ura". Select the list and follow the instructions. You will need your CNET name and password. Please use your work email address, ie. @Uchicago.edu or @anl.gov email address so we know you are a legit subscriber!

### URA Staff updates:

I have posted a part-time (25hrs) **ERA/Communications Specialist (req # 081388)**. If you know of someone who is interested and has excellent technical skills, please have them apply online.