

Pilot for Fast-Tracking Sponsored Project Award Set-up

The Research Office continues to look for ways to reduce administrative burden on our Principal Investigators and improve/streamline our business processes.

After consultation with Business Center Managers and the Office of Audit Services, I am pleased to announce a pilot to “fast-track” set-up of certain sponsored agreements considered low-risk. The Research Office will provide a guarantee to cover any pending expenses incurred prior to complete set-up of a fast-tracked award.

For purposes of this pilot, low-risk awards are defined as new prime awards from either the National Science Foundation (NSF) or the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Further, these prime awards from NSF or NIH must meet the following criteria:

- The award document has been received by OSRAA
- No subawards
- No pending human subjects
- No animal subjects
- No cost sharing
- COI disclosures are current

For NSF and NIH awards meeting these criteria, the Office for Sponsored Research and Award Administration (OSRAA) will establish one index for the lead Principal Investigator (PI). No budget will be established with this one index, but the PI can begin spending once the index is established. By setting up one index, project work can begin. In addition, cost transfers should be either greatly minimized or eliminated.

This pilot will begin November 1, 2017, and run through June 30, 2018. An assessment will be completed on the efficacy and efficiencies created through this pilot, with consideration also given to risk either created and/or mitigated. A determination will then be made to add additional agencies or to discontinue the practice.

The pilot does not preclude the use of the existing pre-award spending request form for any award not yet received.