NSF Update:

- NSF annual reports should not be cumulative. Reports should only be based on the project period which just ended, including final reports. Proposed changes to the final report format is currently under consideration.

- Proposals for Workshops, Conferences and Symposia now require a Childcare Plan. The Childcare Plan should describe any plans to identify resources for child care and other types of family care at the conference site to allow individuals with family care responsibilities to attend. This information should help enable attendees to make arrangements for family care, as needed.

- Budget Justifications are a maximum of 3 pages per proposal, including prime and subawardee justifications combined. Prior permission must be gained from the PM if there are many subawards and more than 3 pages are needed to justify the budgets. NSF is in the process of updating FastLane to block submission if more than 3 pages have been included for this section within the proposal.
  ✷ Collaborative submissions can include up to 3 pages per submitting institution.

- NSF really likes receiving Suggested Reviewers in proposals.
  ✷ Proposers may include a list of suggested reviewers who they believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal. Proposers also may designate persons they would prefer not review the proposal, indicating why. These suggestions are optional, but highly recommended.
    - Please be professional when providing reasoning for indicating why someone should not be included as a reviewer.

- The amount and number of programs generating program income has risen dramatically in the recent years. New mechanisms are being developed for reporting income and income spending.

- New Terms & Conditions were re-released in March to include the Enhanced Whistleblower Protection Act. For more information: [http://www.nsf.gov/oig/whistleblower.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/oig/whistleblower.jsp)

Research.gov Enhancements:

- All NSF processes will transition to Research.gov in the future. This is already a work-in-progress and they encourage users to access the demos provided on Research.gov and provide feedback for consideration during the development stage.
  - There is no specific timeline and the transitions will continue to be incremental.

- As a reminder, please make sure you are always referencing the most current NSF guidelines (GPG, Award and Administrative Guide which are available online).
**OMB Update on Grant Reform:**

- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has provided new Federal guidance that will become effective on December 26, 2014. This guidance will apply to new awards and new segments of funding awarded on or after this date.

  - The Super Circular is officially known as 2 CFR Chapter I and Chapter II.
  - This update eliminates duplicate and contradicting guidance.

**Snippet of Important Changes on Pre-award Topics:**

**§200.306 Cost sharing or Matching:**

(a) Under Federal research proposals, voluntary committed cost sharing is not expected. It cannot be used as a factor during the merit review of applications or proposals, but may be considered if it is both in accordance with Federal awarding agency regulations and specified in a notice of funding opportunity. Criteria for considering voluntary committed cost sharing and any other program policy factors that may be used to determine who may receive a Federal award must be explicitly described in the notice of funding opportunity. Furthermore, only mandatory cost sharing or cost sharing specifically committed in the project budget must be included in the organized research base for computing the indirect (F&A) cost rate or reflected in any allocation of indirect costs.

**§200.414 Indirect (F&A) Costs:**

Any non-Federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals, paragraph (d)(1)(B) may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely.

**§200.68 Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC): updated to include Participant Support**

MTDC means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and subcontracts up to the first $25,000 of each subaward or subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards and subcontracts under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of $25,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

- Questions?
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