



January 18, 2017

Updates Coming to FastLane on January 30 to Support PAPPG (NSF 17-1) Policy Changes and New and Enhanced Automated Compliance Checks

A Message from Jean Feldman, Head, Policy Office, National Science Foundation

Dear Colleagues:

Effective January 30, 2017, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will implement the following changes in FastLane to support the policy updates in the [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) (NSF 17-1) and to run new and enhanced automated compliance checks on proposals:

Proposal Submission

- Two new types of proposals will be incorporated into the PAPPG with new required supporting documents and automated proposal compliance checks.
 - Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI): GOALI is a type of proposal that seeks to stimulate collaboration between academic research institutions and industry. The new GOALI automated compliance checks will require that at least one Co-Principal Investigator (PI) exists on the proposal and the “GOALI-Industrial PI Confirmation Letter” is uploaded at the time of proposal submission. All automated compliance checks applicable to Research proposals will apply to GOALI proposals. GOALI proposals were previously submitted via a program solicitation.
 - Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE): The RAISE proposal type supports bold, interdisciplinary projects. The new RAISE automated compliance checks will require that a “RAISE-Program Officer Concurrence Email” is uploaded at the time of proposal submission, the proposal award budget is less than or equal to \$1 million, and the proposal duration is less than or equal to 5 years. All automated compliance checks applicable to Research proposals will apply to RAISE proposals.
- The Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) type of proposal will be included on the FastLane dropdown menu. All automated compliance checks applicable to Research proposals will apply to FASSED proposals.

Deadline Submission

- Organizations that are unable to submit a proposal prior to a deadline due to a natural or anthropogenic disaster will be required to submit a new Single Copy Document, “Nature of Natural or Anthropogenic Event,” when attempting to submit a late proposal using the “Special Exception to the Deadline Date Policy” box on the NSF Cover Sheet.

Updated References and Terminology



- The PAPPG (NSF 17-1) has been modified in its entirety, to remove all references to the *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG) and *Award & Administration Guide* (AAG). The document will now be referred to solely as the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* and is sequentially numbered from Chapter I-XII. All system references and links to the GPG and AAG will be updated to corresponding references and links in the PAPPG (NSF 17-1).
- “International Travel” type of proposals will be renamed to “Travel” and will be expanded to include domestic and international travel.
- “Facility/Center” type of proposals will be renamed to “Center/Research Infrastructure.”

Enhanced Automated Compliance Checks

- In addition to the new compliance checks for the GOALI, RAISE, and FASED types of proposals, FastLane will run enhanced automated compliance checks across several proposal types and will generate errors or warnings when the submission or deadline validation compliance checks are not met.
- Checks are run during “Check Proposal,” “Forward to SPO,” and “Submit Proposal.” The complete list of FastLane automated compliance checks effective January 30, 2017, is available [here](#).

Note About Proposal File Update (PFU):

The automated compliance checks also apply when a PFU is performed on a proposal. The compliance checks will be run on all sections of the proposal, regardless of which section was updated during the PFU. Proposers should be aware that if a proposal was previously submitted successfully, a PFU performed on the proposal will be prevented from submission if the proposal does not comply with the compliance checks in effect at the time.

Note About Grants.gov:

Grants.gov-submitted proposals are not compliance-checked by the FastLane system and therefore do not undergo the same set of automated compliance checks at submission as those submitted directly via FastLane. If NSF receives a proposal via Grants.gov that is not compliant, it will be returned without review.

We encourage you to share this information with your colleagues. For system-related questions, please contact FastLane User Support at 1-800-673-6188 or fastlane@nsf.gov. Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov.

Best,

Jean

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