Dear Colleague,

We are writing to update you on the latest developments in the implementation of revised federal grants management regulations known as the Uniform Guidance (UG). Federal agencies continue to clarify their requirements under the UG. Please continue to check the University’s Uniform Guidance website here for updated policies and additional resources for researchers and research administrators. Please remember that all new federal awards and most non-competing renewals made on or after December 26, 2014, are subject to the new Guidance.

Oversight of Subrecipients
To be consistent with the Uniform Guidance, the University’s Policy on Sponsored Project Subawards has been revised and will be released shortly. Among the changes to University processes prompted by the UG is a Subrecipient/Contractor Classification Form (to appropriately categorize relationships with outside entities per new UG definitions). This, and additional processes, will be described in a separate communication upon the release of the revised Policy.

Closeout Procedures for Sponsored Projects
The Uniform Guidance contains provisions which shorten the internal financial closeout timeframe for sponsored projects, meaning that the time period to finalize expenses after the award end date has been shortened. Updated financial closeout timelines include deadlines for expenditure finalization that may vary among sponsors and award types. These changes and others are detailed in a new Financial Closeout Reference Guide that is available on the Uniform Guidance Website.

Quarterly Sponsored Project Financial Report Review
Quarterly reports are now being provided to facilitate quarterly financial reviews of active sponsored projects by PIs / Scope Is. Q3 reports were made available in early May; Q4 reports (April through June, 2015) will be available at the end of July. A communication will go out to all PIs and Scope Is once the Q4 reports are available for viewing via the Sponsored Project Financial Reports WebViewer. Guidance regarding quarterly financial reviews of sponsored projects can be found at http://finance.columbia.edu/content/quarterly-financial-review.

Other Changes
A few other things to keep in mind:
  
- As agencies release their terms and conditions, we will be posting them on the UG Website. Be sure to carefully read your award’s terms and conditions.
- Changes in procurement procedures based on the UG will not go into effect until 2016.

Reference guides, links to agency policies, and other resources are available on the Uniform Guidance Website. If you have any questions, please feel free to send them to uniform-guidance@columbia.edu.

Sincerely,

G. Michael Purdy
Executive Vice President for Research

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