

Updated Version of the NSF Agency Specific Requirements to the Research Terms and Conditions

An updated version of the NSF Agency Specific Requirements to the Research Terms and Conditions (RTCs) has been posted to the NSF website and is available electronically at:

http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/rtc/nsf_109.pdf. The NSF Agency Specific Requirements will go into effect on January 5, 2009, and will be applied to all new NSF grants and funding increments on existing NSF grants to organizations subject to 2 CFR Part 215. As stated in our implementation plan, the Research Terms & Conditions will not be applied to NSF cooperative agreements and NSF fellowship awards made to individuals.

The significant changes are as follows:

- **Article 2, Prior approval requirements not included in the Research Terms & Conditions**, has been updated to eliminate the prior approval requirement for obtaining an extension to new Small Grant for Exploratory Research (SGER) awards. The SGER program is being replaced by the Grants for Rapid Response Research (RAPID) and the EARly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) mechanisms. RAPID and EAGER follow standard NSF policies and procedures related to no-cost extensions.
- **Article 9, Form and Timing of Financial Reporting**, has been revised to require use of the Federal Financial Report (FFR) for submission of expenditure information. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as part of its implementation activities initiated in response to the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-107), has directed that the Federal Financial Report (FFR) replace the Federal Cash Transactions Report (FCTR). In support of that initiative, the FastLane FCTR will be deactivated effective January 5, 2009. The FCTR will remain available in view only mode for historical reports. Instructions for using the FFR are available in FastLane Help under Financial Functions/ Prepare FFR or from the Grantee Cash Management Section staff at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>.
- **Article 13, Travel**, has been updated to incorporate revised circumstances under which use of a foreign-flag air carrier is permissible. The article now addresses Airline "Open Skies" Agreements between the United States and a foreign government, which the Department of Transportation has determined meets the requirements of the Fly America Act. The Article provides information on the "Open Skies" Agreement with the European Union, and includes a link to the General Services Administration website for additional information on other Open Skies Agreements.

The last item on travel should be of great interest to faculty, as it provides some flexibility (in certain circumstances) for use of non-US flag air carriers.

If you have any questions on these changes, please contact the DIAS/Policy Office on 703.292.8243 or by email to policy@nsf.gov.